



DTSC helps El Segundo get its first high school in half century

A DTSC-led cleanup paves the way for converting an office building in Los Angeles County into a high school that is making an impression even before the first desk is installed.

“Wiseburn district eyes wow factor in creating new comprehensive high school,” [a story](#) in The Daily Breeze said last March.

Plans call for the [Wiseburn School District](#) in El Segundo to turn a four-story building formerly leased by Northrop Grumman in what The Breeze calls El Segundo’s “aerospace corridor” into the area’s first high school in 50 years. Construction could start in 2014.

Preliminary drawings, The Breeze reported, show a structure with an abundance of natural lighting, lots of glass and a four-story atrium. About 1,200 students are expected to attend.

However, the 13.7-acre site on North Douglas Street is within the boundary of an oil field and naturally occurring methane gas was discovered, although no significant methane releases were noted around the building.

DTSC is proposing a methane mitigation system around the structure and beneath future extensions of the school building, a new aquatics complex, athletic fields, and hardscape areas. The plan also calls for continued monitoring for methane, according to a [Community Notice](#) prepared by DTSC.

DTSC will oversee the construction of the mitigation system as a protective measure to capture the methane and vent it into the atmosphere to prevent potential explosion hazards. The school district will install the system while the building is being remodeled and the school built.

The public has until Aug. 20 to comment on the proposal.

This project is a bit different because it involves installing a Gas Mitigation System around an existing building rather than under the slab, DTSC officials say. DTSC will not allow student occupancy until tests are complete and the department certifies the area for school occupancy.

Artist’s sketch of the proposed campus

