



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, June 2011

Soil Containment Plan for Correia Middle School Available For Public Review

A draft plan to contain contaminated soil at San Diego Unified School District's Correia Middle School (site) located at 4302 Valeta Street in San Diego, is open for public review and comment.

The site encompasses approximately 19 acres of land, occupied by school buildings on the northeastern portion of the property and athletic fields on the southwestern portion of the property. A baseball field with grass turf is located on the western side of the athletic field and a surface composed of decomposed granite fill covers the eastern side. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will oversee the soil remediation and containment activities to ensure the activities are done in accordance with State laws.

WHY A PLAN IS NECESSARY

During site construction in 1958, the east-northeast and west-southwest areas of the site, which comprise mainly athletic fields and slopes, were filled in with material cut from other portions of the site mixed with fill brought in from a nearby disposal site.

There is **no immediate health risk** because the public is not exposed, nor were former students or staff exposed, since the contaminants are underground beneath concrete, asphalt, or landscaping. However, because exposure to elevated levels of contaminants from impacted fill soil can cause adverse health effects, DTSC recommended that a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) be prepared to protect the current and future users of the property. DTSC will oversee the process to ensure that it is performed in a way that does not harm people or the environment.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND OPEN HOUSE

Comment Period: June 17, 2011 – July 17, 2011

The public comment period for the draft RAW, and draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption begins on June 17, 2011 and ends July 17, 2011. Copies of the draft documents can be viewed at the information repositories listed on page three of this fact sheet. Written and emailed comments must be postmarked by July 17, 2011 and sent to:

Jeanne Matsumoto, Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

Open House: Thursday, June 23, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at Correia Middle School, 4302 Valeta Street, San Diego.

DTSC will hold an open house to explain the draft RAW and address your questions. To ensure the public has equal access to all available services and information, the District will provide disability-related accommodations and/or translator/interpreter needs, as appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law. Please contact Jeanne Matsumoto at (714) 484-5338 or by e-mail to jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov as soon as possible, but no later than June 13, 2011 for assistance.

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Jeanne Garcia al (818) 717-6573



PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Between 2001 and 2008, SDUSD conducted environmental investigations at the site. These investigations revealed elevated concentrations of lead and dioxins/furans believed to be from burn ash material brought onto the site from an off-site source and mixed with on-site formational materials during construction of the fill slopes and portions of the playing fields.

August 2006

Risk assessment was performed for the Preliminary Environmental Assessment. The risk assessment evaluated the contaminants of concern, and determined that an imminent risk does not exist for the site users.

February 2007

Soil investigation was performed in the slope area between the site and the adjacent Cleator Community Park to characterize the soil.

August 2007

Groundwater investigation was performed that indicated groundwater has not been affected.

September 2009

A storm water treatment system was installed in the parking lot on the eastern portion of the site that removes sediment from storm water run off at the site before it enters the Famosa Slough.

Based on the results of the investigations, DTSC determined that further action in the form of a RAW is required.

DRAFT REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN

The draft RAW identifies possible removal action alternatives. These alternatives are screened based on their effectiveness, ability to implement, and overall cost. Based on this screening, three alternatives were selected for further evaluation:

- Alternative 1 - No Action
- Alternative 2 - Containment through Surface Capping
- Alternative 3 - Excavation and Off-site Disposal

PROPOSED PLAN

Any plan needs to protect human health and the environment, have a reasonable cost and must be shared with the community. The option recommended to meet these goals is Alternative 2, or containment through surface capping.

The proposed plan involves utilizing the existing cover as a protective soil barrier cap in portions of the site and placing additional clean fill soil in the sloped areas. The surface cap will serve as a barrier to minimize the potential for exposure to burn ash and impacted soil. Implementation of institutional controls, including the construction of a retaining wall along the sloped areas, will ensure the integrity of the cap is maintained.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

DTSC is required to review all environmental cleanup activities under the CEQA, which asks a series of questions about the possibility of significant effects on the environment. DTSC has prepared a **draft Notice of Exemption (NOE)** for the proposed plan. The NOE document states that the removal action will **not** have a significant negative effect on the environment or human health.

NEXT STEPS

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft RAW. The 30-day public comment period begins on June 17 through July 17, 2011 during which time you can review and send your comments and/or questions on the proposed plan. Your comments must be postmarked by July 17, 2011.

At the close of the public comment period, DTSC will review and consider all public comments and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW prior to final approval. A Response to Comments document will be mailed to anyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address. Additionally, a copy of the Response to Comments document will be placed in the information repositories.

Where to Find the Documents

The draft RAW and other related documents for the Correia Middle School project are available for review at the following locations:

Point Loma/Hervey Library

3701 Voltaire Street, San Diego, California 92107

Phone: (619) 531-1539

Hours: Tues. and Wed.: 12:30p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Thurs. and Fri.: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Sat.: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Sun.: 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Closed Monday

Ocean Beach Library

4801 Santa Monica Avenue, San Diego, California 92107

Phone: (619) 531-1532

Hours: Tues. and Wed.: 12:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Thurs. and Fri.: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Sat.: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Closed Sunday and Monday

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office

5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630

Phone: (714) 484-5337

Hours: Mon.-Fri.: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Site documents are also available at

www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public

All documents made available to the public by the DTSC can be made available in alternate format (i.e. Braille, large print, etc.) or in another language as appropriate, in accordance with State and Federal law. Please contact Jeanne Matsumoto for assistance.

Who to Contact for Information

If you have any questions about the project or proposed activities, please contact:

Rana Georges

DTSC Project Manager

(714) 484-5320

rgeorges@dtsc.ca.gov

Jeanne Matsumoto

DTSC Public Participation Specialist

(866) 495-5651, press option 4, then 6

jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia

DTSC Public Information Officer

(818) 717-6573

jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

SDUSD Contact:

James Watts, Director, Strategic Planning

(858) 627-7241

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Jeanne Matsumoto at (714) 484-5338 regarding the Correia Middle School project.