

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

## Malibu High/Middle School and Juan Cabrillo Elementary School Site Notification of Completion of Environmental Evaluation

On March 12, 2013, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) entered into a Voluntary Investigation Agreement (Agreement) to conduct a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) at Malibu High/Middle School (MHS) and Juan Cabrillo Elementary School (JCES), collectively known as the Site. The objective of the PEA investigation was to evaluate the Site for the presence of hazardous substances, and determine the need for further investigation and/or clean-up.

DTSC provided oversight of the PEA's comprehensive soil, soil-vapor and groundwater investigation at the Site. The investigation started on June 30, 2014, and ended on August 18, 2014. Based on historic land use and current activities conducted at the Site, samples were collected and selectively analyzed for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, herbicides, total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), metals, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).

### Investigation and Results

A total of 454 soil samples were initially collected at the Site during the PEA investigation. The PCB Aroclor 1254 was detected in five surface soil samples near the MHS Building G Area at concentrations slightly exceeding the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Residential Regional Screening Level. DTSC requested additional step-out samples be collected to fully characterize the extent of the PCB contaminated soil. The resulting data confirmed the PCB contaminated soil was confined to a roughly 40-foot-long by 7-foot-wide planter near MHS Building G Area. No similar PCB exceedances were detected at other areas of the Site, and it appeared the PCB contaminated surface soil was unique to the MHS Building G Area.

DTSC determined the PCB impacted surface soil did not pose a significant risk to human health. However, a removal action was proposed because SMMUSD wished to allow for future unrestricted (i.e., residential) use of the property. Because SMMUSD had a limited schedule to clean-up the PCB impacted soil during the two week winter break in 2014, it was agreed that preparation of the Draft Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) would take priority over the PEA Completion Report and Site-wide Human Health Risk Screening Evaluation.

DTSC, in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code (HS&C) Section 25356.1, approved the Draft RAW on November 7, 2014. A 30-day public comment period for the Draft



*Planter near Building G Area of Excavation*



RAW and corresponding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation was held from November 7, 2014 to December 10, 2014. DTSC also posted a Public Notice in the local newspaper, and prepared a Community Profile Report and Community Update Fact Sheet to notify residents and interested parties of the proposed clean-up action.

## Cleanup of Contamination

The RAW clean-up action began on December 21, 2014, and was completed by December 30, 2014. The RAW resulted in the excavation of approximately 15 cubic yards (equivalent to one large truckload) of PCB impacted soil from the MHS Building G Area. The excavated soil was sampled and transported off-Site for disposal at a state permitted landfill.

## Follow up Activities

On February 27, 2015, a Draft Removal Action Completion Report (RACR) was submitted to DTSC. On March 26, 2015, DTSC approved the RACR, and issued a No Further Action determination letter to SMMUSD certifying the MHS Building G Area was clean and suitable for future unrestricted use.

On May 29, 2015, a Draft PEA Completion Report was submitted to DTSC which documented the investigation at the Site during the summer of 2014. The Draft PEA Completion Report included the validated sampling data and the Site-wide Human Health Risk Screening Evaluation.

On June 29, 2015, DTSC provided comments on the Draft PEA Completion Report and requested revisions to calculations in the Human Health Risk Screening Evaluation. Revised calculations were made to the Human Health Risk Screening Evaluation, and a revised Final PEA Completion Report was submitted to DTSC on September 10, 2015.

Based on review of the revised risk evaluation calculations, DTSC determined the VOC concentrations detected at the Bus Barn Area may pose risk to human health based on an unrestricted (residential) land use scenario. For this reason DTSC required a Land Use Covenant (also known as a deed restriction) be filed for the 0.66 acre Bus Barn Area property to prevent future residential use.

The Bus Barn Area does not pose a human health risk for school based use because exposure time is shorter than residential exposure time.

On November 23, 2015, DTSC issued a No Further Action determination for the remainder of the approximately 79.33-acre Site (including the MHS Building G Area). On March 29, 2016, SMMUSD file a Land Use Covenant for the Bus Barn Area with the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office. On May 9, 2016, DTSC determined all required remedial actions were complete, and issued a Removal Action Certification Form to the SMMUSD for the Site property.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) was also involved in the investigation of PCBs at the Site. USEPA was responsible for the review and approval of SMMUSD's Comprehensive PCB-related Building Materials Inspection, Management and Removal Plan which focused specifically on PCB-contaminated building materials located within classrooms at the Site property. DTSC's regulatory oversight focused exclusively on the PEA's subsurface investigation, and did not address potentially contaminated building materials inside the classrooms.

## Where to Find Site Documents

For additional information relating to DTSC's regulatory oversight and decision documents for the MHS/JCES Site property, please visit our website at [http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=19820092](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=19820092)

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