

**INSIDE:** Information on Aldama Elementary  
School Proposed Addition Site

## Project documents are available for public review at the following locations:

Arroyo Seco Regional Library Express Station  
6152 N. Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90042  
Phone: (213) 847-1181  
Contact: Mr. Gene Estrada  
Hours: Monday–Friday 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday–Sunday: Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Regional Records Office  
1011 N. Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201  
Contact: Jone Barrio  
Phone: (818) 551-2886  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Aldama Elementary School  
Administrative Office  
632 North Avenue 50  
Los Angeles, CA 90042  
Phone: (323) 255-1434

Los Angeles Unified School District  
Office of Communications  
450 North Grand Avenue, Room H-174  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Contact: Susie Solano  
Phone: (213) 625-6766  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Los Angeles Unified School District  
Office of Environmental Health and Safety  
355 South Grand Avenue, Sixth Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
Contact: Tom Watson  
Phone: (213) 633-8242  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fact Sheet  
April 2002

# Aldama Elementary School Proposed Addition Site



## PROPOSED REMOVAL ACTION

*DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.*

State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



### INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet describes an environmental investigation and proposed hazardous substance cleanup activities for an existing school site addition project planned for your neighborhood. The Aldama Elementary School Proposed Addition Site is located at the northwest corner of North Avenue 50 and Eldred Street in Los Angeles, California. The site cleanup will be conducted at 4941 Eldred Street by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) under the oversight of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

The LAUSD conducted an environmental investigation known as a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) and two Focused Site Investigations (FSI) at the Proposed Addition Site. The site investigations detected lead in soil samples at the 4941 Eldred Street parcel of the Addition Site in concentrations that exceed DTSC health risk levels. Exposure to this level represents a potential health hazard to the public. As a result

### COMMUNITY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Aldama Elementary School  
Auditorium  
632 North Avenue 50  
Los Angeles, California  
May 2, 2002  
8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.**

In conjunction with the Aldama Elementary School Parents Advisory Council, DTSC will conduct a community meeting to provide you with information about the proposed Removal Action Workplan and findings of the environmental investigations for this proposed school addition site.

DTSC encourages you to take an active interest in the issues affecting the hazardous substance cleanup activities at this school site by attending this meeting and submitting your comments on the removal action plan. *Spanish interpreters will be provided at the meeting.*

### Public Comment Period

**You can review and comment on the draft Removal Action Workplan for the Aldama Elementary School Proposed Addition Site during a 30-day public comment period from:**

**April 9, 2002 to May 8, 2002**

Written comments on the draft Removal Action Workplan must be postmarked by May 8, 2002. A comment form and postage paid envelope are provided for your convenience.

**The complete RAW report and other related project documents are available at the local Information Repositories listed on page 4.**

of the PEA and FSI findings, LAUSD is proposing a site cleanup known as a removal action. DTSC, a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) agreed that a removal action should be conducted to remove and eliminate the risk posed by this hazardous substance. Once the contaminated soil is removed, the potential risk associated with this compound will be eliminated and the proposed addition site will be safe for students and faculty.

LAUSD has prepared a **Draft Final Removal Action Workplan** for the cleanup of the contaminated soil. The DTSC is accepting public comment on the proposed removal action during a 30-day public comment period starting on April 9, 2002.

### Site Description

The Proposed Addition Site is a vacant lot adjacent to the existing Aldama Elementary School. The vacant lot is approximately 0.67 acres and is composed of five parcels with addresses of 618, 624, and 628 North Avenue 50 and 4941 and 4945 Eldred Street.

Residential structures on the southwestern portion of the Addition Site were demolished in April 1999. However, demolition activities were not completed and miscellaneous demolition debris, including concrete rubble and uprooted vegetation, is still present throughout this area. The eastern portion of the Addition Site is currently comprised of a gravel parking lot, which is used by school personnel.

### Site Investigation

Site investigation activities, including soil sampling, were conducted at the 4941 Eldred Street parcel, the area used as a parking lot, and on the existing Aldama Elementary School between September and October 2000. A summary of the soil sampling activities, previous excavation activities, and analytical results before and after the previous excavations are discussed in the PEA Report. The investigation identified issues of potential environmental concern, including the existence of lead contaminated soil on the Proposed Addition Site. Two Focused Site Investigations (FSI) were then conducted in August 2001 to further evaluate the extent of lead-contaminated soils.

### Environmental Investigation Results

The FSI results indicated that there are no elevated lead concentrations on the existing school property. The only area found to have lead concentrations above the DTSC screening level is the 4941 Eldred Street parcel of the Addition Site. LAUSD recommended that a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) be prepared to address areas of contaminated soil in the 4941 Eldred Street parcel. The PEA recommended the removal of demolition debris and the upper 0.5 feet of soil from the entire parcel. Furthermore, the PEA recommended the removal of soil to

a depth of 1.5 feet below ground surface within this area at specific locations where the investigations identified lead in soils deeper than 0.5 feet.

### Removal Action Workplan Scope

The Draft Final Removal Action Workplan (RAW), prepared in March 2002, identifies and screens possible removal action alternatives. Removal action alternatives were screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement, and cost. Screening of several cleanup techniques using these criteria was conducted to select removal actions for further evaluation. Based on this screening, three possible alternatives were selected for further evaluation:

- Alternative 1 — No Further Action
- Alternative 2 — Containment through Surface Capping
- Alternative 3 — Excavation and Offsite Disposal

Based on the removal action selection process, Alternative 3, Excavation and Offsite Disposal has been selected as the preferred cleanup alternative. This alternative was selected because it was determined to be the most protective of human health and the environment, easily implemented, and cost effective.

### Proposed Removal Action Activities

The soil removal fieldwork will be conducted under DTSC oversight. Prior to any excavation, the contaminated soil areas will be marked using stakes or marking paint. Excavation areas will be secured using temporary fencing or barriers to reduce the potential for unauthorized personnel to enter the work area.

Approximately 115 cubic yards (170 tons) of contaminated soil will be excavated from the property located at 4941 Eldred Street. The majority of the contaminated soil to be excavated generally exists within the upper 0.5 feet. The excavation will be conducted using conventional excavation equipment, such as a small backhoe or track-mounted excavator. The excavated soils will be temporarily stockpiled within Area 2 and directly loaded into transport trucks using a front-end loader. The proposed removal action is estimated to be completed in two working days. This period of time will include excavation and loading of the demolition debris and contaminated soil into eight transport trucks. The removal action activities will take place when the elementary school is not in session, during the approximate hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The soil will be excavated, to the extent possible, in a manner that reduces the potential to generate dust. Dust will be controlled by spraying water prior to daily work activities, during excavation/loading activities, and at truck staging locations. Air monitoring will be conducted during excavation and soil handling activities to measure

for potential emissions. In addition, airborne dust monitoring will be conducted to verify and document dust control effectiveness.

LAUSD will take necessary steps to minimize impacts to the community. The excavation will take place when school is not in session. Community members will be notified prior to initiation of removal activities. The nearby residents will be directed to have their windows closed during the time of excavation. In addition, DTSC advises that residents avoid outdoor activity during the excavation.

When the excavation work is complete, confirmation sampling will be conducted to verify that all the lead-contaminated soil has been removed. Since building and construction activities are scheduled to begin immediately upon completion of the removal actions, the excavated areas will not be backfilled and compacted as part of the RAW.

### Notice of Exemption (NOE)

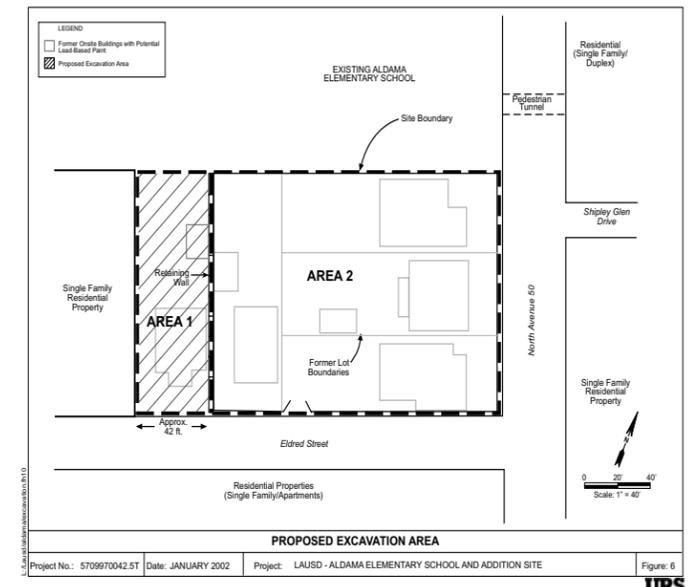
DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NOE document states that the project will not have a significant negative effect on the environment because of the relatively small volume, short project duration, and the controlled manner in which lead-contaminated soils will be excavated, loaded onto trucks and taken offsite for disposal.

### What Happens Next?

Prior to making a final decision on the Aldama Elementary School Proposed Addition Site Draft Final Removal Action Workplan, DTSC will receive comments during

the 30-day public comment period, which begins on April 9, 2002 and ends on May 8, 2002. Comments may be submitted in writing to: Ms. Laura Zaremba, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 North Grandview Avenue, Glendale, California 91201. Comments must be postmarked by May 8, 2002.

After the public comment period, DTSC will evaluate all of the submitted comments. If the Draft Final RAW is approved, fieldwork may begin in May 2002. The removal action fieldwork, including soil excavation, transportation of excavated soil, and confirmation soil sampling will take an estimated two days. Building and construction activities are scheduled to begin immediately upon completion of the removal activities.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding the DTSC investigation or the proposed removal action please contact:

- Treva Miller, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, (818) 551-2846
- Laura Zaremba, DTSC Project Manager, (818) 551-2183
- Jeanne Garcia, Media Contact, (818) 551-2176
- Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Sr. Eloy Florez, Especialista en Participación Pública de el DTSC, al (818) 551-2875*

### LAUSD Contact:

Kelly Rowe, Project Manager, LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety, (213) 633-8812

### For information related the school addition design and construction please call:

Genetha Eddins, LAUSD Community Outreach Office, at (213) 633-3468.

*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Sra. Genetha Eddins, Oficina de Alcance a la Comunidad del LAUSD (LAUSD Community Outreach Office), al (213) 633-3468 o por correo electrónico: geddins@laschools.org.*