



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*The Mission of the
Department of
Toxic Substances
Control is to
provide the highest
level of safety, and
to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, May 2010

Draft Removal Action Work Plan for Myrtle Street High School Campus



The Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) is proposing to build a new high school campus named Myrtle Street High School Campus (Site) on 1.86 acres on 1010, 1020, 1040, 1054, and 1056 Myrtle Street in East Palo Alto, California. During Site environmental investigations, elevated levels of lead and organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) particularly dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), dieldrin, and chlordane were found in the soil. In order to address the contamination, the SUHSD submitted a Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The RAW proposes cleanup alternatives for lead and OCP impacted soils.

DTSC is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. It oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites,

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

May 17th to June 15th 2010

We encourage you to review and comment on the RAW. A 30-day public comment period for the RAW begins on May 17, 2010 and ends on June 15, 2010. Copies of the RAW and supporting documents can be viewed at the information repositories listed on page 3 of this fact sheet. Written as well as e-mailed comments must be postmarked or received no later than 5:00 p.m., June 15, 2010 to:

Mellan Songco
DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-6527

[e-mail: MSongco@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:MSongco@dtsc.ca.gov)

For information about public participation and community involvement, please contact Heidi Nelson, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3575 or toll free at (866) 495-5651 or [e-mail: HNelson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:HNelson@dtsc.ca.gov).



and evaluates the property for potential hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff, or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC will oversee the cleanup of the property.

There is no immediate human health risk, but long term exposure to the contaminated soil does pose a human health risk. Therefore, contamination needs to be addressed before SUHSD can build the new high school campus.

Site History and Background

The Site is currently occupied with four residences (1010, 1040, 1054, and 1056 Myrtle Street) and a vacant lot (1020 Myrtle Street). Historically, the Site has been used for residential use and agricultural purposes (hay cultivation, row crops, and greenhouse). The contamination is a result of past usage of lead-based paint, agricultural and pest control activities performed at the Site.

Contaminants of Concern

The major contaminants of concern (COCs) at the Site are: DDT, dieldrin, chlordane and lead.

Investigation Findings

Since December 2009 through April 2010, elevated levels of COCs have been found in surface soils up to 4 ft deep throughout the Site.

Removal Action Work Plan

The RAW evaluates cleanup alternatives and identifies a preferred alternative which prevents or reduces potential risks to public health and the environment. It summarizes previously completed studies and identifies possible removal alternatives. All removal alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, cost, and ability to implement. The RAW then identifies the alternative which DTSC recommends and believes is the most appropriate for the site.

Before DTSC finalizes the RAW by selecting a remedial alternative, the document will be made available to the public for their comments during a 30-day comment period. All comments received during this comment period will be reviewed and considered before the RAW is finalized.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The following three cleanup options were

considered:

Alternative 1 - No Action

DTSC is required by Law to include the 'No Action' alternative. DTSC believes that if this alternative is selected and no action was taken, an unacceptable long-term risk to human health and the environment would exist at the Site.

Alternative 2 - On-Site Capping

This alternative involves capping the entire Site with asphalt and leaving the contamination in place. Although the cost for capping is much lower than the other alternatives, but, it is more difficult to implement this alternative due to potential geotechnical concerns such as settlement associated with backfill/compaction of a deeper excavation. Since this alternative does not remove the contaminated soils, a land use covenant will be placed on the Site hence limiting this alternative.

Alternative 3 - Soil Excavation and Off-Site Disposal

This alternative proposes excavation of approximately 1,600 cubic yards (CY) of COCs impacted soil, removal and off-site disposal at a licensed facility. Clean backfill would replace the removed soil. No confirmation soil samples would be performed since the excavation will extend to the locations/depths where previous soil samples were collected and did not exceed cleanup goals. Standard construction equipment will be used to remove soil during field activities.

DTSC's Recommended Alternative

DTSC proposes the 'Alternative 3: Soil Excavation and Off-Site Disposal' as the best choice. This alternative is the most effective since it removes the contaminated soil; no restrictions on the land use or long term operation and maintenance is required. Details of the removal action alternatives are listed in Section 5 of the Draft RAW.

Summary of Proposed RAW

Approval of the RAW will result in the following activities:

- Removal of approximately 1,600 CY of contaminated soil. Soil will be removed by

backhoe and placed in temporary stockpiles for on-site characterization. Contaminated soil will be transported off-site to the appropriate disposal facility. Clean backfill soil will be screened to ensure it meets DTSC's guidance.

- Water misting systems in the excavation area will help prevent dust from becoming airborne.
- Perimeter air monitoring will monitor dust particulates at the Site. The RAW includes work stoppage if wind velocity or dust action levels are exceeded.
- Loaded truck beds will be covered and trucks will be decontaminated prior to leaving the Site.
- Water and sediment from decontamination and cleaning of equipment will be collected in drums, analyzed, and shipped to the appropriate destination based on analysis results.

Truck Route

Trucks will exit the Site onto Myrtle Street heading west onto Clarke Avenue heading south onto Donohoe Street. Trucks will then drive west onto East Bayshore Road continue driving west onto University Avenue heading south, and then merge onto US highway 101 south. The soil will be taken to an appropriate licensed and approved disposal and/or treatment facility.

Hours of Work

If the preferred remedial alternative is supported by the public, the cleanup efforts would start from June 16, 2010 through July 30, 2010. Work will be conducted between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Normal school construction activities may occur upon completion of the cleanup activities.

California Environmental Quality Act

In order to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The draft NOE states why the project will not negatively impact the environment.

Next Steps

After the close of the comment period, DTSC will prepare a "Response to Comments" (RTC) document. This document includes all of the

comments received by DTSC about the RAW during the 30-day public comment period. It will also provide DTSC's response to those comments. Anyone who submits comments regarding the RAW will receive a copy of the RTC document, if they have provided an address. A copy of the RTC document will be placed in the Information Repositories listed below.

Information Repositories

DTSC encourages public participation in the decision-making process and invites the public to review and comment on the RAW. Before making a final determination on the RAW, DTSC will review and respond in writing to all public comments received, and place all relevant Site related documents at:

East Palo Alto Library
2415 University Avenue
East Palo Alto, California 94303
(650) 321-7712

Department Of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3758
Call for an appointment

To view Site related documents electronically, go to <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>. Enter "East Palo Alto" as the City and select "Myrtle Street High School Campus". Click on the link "Report" to see the documents.

Contact Information

For more information about this Site or have questions about the RAW please contact:

For project details:

Mellan Songco
DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255- 6527
MSongco@dtsc.ca.gov

For public participation activities:

Heidi Nelson
DTSC Public Participation
Toll-free (866) 495-5651 or
(916) 255- 3575
HNelson@dtsc.ca.gov

