



Site Facts

Site Name:

Bear River High School

Location:

Grass Valley, Nevada County

Certification Date:

May 2005

Site Size:

2 Acres

Historical Uses:

Skeet Range

Length of Cleanup:

5 months

Contaminants of Concern:

Lead, arsenic

Redeveloped Use:

Aquatic Center and
Performing Arts Center

School Revitalization

SUCCESS STORY, May 2006

Bear River High School Aquatic and Performing Arts Centers

When school districts expand existing schools to accommodate growing student populations, state law requires that they conduct environmental assessments and, when necessary, cleanup actions, under the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC's) oversight to ensure that the new properties are safe. In 2003, the Nevada Joint Union High School District (District) proposed to expand the existing Bear River High School (BRHS), located in Grass Valley, California, by adding an Aquatic Center and Performing Arts Center to provide students with the opportunity to perform in both athletic and artistic arenas. Prior to construction of the high school, the Winchester Gun Club used a portion of the site as a skeet range from the mid-1960's to the mid 1970's.



Aquatic Center Pool Construction

Because the old skeet range was suspected as a likely source of lead contamination, the District began an investigation for lead and other metals at the proposed Aquatic Center and Performing Arts Center areas on the BRHS campus in June of 2003. The District stockpiled soils, and contacted DTSC for guidance in March of 2004. DTSC worked with the District to test the stockpile, and identified lead and arsenic at levels above those considered safe for school use. The

volume of the soil stockpile was approximately 968 cubic yards. DTSC directed the district to take immediate protective measures to cover the soil piles, ensuring the safety of students, faculty, visitors, and the adjacent community, and minimizing the potential for contaminant leaching by erecting a security barrier and placing appropriate cover material.

The District entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC in April of 2004 to address investigation and cleanup of contaminated soils at the school expansion site. The cleanup plan, approved by DTSC, consisted of the excavation and removal of 1,300 cubic yards of lead and arsenic-impacted soils to an approved offsite disposal facility. DTSC certified the site in May of 2005, upon issuing approval of the Removal Action Completion Report, which verified that the District had successfully completed all required cleanup activities. Construction of the \$9.4 million dollar Aquatic Center and Performing Arts Center was initiated in Spring 2005.



Construction of Performing Arts Center



State of
California



Department of Toxic
Substances Control

