



West Oakland Lead Cleanup

Cleanup Update

— Open House Saturday, July 30th and August 27th, 2011 —

For More Information

For more information please see the following website:
www.southprescottcommunityforum.org



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Versión en español adentro

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West Oakland Lead Cleanup

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Cleanup Update

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with the residents of the South Prescott Neighborhood of West Oakland, will be conducting a lead clean-up and restoration of up to 150 properties in the South Prescott neighborhood.

In 2009, EPA conducted an investigation of lead in soils in an area comprised of six residential blocks, bound by Mandela Parkway, 7th St., 3rd St., and Peralta St. Results of the site-wide assessment (Figure 1) have shown elevated lead in soils throughout the South Prescott Neighborhood. The EPA health standard for lead is 400 parts per million, and the average level found in this area was 843 parts per million. These levels pose a risk to children's health. Though not every property sampled demonstrated elevated lead levels, the EPA is planning a response action for all yards that have elevated levels. In an effort to cause less disturbance to the neighborhood, the response action will incorporate alternatives to the traditional 'dig and haul' of soil to a hazardous waste landfill.

Open Houses

Saturday, July 30, 2011

Saturday, August 27, 2011

1-4pm, EPA Field Office / South Prescott Community Center on 349 Mandela Parkway.



Figure 1: AMCO Site, Outlined in green is the area that will be part of the lead clean-up. Lots sampled in 2009 are outlined in yellow. Results are shown in parts per million.

The primary method for lead cleanup will be:

- Phosphate Immobilization – Using phosphate to bind with the lead, which will allow the metal to pass through the body if it is inadvertently ingested with significantly less harm; combined with
- Green Capping – Using compost and green cover such as sod or planter boxes to create a protective layer above the treated soil.

The phosphate mixture is obtained from ground fish bones, a by-product of the fishing industry, and will be tilled into the soil using a rototiller. The EPA has evaluated the effectiveness of this remedy on local soils in laboratory tests with positive results.

Any trees and well established bushes will be left in place. A plant and tree specialist will be on-hand, and if there are additional plants the resident/owner would like preserved, EPA will accommodate these requests as much as possible. Yards will be returned to their original state, or, residents can also choose a more eco-friendly option that is cost equivalent. EPA will provide some landscape ideas to help residents make that decision (see Conceptual Yard Designs below).

Demonstration Yards

EPA has scheduled the remediation and restoration of the initial demonstration yards. Once completed, the demonstration yards will be open to the community at predetermined times so that residents can view available yard restoration options for their homes. The first yard restoration will be completed by late July, 2011 and is located on 533 Henry St. The demonstration sites are expected to be completed by the end of September, 2011.

Workers are wearing masks to perform the work because they will be in close proximity to dust for the entire period of the neighborhood cleanup, about 2 years. However it is safe for you and your children to be in the surrounding area.

Due to the nature of the soil treatment process, and depending on the weather conditions, a fish-like odor may result during the work. This is a temporary condition that will dissipate as the restoration is completed. EPA and the project contractor are working to minimize this odor as much as possible.

For more information on the Demonstration Sites please visit or call the EPA's Field Office/ South Prescott Neighborhood Community Center (see Page 3).

At no cost to property owners, the project is expected to continue for 18-24 months with each lot taking 1-2 weeks to complete.

The project has three key objectives:

TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S HEALTH

- ❖ Unhealthy levels of lead are found in the soil in many residential communities around the country including in the South Prescott neighborhood.
- ❖ Lead ingestion in young children can result in neurological damage and cognitive impairment.
- ❖ Lead contamination in communities is due to the historic use of lead paint and leaded fuel and other lead containing products.
- ❖ The lead problem in the South Prescott neighborhood will be addressed by a phosphate immobilization treatment.
- ❖ The soil treatment will lower and/or eliminate the lead risk to children's health.
- ❖ The EPA will be using a material made from fish bone (Apatite II) which will be mixed into the soil using a rototiller.

TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT TO THE COMMUNITY

- ❖ The project has been carefully designed to incorporate resources, processes, and materials that will avoid major disruption to the community and to the environment.
- ❖ Project Vehicles include a Bio-diesel truck and a zero emission electric truck.
- ❖ The project Field Office and rechargeable vehicles are powered by solar energy.
- ❖ Solar panels on the Field Office are expected to generate enough electricity to power the entire project and also send energy back into the electric grid; thereby creating a neutral or even a *negative carbon footprint*.
- ❖ Nearly 100% of the Field Office furniture including desks, chairs, bookshelves, tables, stands, and wall fixtures are reclaimed and reused furniture.
- ❖ The large multi-use wooden deck on the Field Office is made from 100% recycled lumber and the groundcover is recycled concrete gravel.
- ❖ The large planters in the front are re-purposed scrap metal found onsite and the raised garden beds are made from renewable cedar.

TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY BY UTILIZING LOCAL RESOURCES

- ❖ The project is to be managed from within the local community.
- ❖ EPA has designed the Field Office as a community resource to provide up-to-date information of the project progress as well as meeting space and educational materials.
- ❖ Local resources have been enlisted to facilitate the project including community organizations, and educational institutions.
- ❖ The primary contractor for the project is SFS Chemical Safety, Inc., a local, SBA 8(a) and 8(m) certified woman-owned small business.
- ❖ The work force includes graduates of the Cypress-Mandela Training Center and residents of South Prescott.
- ❖ Oakland-area based vendors and contractors are being utilized to support the project including the solar installation, deck construction, security, employment screening, garden design, site maintenance.
- ❖ 90% of workers on the project are East Bay residents.

WEBSITES: <http://epaportal.chemicalsafety.com> - <http://southprescottcommunityforum.org>

Conceptual Yard Designs

Conceptual yard designs for residents to consider for yard restoration have been developed, and are available to be viewed at the EPA's Field Office/South Prescott Neighborhood Community Center. Once a resident's yard has been scheduled for work, EPA will go over the conceptual designs with the resident. There are also some eco-friendly plants and sample lawns at the Field Office for the community to view. These designs and sample plants are for planning purposes only and for generating ideas; EPA is only authorized to restore yards to their original state or to another eco-friendly option that is of equal cost.

Scheduling your yard for cleanup and restoration

The EPA is planning to start the comprehensive remedy for the entire neighborhood this fall. The work is anticipated to take about 2 years to complete for the entire neighborhood; the actual work for each yard will take about one to two weeks. EPA will provide hotel accommodations if you choose to be temporarily relocated while the work is being done in your yard.

Cleanup is voluntary, and EPA will work closely with each resident to ensure that the cleanup satisfies their needs and schedule to the maximum extent possible. EPA will contact owners and tenants of every property in the defined area individually to schedule the cleanup and restoration. Scheduling will depend on logistics (for example, doing adjacent yards when possible) as well as residents' schedules. It is not necessary for you to contact EPA, as EPA will contact you for scheduling. However if you would like to offer your contact information voluntarily so EPA can more easily reach you, you may send your information to Leana Rosetti, whose contact information is listed on the back page.

In the future, available cleanup schedules and information about the clean up action will be posted on the websites listed below. Check back regularly for updates.

Employment

The project has employed a local 8a contractor for the project, which is in turn hiring locally. The first team that will be conducting yard cleanups was recently hired, and is made up completely of West Oakland residents, most of them graduates of the Cypress Mandela Training Center (trained through an EPA Green Jobs Training Grant). Additional teams may be hired later this year. More information about job opportunities will be posted on the websites listed below; again, check back regularly for updates.

For more information about training opportunities at the Cypress Mandela Training Center please contact Art Shanks at the (510) 208-7350.



Field Office

EPA's Field Office/South Prescott Community Center is open every weekday from 8am-5pm, and 1pm-4pm the last Saturday of the month, for residents to drop in, ask questions, schedule their cleanup (beginning in the Fall of 2011), and discuss the type of green cap they would like after treatment. The office is located at:

349 Mandela Parkway
Oakland, CA
(510) 542-4438