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Preventing environmental damage from hazardous waste, and restoring contaminated sites for all Californians.

Public Involvement

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State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control



Public Involvement

FACT SHEET, June 2005

The Proposed Cleanup Plan For The Comprehensive High School #2 Site Is Available For Your Review

The Delano Joint Union High School District is proposing to build a new school, Comprehensive High School #2 (Site) on the northeast corner of Timmons Avenue and 11th Avenue, Delano, California. During the site investigation, soil containing arsenic, petroleum hydrocarbons, semi-volatile organic compounds, and organochlorine pesticides was found (**see site map on page two**). When levels are found above established standards, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requires school districts to clean up the soil to a safe level before building a school.

The school district has proposed a Cleanup Plan to remove the contaminated soil from the Site. The proposed Cleanup Plan, called a Draft Removal Action Workplan (Draft RAW), is available for your review at the information repositories listed on page four of this fact sheet. If you have questions about this site, please contact Mr. Jose Luevano, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-3577 or e-mail Jluevano@dtsc.ca.gov.

This fact sheet will provide you:

- History and background of the site
- Findings of the investigations
- Proposed Cleanup Plan (Draft RAW)
- California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption
- Next Steps

Public Comment Period

We encourage you to review and comment on the Cleanup Plan. DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning **June 2, 2005** and ending **July 1, 2005**. All e-mailed comments must be sent to the Department no later than 5 p.m. on July 1, 2005. Mail written comments to:

Mr. Jose Luevano, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
or e-mail Jluevano@dtsc.ca.gov

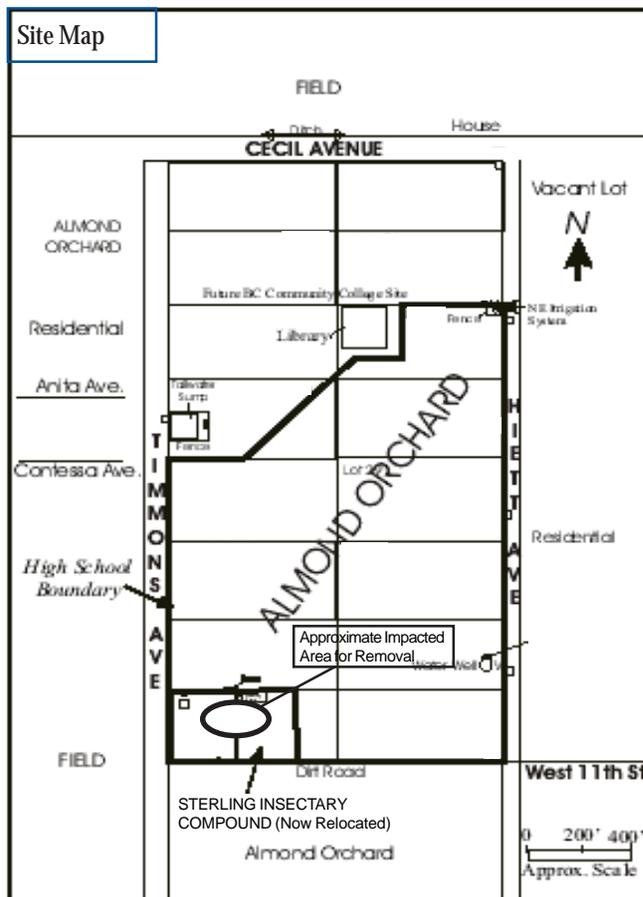


History and background of the site

Based on historical documents, the Site has been agricultural since at least 1952 with the only known permanent structures located on the southwestern corner of the site. The Site was part of the Delano Alfalfa Acres and was used for growing cotton and alfalfa for over 30 years. The Site was planted with almond trees in the late 1980's and was operated by Troy Farms. In the mid-1990's, the Sterling Insectary farm was added immediately east of the two residential homes located on the southwestern corner of the site. Currently, the Site is vacant. The Sterling Insectary farm has been relocated.

Findings of the investigation

Environmental investigations were conducted from December 2003 through March 2005 to determine the prior usage of the site and to evaluate any impacts and extent of contamination. Arsenic, petroleum hydrocarbons, semi-volatile organic compounds and organochlorine pesticides were detected at elevated concentrations.



It is likely the arsenic came from the chemical storage area. The organochlorine pesticides more likely were used to control insects within the agricultural areas. The petroleum hydrocarbon and semi-volatile organic compounds likely came from the above ground storage tanks used on Site.

Because the elevated levels pose a potential threat to human health and the environment, DTSC recommends the soil be removed before building the school.

On May 13, 2004, DTSC granted partial site approval to approximately 43 acres of the proposed 47 acre site. The partial site approval means that the 43 acre portion is safe for construction. As a result of the partial site approval, the almond orchard has been removed in preparation for the school construction.

Proposed Cleanup Plan (Draft RAW)

The primary objective of the cleanup is to prevent or reduce potential risks to public health and the environment. The Cleanup Plan summarizes previous studies, outlines available cleanup activities and proposes removal options. Cleanup alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement and cost. DTSC will review and consider comments received during the 30-day public comment period before making a final decision to approve or deny the proposed cleanup activities.

Proposed cleanup method

- Remove approximately 170 cubic yards (approximately 17 truckloads) of contaminated soil
- Transport contaminated soil, using a licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor, to a state-licensed disposal facility
- Backfill with clean imported soil, if necessary

Cleanup activity

If the plan is approved, you can expect to see the following cleanup activities for approximately 15 days:

- Personnel using standard backhoe machinery and safety gear
- Stockpiled contaminated soil on site
- Stockpiles covered with tarps to protect them from wind and rain
- Covered trucks removing soil from the site to a state-licensed landfill
- Airborne dust monitoring

Dust suppression

Control measures, including water spraying, will reduce dust during the cleanup activities. Airborne dust monitoring will ensure that efforts to reduce dust are working. Before leaving the Site, truck tires will be cleaned and soil loads will be covered with tarps so that soil will not spill out of the trucks while they are on the road.

Fencing

The areas where the digging will occur will be secured using existing fence where possible and temporary fencing or barriers so that unauthorized personnel cannot enter the work area.

Truck route

A variety of truck types will be used to deliver and remove supplies and materials from the site on an as needed basis. Trucks will travel between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Trucks exiting the Site will:

- Leave the site going south on Timmons Avenue, then proceed to Garces Highway for one mile to Highway 43
- From Highway 43, to Highway 46, to Interstate 5, then proceed directly to the Kettleman Hills Facility in Kettleman, California



Example of a Front End Loader

California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption

DTSC has prepared a Draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. The NOE document states that the project will not have effects on the environment or human health because of the relatively small volume of soil, the short duration of the cleanup, and the controlled manner in which the contaminated soil will be excavated, loaded onto trucks and taken away for disposal.

Next steps

Confirmation sampling of the soil will be conducted after the removal to verify that the contaminated soil has been properly removed and that the Site is safe for the school.

DTSC will prepare a “Response to Comments” at the completion of the 30-day public comment period. Anyone who submits comments regarding the Cleanup Plan or cleanup activities will receive DTSC’s “Response to Comments.” Additionally, a copy of the “Response to Comments” will be placed in the information repositories.

For More Information

Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have.

For questions regarding the Cleanup Plan, please contact Mr. Jose Luevano, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-3577 or e-mail Jluevano@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions regarding the public participation process, contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3651 or e-mail Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions from the media, please contact Ms. Lisa Gray, DTSC Public Information Officer at (916) 324-0936 or e-mail Lgray@dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice to the Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak with Ms. Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.

Information Repositories

The Cleanup Plan and other related documents may be viewed at the following location:

Delano Joint Union High School District

1747 Princeton Street
Delano, California 93215
(661) 720-4102

Delano Library

925 10th Avenue
Delano, California 93215
(661) 721-3303

Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

File Room:

Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
By appointment only (916) 255-3758