



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

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



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, November 2007

You may review and comment on the draft cleanup plan for the new Planned Elementary School Site in Reedley

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is making available for review and comment a draft cleanup plan to remove soil containing metals and pesticides from a portion of the property where Kings Canyon Unified School District (KCUSD) plans to construct a new elementary school. The Planned Elementary School Site is located at 9243 Zumwalt Avenue in Reedley California. (See map on the top of page three) The KCUSD submitted the draft cleanup plan, also known as a Removal Action Workplan, to DTSC for approval. The area on the property targeted for the removal is a 1/2 acre around the homestead that used to sit among the orchards.

DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites. We evaluate property for potential hazardous materials or contamination that could pose a risk to school children, school staff or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property.

Why cleanup is necessary

There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, because exposure to elevated levels of pesticides and metals in soil can cause adverse health effects, DTSC asked KCUSD to prepare this draft cleanup plan to remove and dispose the contaminated soil. This removal is necessary to protect future school students and staff who will attend and work at the new elementary school. DTSC will oversee the clean up that will take place in January 2008, before the construction of the new school is completed. DTSC will ensure that the cleanup is done in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Site Information

The 19.9 acre site was used for commercial fruit and nut production from at least 1950. Until recently, with the exception of the 1/2 acre homestead, peach, nectarine and nut trees covered the entire property. The homestead includes a mobile home, several chicken coops, a storage shed, a water supply well, a trailer, a septic system, and a pole mounted transformer. Please see the photograph on page three.

The public comment period begins November 19, 2007 and ends at 5:00 pm on December 19, 2007

Please send comments to:

Ms. Kamili Siglowide

Project Manager

DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento CA 95826

E-mail to KSiglowi@dtsc.ca.gov



Investigation findings

In March 2007, and then again from July through August 2007, the KCUSD collected samples that showed elevated metals (arsenic, zinc and copper) and pesticides (chlordane, DDT, and DDE) in soil around the homestead. Samples also had elevated levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons. DTSC estimates the total volume of impacted soil to be about 240 cubic yards.

Draft Removal Action Workplan

The draft RAW proposes that KCUSD remove the contaminated soil to reduce potential risk to public health and environment. DTSC evaluates the cleanup alternatives on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement, and cost.

The draft RAW proposes that the KCUSD remove the contaminated soil from ¼ acre of the property containing the homestead and ship the soil by truck to a permitted hazardous waste disposal landfill. The proposal includes the following steps:

- o Dig up contaminated soil from the ground surface to ten feet below the ground surface in various locations. Most excavation will occur from the ground surface to two feet below the ground surface.
- o Use backhoes and loaders to place excavated soil on plastic in temporary stockpiles and cover with plastic until soil is sampled and classified for disposal in an appropriate landfill.
- o Spray water on soil to control dust during excavation, placement in temporary stockpiles, and during loading for transport off-site.
- o Monitor air at the site to make sure that the amount of dust stays at safe levels.

- o Take soil samples from excavated areas to make sure all contaminated soil has been removed.
- o Water down all equipment to make sure contaminated soil is not taken off-site.
- o Transport contaminated soil to an appropriate authorized landfill
- o Fill excavated areas with clean soil and grade it to the existing ground surface level.

Truck route

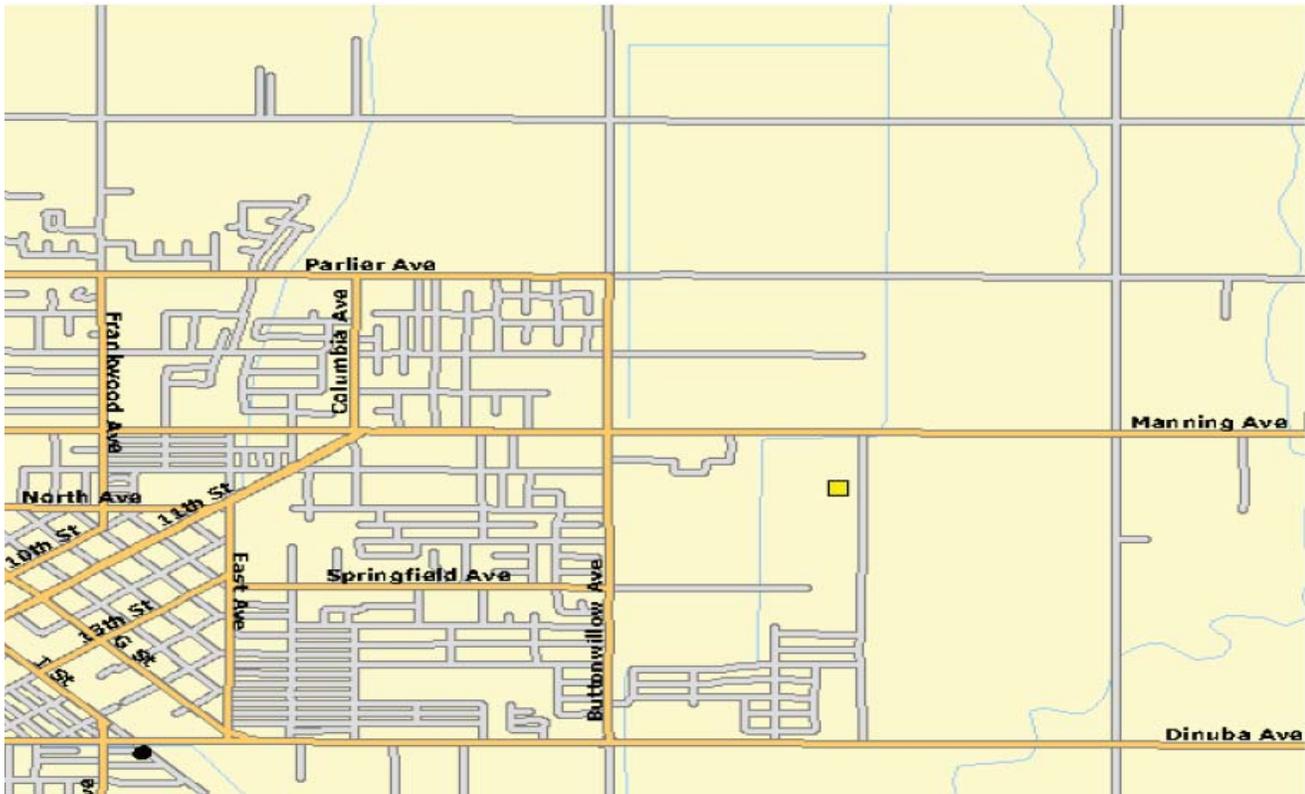
About 18 trucks would transport the contaminated soils to a licensed disposal facility. Soil removal activities will occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. and last about four days. Trucks will exit the site and travel north on Zumwalt Avenue, turn left onto Manning Avenue, turn left onto State Highway 41 to travel to the landfill near Kettleman City, California.

California Environmental Quality Act

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The draft NOE states that this removal action will not have significant negative impacts on the environment. The draft NOE is available for public review in the information repositories.

Next steps

DTSC will review and consider comments received during the 30-day public comment period before making a decision to approve, modify or deny the draft RAW. If comments are received from the community on the activities proposed in the draft RAW, DTSC will prepare a "Response to Comments" document after the completion of the public comment period. Anyone who submits comments regarding this proposal will receive a copy of the "Response



The small box shows the planned school site



to Comments” document. Additionally, a copy will be placed in the information repositories.

Upon approval, the soil removal will take place in January 2008 over three or four days. After the cleanup is completed, KCUSD will sample the soil in the excavated areas to confirm that cleanup goals have been reached. Then they will submit a RAW Completion Report that will summarize the removal activities and provide confirmation that the clean up goals were achieved.

For more information

Please contact any of the following individuals with questions or concerns you have regarding the Planned Elementary School Site on Zumwalt Avenue:

Ms. Kamili Siglowide
Project Manager
(916) 255-6527
E-mail KSiglowi@dtsc.ca.gov

Mr. Nathan Schumacher
Public Participation Specialist
Call either toll free at 1 (866) 495-5651 or
(916) 255-3650
E-mail NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov

Questions from the media, please contact:

Ms. Angela Blanchette
Public Information Officer (510) 540-3732
E-mail ABlanche@dtsc.ca.gov

Places to review the documents

Electronic versions of the documents related to the Planned Elementary School site are available on the DTSC web site at
<http://www.enviorstor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>

The draft RAW and other related documents may be viewed at the following locations:

The Kings Canyon Unified School District
Attention: Mr. Ron Hudson
Kings Canyon Unified School District offices
675 West Manning Avenue
Reedley, CA 93654
(559) 637-1210, extension 1213

The Reedley Public Library
Attention: Ernst Vitovec
1027 E Street
Reedley, CA 93654
(559) 638-2818

These documents as well as the full administrative record are available at the DTSC Sacramento office file room

DTSC
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento CA 95826

To arrange an appointment, please contact Ms. Bobbi Jensen (916) 255-3758

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Please ask them to contact Mr. Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 regarding Planned Elementary School Site.

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jesús Cruz, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (866) 495-5651.