

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

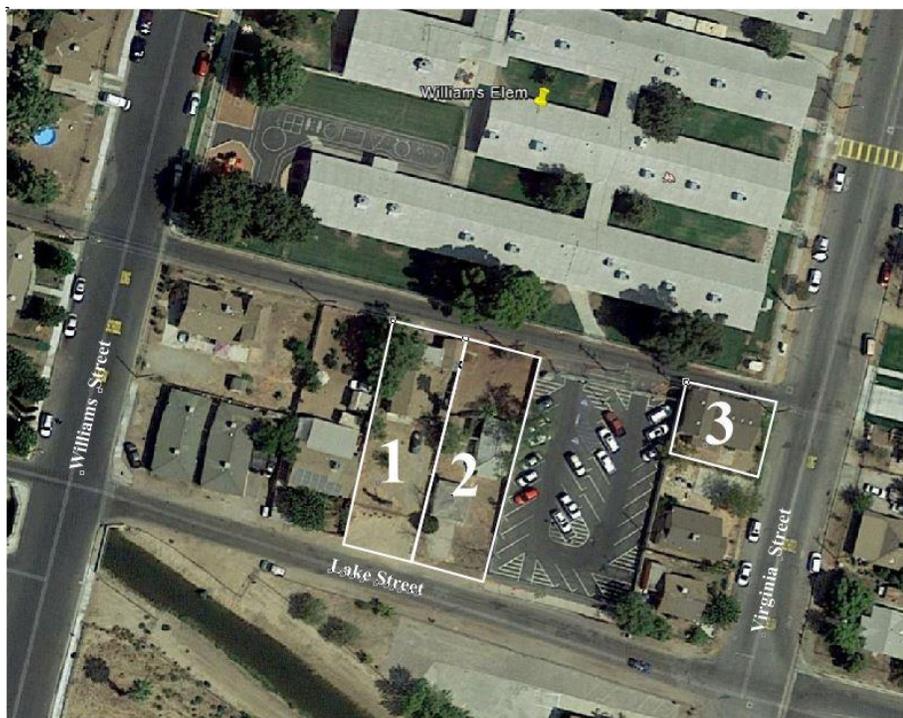
**Department of Toxic Substances Control** - Our mission is to protect the people, communities, and environment of California from harmful chemicals by cleaning up contaminated sites, enforcing hazardous waste laws, and compelling the development of safer products.

## Draft Removal Action Work Plan for Expansion of Williams Elementary School, Bakersfield, California

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on the draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the Expansion of Williams Elementary School (Site) in Bakersfield, California.

### Background / Site History

The Site is south of the existing school campus. It has three former residential properties on it (see aerial photo below). The buildings on these lots were removed leaving vacant land. Previous owners used termiticides (organochlorine pesticides or OCPs) on soil along the foundations and lead-based paint on the outer surfaces of the buildings. This contributed to the elevated OCPs and lead in the soil near the surface. The Site is enclosed by locked chain-link fencing.



1612 Lake Street (lot 1), 1616 Lake Street (lot 2), and 1108 Virginia Street (lot 3)

Between December 2018 and September 2019, the Bakersfield City School District (BCSD) conducted environmental investigations at the Site. Elevated levels of OCPs and lead were found in the soil 1' to 2.5' below the surface. In July 2019, the BCSD entered into a School Cleanup Agreement with DTSC to further evaluate Site conditions and conduct a cleanup.

### Public Comment Period

**May 26, 2020 to June 25, 2020**

A public comment period is being held to receive comment on the draft RAW.

All comments must be **received**  
by:  
**June 25, 2020.**

Please submit all comments to:

**Johnson Abraham**  
**Project Manager**

5796 Corporate Ave  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732

[johnson.abraham@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:johnson.abraham@dtsc.ca.gov)



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.



### Why Cleanup is Necessary

The goal of the proposed cleanup is to ensure that the Site is safe for the school to use. Lead exposure, especially in children, can result in permeant damage to the brain and nervous system. OCPs exposure can cause damage to some internal organs and the nervous system. Access to the Site is restricted to authorized personnel. The current risk of exposure to the public, school students or staff is low.

### Proposed Cleanup Options

The draft RAW considered four cleanup options for the OCP and lead contaminated soil at the Site:

- 1. No Action
- 2. Treatment or Stabilization
- 3. Excavation, Onsite Containment and Institutional Controls (Capping)
- 4. Excavation and Off-site Disposal

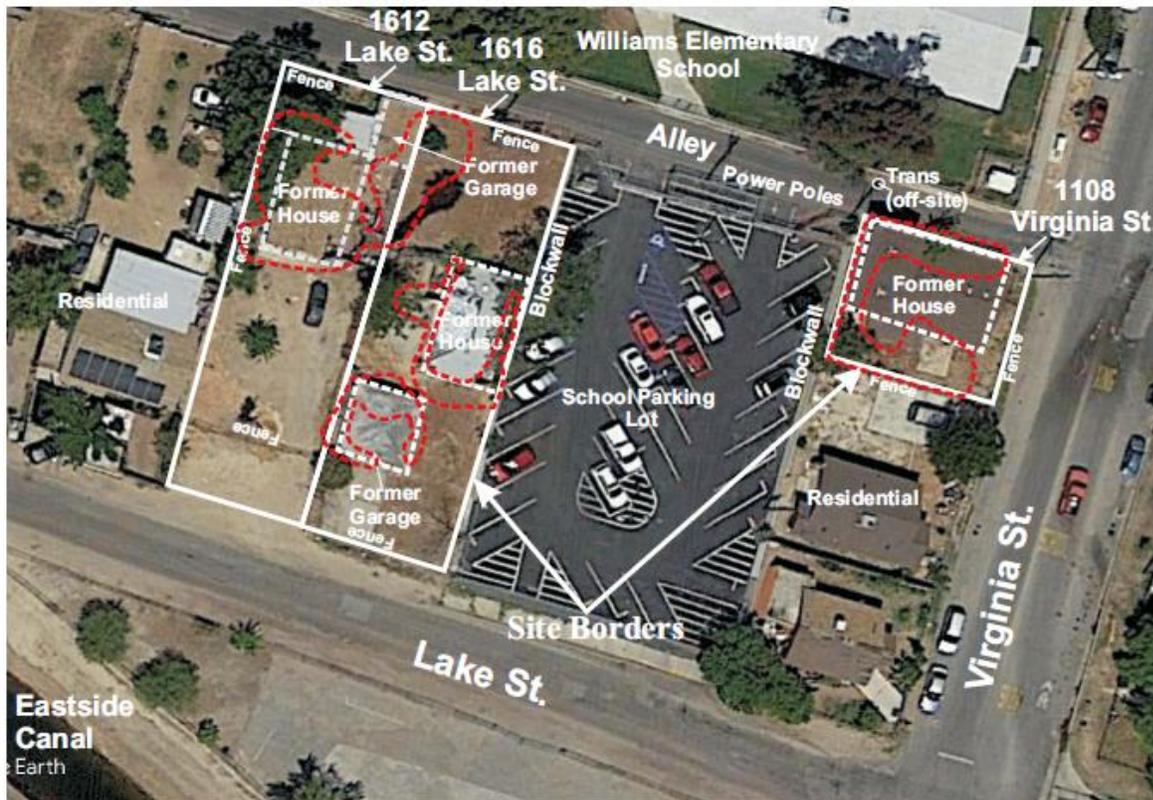
### Suggested Cleanup Option

Based on careful analysis, Option 4, Excavation and Off-site Disposal is proposed for the Site. This alternative is the most extensive. It is protective of human health and the environment and has a reasonable cost. If Option 4 is approved, roughly 195 cubic yards (13 truckloads) of contaminated soil will be removed and disposed of at a State permitted disposal facility.

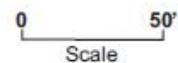
Option 4 cleanup steps:

- 1. Temporary stockpiling of contaminated soil
- 2. Remove contaminated soil
- 3. Move contaminated soil to an approved disposal facility
- 4. Test remaining soil to confirm cleanup goals have been met
- 5. Backfill the removal area with soil meeting cleanup standards

The Site will eventually be covered with asphalt, buildings or be landscaped areas as part of the construction of the school expansion project.



 Proposed RAW Area Excavation



### Safety Measures During Cleanup Activities

- Posting notices directing visitors to the Site Manager.
- Prior approval and Site-specific health and safety training from the Site Safety Officer to enter.
- Barrier fencing to restrict access.
- Spraying work areas and equipment with clean water to control dust.
- Monitoring air quality to ensure dust and contaminant levels remain within safe levels

### The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA is a state law. It requires the lead agency of a project to consider and disclose the environmental effects of its proposed actions before project approval. In accordance with CEQA, a Notice of Exemption was prepared because DTSC determined the proposed RAW activities would not significantly impact the environment.

### Public Comment Period

The 30-day public comment period begins on May 26 and ends June 25, 2020. Public comments must be emailed or postmarked by June 25, 2020, and sent to:

**Mr. Johnson Abraham, DTSC Project Manager**

Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue

Cypress, CA 90630-4732

E-mail: [Johnson.Abraham@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Johnson.Abraham@dtsc.ca.gov)

A copy of the draft RAW and other project documents are available for public review electronically at:

[https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report?global\\_id=60002811](https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60002811).

Physical copies are available for review at the following locations by appointment only:

#### Soils Engineering Inc.

4400 Yeager Way  
Bakersfield, CA 93313  
(661) 831-5100

#### Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
(714) 484-5336

#### Bakersfield City School District

1300 Baker Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93305  
(661) 631-4600

### Whom to Contact at DTSC for Information

If you have any questions about the project, please contact the following DTSC staff:

#### Mr. Johnson Abraham, DTSC Project Manager

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
(714) 484-5380

#### Ms. Jessica Swan, Public Participation Specialist

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
9211 Oakdale Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311  
(818) 717-6568

### Next Steps

DTSC encourages public participation in the decision-making process. We invite you to review and comment on the draft RAW available for a 30-day Public Comment Period. Documents are available for public review at the Information Repositories listed below.

Prior to issuing a final approval, DTSC will review and consider all public comments and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW. Also, a Response to Comment document will be mailed to everyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address.

BCSD would like to begin the cleanup in the Summer or Fall of 2020. Cleanup activities will take about 20 days. After the proposed removals are complete, soil samples will be taken to confirm the cleanup goals have been met or if additional removal is needed. After the RAW is finished, a Removal Action Completion Report (RACR) will be prepared by BCSD and submitted to DTSC for review and approval.

