



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, April 2006

## The Draft Removal Action Workplan For The Empire Ranch Elementary School Is Available For Your Review

The Folsom Cordova Unified School District plans to build a new elementary school, originally called Empire Ranch Elementary School, located at 375 Dry Creek Road, Folsom, California 95630. The school name has recently been changed to the Russell Ranch Elementary School. The school site consists of approximately 10 acres of undeveloped land. During site investigations, elevated levels of naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) were found in the soils across the entire site. When NOA is found on a school site, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requires school districts to submit a workplan to identify activities that will be taken to minimize release of asbestos from school soils into the air during construction of the school.

The cleanup of the site will provide a clean environment for building a new elementary school with 25 classrooms and a couple of basketball courts. The new school will accommodate 613 students. The school will be easily assessable to the families moving into the new Prairie Ranch community.

The draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) proposes actions to reduce the generation of NOA dust. The draft RAW is available for your review at the information repositories listed on page four of this fact sheet. The purpose of this environmental process is to ensure that the site will provide a safe environment for students, faculty, and staff of the new school.

### **This fact sheet provides information about:**

- Site history and background
- Investigation findings
- Naturally Occurring Asbestos
- Summary of the draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW)
- What will you see during school construction?
- Information on the California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption
- Next Steps

### **Public Comment Period**

We encourage you to review and comment on the draft RAW. DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning April 3, 2006 and ending on May 2, 2006. All e-mailed comments must be sent to DTSC no later than 5 p.m. on May 2, 2006. Mail written comments to:

Mr. Mark Malinowski, Unit Chief, Northern California Schools Cleanup Branch  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
or e-mail [Mmalinow@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Mmalinow@dtsc.ca.gov)



## Site History and Background

The school site is part of a new housing development. Research shows that the property was used for cattle grazing since 1852.

## Investigation Findings

Two site investigations (Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and Preliminary Environmental Assessment) were conducted between April 2004 and July 2005. Soil and rock samples collected from the site identified actinolite asbestos, NOA. Based on investigations, DTSC required further action to address the NOA on the site. Because the NOA levels pose a potential threat to human health, DTSC recommends mitigation actions be taken during school construction to cover or cap soils containing NOA to reduce future exposures.

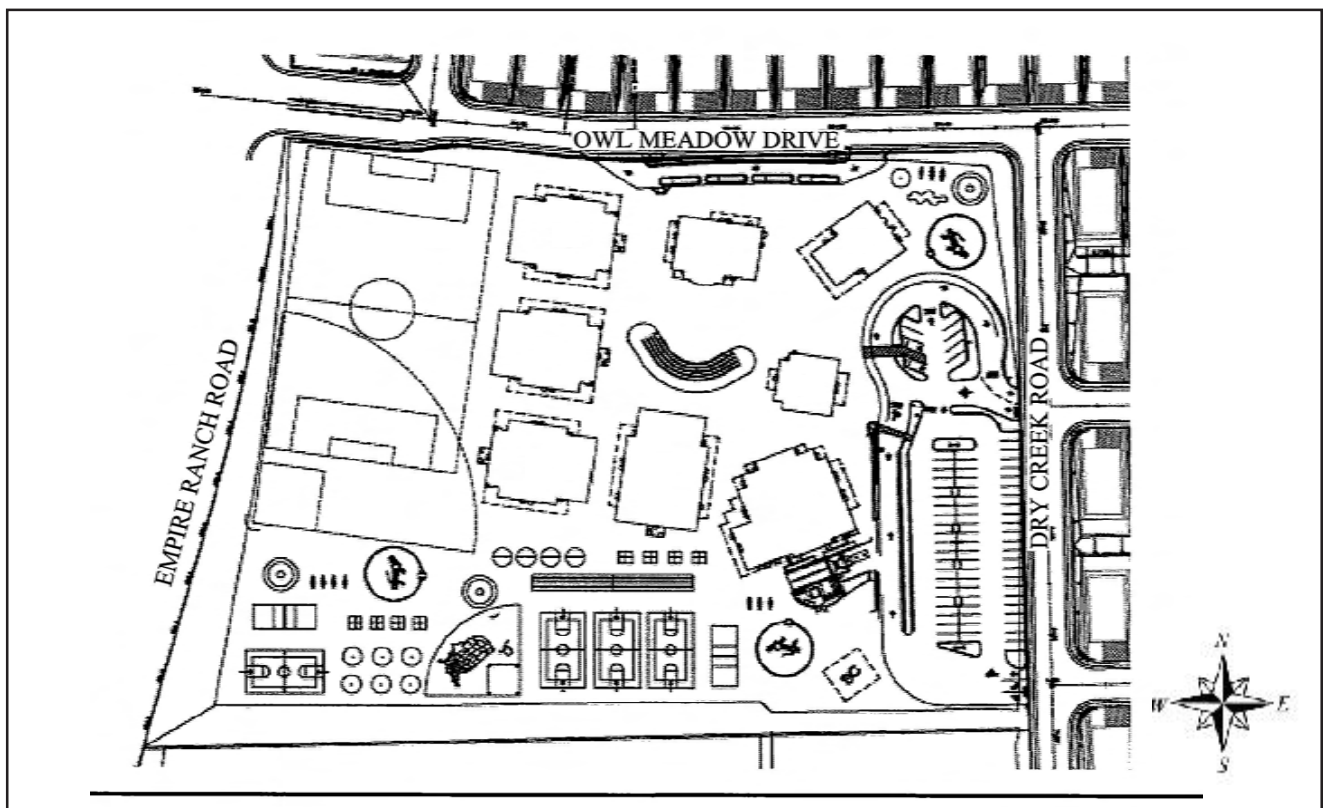
## Naturally Occurring Asbestos

NOA includes a group of minerals commonly found in ultramafic and serpentine rock formations. NOA can also be found in rock near fault zones or in sediments derived from these rocks. Ultramafic rock is made up of 90 percent or more of dark colored iron-magnesium-silicate minerals. Serpentine commonly occurs in metamorphic areas throughout the state.

NOA can be released when the rock is broken or crushed. This may happen when cars drive over unpaved roads or driveways surfaced with these rocks, or when land is graded. NOA is also released naturally through weathering and erosion. Once released from rock, asbestos can become airborne. The primary pathway for human exposure to asbestos is through inhalation of dust particles containing asbestos. All forms of asbestos may cause serious health effects, including respiratory disease or cancer.

## Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW)

The primary objective of the proposed actions described in the RAW, is to reduce potential future exposure to school site soils containing NOA. The draft RAW summarizes previous studies, evaluates cleanup options based on their effectiveness, and ability to be implemented, and cost. DTSC will review and consider comments received during the 30-day public comment period before making a final decision regarding approval of the draft RAW.



## Summary of Proposed Draft RAW

The mitigation plan proposed in the RAW is to cover the soils containing NOA and to reduce the possibility of airborne asbestos. The cover or cap will be comprised of landscape fill, sod, native grasses, plants, shrubs, bushes, etc. or hardscape (buildings, concrete, asphalt, rubberized playing surfaces, etc.). Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of imported fill will be brought to the site to be placed beneath playfields and planters.

Landscaped areas will include placement of a geotextile fabric to act as a warning barrier directly above soils containing NOA. This will alert all personnel who will later conduct subsurface maintenance or repairs, to not disturb the soil below the warning barrier. The geotextile fabric will be covered by non-asbestos containing clean fill.

Normal construction of building pads, sidewalks, asphalt pads, and some landscaping effectively act to cap soil containing NOA. These construction activities are not part of the formal mitigation efforts presented in the RAW.

The following proposed mitigation activities will take place during school construction:

- place geotextile fabric in playfields and landscape areas;
- cover the fabric with 8 to 12 inches of clean soil;
- place erosion control blankets, such as netting, over sloped areas; and
- develop an ongoing Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan) to control, manage, and report future potential disturbances of soils containing NOA.

## What will you see during school construction?

If the plan is approved, you may see the following activities associated with the mitigation activities:

- Personnel using heavy equipment, such as bulldozers and tractors, and wearing safety gear;
- Water trucks lightly spraying the soils to prevent dust from becoming airborne;



*Example of a installation of Geotextile Fabric*

- Air and dust monitoring at site boundaries;
- 75 to 150 trucks delivering imported clean fill during a 1 to 2 week period;
- Placement of geotextile fabric as a warning barrier over NOA soils and covering with clean fill; and
- Placement of landscape and hardscape (including building construction).

## Dust suppression

Dust control measures, including water spraying, will minimize the generation of asbestos into the air. If acceptable levels of airborne dust and asbestos are exceeded, site work will be stopped. Before leaving the site, truck tires will be cleaned to avoid tracking out dusts.

## Fencing

The entire site will be secured by fencing or barriers during construction so that unauthorized personnel cannot enter the work area.

## 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 removal action will not have the potential for significant negative impacts on the environment. The draft NOE is available for public review in the repositories.

## Next steps

At completion of the 30-day public comment period, DTSC will prepare a “Response to Comments” to address all comments received from the community. Each person who submits comments regarding the proposed cleanup activities will receive a copy of DTSC’s “Response to Comments.” A copy of DTSC’s “Response to Comments” will also be available for review 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 draft RAW, please contact Mr. Mark Malinowski, DTSC Schools Unit Chief, at (916) 255-3717 or by e-mail to [Mmalinow@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Mmalinow@dtsc.ca.gov).

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

For questions from the media, please contact Ms. Carol Singleton, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (916) 255-6578 or by e-mail to [Csinglet@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Csinglet@dtsc.ca.gov).

## Notice to the Hearing Impaired Individuals

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

## Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Especialista en Participación Pública del Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (916) 255-3315 or (866) 495-5651.

## Information Repositories

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

### Folsom Public Library

300 Persifer Street  
Folsom, California 95630  
Phone: (916) 355-7357  
Monday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Folsom Cordova Unified School District

125 East Bidwell Street  
Folsom, California 95630  
Contact: Matt Washburn, Director  
Facilities and Planning  
Phone: (916) 355-1111, ext. 184

### Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
File Room:  
By appointment only (916) 255-3758