April 2012

TARGETED SITE INVESTIGATION
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
THE NEW CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL SITE
2210 PREISKER LANE, SANTA MARIA

Dear Community Member:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency and oversees environmental investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates properties 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.

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (District) applied for a grant with DTSC under the Targeted Site Investigation (TSI) program and was selected to evaluate the proposed New Continuation High School property located at 2210 Preisker Lane in Santa Maria (Site, Figure 1). The TSI program is funded through an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant and is performed to determine if contamination exists at the selected site.

The TSI project for this Site was intended to provide the District with more information about the Site’s condition to help with the District’s decision on property acquisition and/or redevelopment. This was done through a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) that included an initial determination of the type and extent of possible contamination, and possible threats to public health or the environment.

**Background Information:**
The Site is comprised of two parcels, the northern parcel (6.17 acres) and the southern parcel (5 acres). Since 1977 the northern parcel has been a recreational-vehicle and tent camping area. The southern parcel is vacant (Figure 2). The Site is bordered by; Preisker Lane followed by residential development to the west, a small amusement park (Boomers) to the north, and by a U.S. Highway 101 off-ramp and North Broadway road to the southeast. The Site is not currently owned by the District.
Less than 300 feet to the north, and across Preisker Lane, is a former burn dump. The dump operated from the early 1920’s to the 1950’s. In the 1960’s, the entire dump was covered with imported fill, and the area is currently a recreational park (Preisker Park).

**Proposed Future Plans for the Site:**
According to the TSI application, the proposed New Continuation High School would serve approximately 400 students and include 3 to 4 one- or two-story buildings configured into 16 classrooms, a multipurpose room, media-library space, administration offices, support facilities, student and staff restrooms, sport areas (outdoor play fields, ball courts, etc.), parking lot(s), passenger loading-unloading area, and bus loading-unloading areas.

**PEA Investigation:**
The PEA investigation included soil and soil gas sampling to evaluate the Site for potential environmental impacts from past and present activities.

**PEA Results:**
The PEA field investigation was performed in February 2012. Surface and subsurface soil and soil gas samples were collected at numerous on-site locations and submitted to environmental laboratories for analysis.

For the entire Site, samples were collected from 35 locations. Samples were analyzed for several different types of possible contaminants, including lead and pesticides. Lead and chlordane (a pesticide) were found in one location only, on the west side of the building located on the northern parcel.

Only one location, on the west side of the building located on the northern parcel, had both lead and chlordane (a pesticide) at elevated concentrations.

The lead is believed to be from the use of lead-based paints on the exterior of the building. Chlordane is believed to be from the application of insecticides around the building.

Shallow soil gas samples were collected in the northwest corner of the Site to assess possible soil gas from the former burn dump. The soil gas results showed low concentrations of toluene and benzene, chemicals commonly associated with gasoline.

**PEA Conclusion:**
Based on the reported levels, DTSC does not believe there is any immediate or long-term significant human health risk at the Site. The lead and chlordane impacted soil is limited in size and currently covered with wood chips preventing direct contact. However, based on the PEA findings, further investigation of the Site is recommended to evaluate the extent of the elevated lead and chlordane found in the soil adjacent to
the west side of the main campground building. In addition, DTSC is recommending additional soil gas samples to assess possible concerns to human health.

**Next Steps:**
The public comment period on the PEA report closes April 24, 2012. Public comments will be addressed and the PEA report finalized. Based on the available information, if the District elects to move forward with the purchase of the Site for a school, DTSC will require, at a minimum, further investigation to determine the possible extent of lead and chlordane, and additional soil gas sampling.

**Contact Information:**
For more information about this Site or questions about the PEA Report please contact:
For project details:

Mary Gaspari
DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA  95826
(916) 255-6423
MGaspari@dtsc.ca.gov

For media questions:
Charlotte Fadipe
DTSC Public Information Officer
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA  95814
(916) 323-3395
CFadipe@dtsc.ca.gov

To view Site related documents electronically, go to DTSC’s website at:
FIGURES
PHOTOGRAPHS

West side of the main campground building

Recreational-vehicle (RV) camping area