

March 19, 2015

### Update to SMMUSD Board Juan Cabrillo Elementary School (JCES) Malibu High School (MHS)



- Overview of ENVIRON's Work
- Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA)
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Building Materials
- Costs of Building Material Remedial Options



- Assist the District in achieving its goal of assuring employees and the community that the schools within the District are healthy learning and working environments in a fiscally responsible manner and satisfying regulatory requirements
- Principles used in our work
  - Be protective of human health
  - Implement a science-driven approach to identify and implement solutions – essential for Agency approvals
  - Achieve regulatory agency approvals/concurrence
  - Employ best practices from other projects
  - Be implementable in all District schools
  - Be considerate of District resources

## Regulatory Agency Roles

- DTSC's Role Lead Agency for School Subsurface Investigations
  - Statutory authority to oversee California school subsurface evaluations
  - Directs Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) to investigate soil, soil gas, and groundwater outside buildings per District's Voluntary Investigation Agreement (VIA)
  - Evaluates potential presence of chemicals based on historical/current uses
  - Determines if JCES and MHS exposures are at safe levels per PEA guidance
- EPA's Role Evaluation of Potential PCB-impacted Building Materials under Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA)
  - Exclusive jurisdiction of EPA
  - Evaluates sample results
  - Evaluates potentially complete exposure pathways
  - Provides technical review of building inspections, best management practices (BMPs) and sampling plans
  - Approves removal and remediation plans
  - Determines if classroom/building conditions are protective of public health

### Agency Approvals Require Scientific Approach

- Planning Documents for Investigation
  - Rooted in scientific principles
  - Based on agency statutes, regulations, and guidance
  - Open for stakeholder comments
  - Follows established methods and process
  - Reflective of regulatory requirements
- Investigation Execution
  - Follows approved plan
  - Uses scientific methods that allows for replication
  - Documentation (photos, field notes, Chain of Custody, etc.) of activities
- Scientific Reporting
  - Includes raw data, interpretation of results, Quality Assurance/ Quality Control, conclusions



- Thorough and exacting scientific studies, which can be found on the District's website
- PEA
  - Investigation with 525 samples analyzed
  - Localized removal action east of Building G
  - Results are acceptable for school uses
  - Land can be used for any purpose
- Building Materials
  - 250 air and 765 surface dust wipe samples taken
  - EPA made finding that there is no unreasonable risk at MHS or JCES
  - Collected data that shows any potential sources can be safely managed in place until the next renovation or demolition
  - EPA approved plan under TSCA
    - Removal scheduled (June) for MHS Library, 3 rooms in Building E and woodshop

## Investigation Overall Conclusions

- PEA Results were below screening thresholds for school use
- Building Materials EPA made finding MHS and JCES are being managed in a manner protective of human health

EPA research studies show that primary health concerns from PCBs in building materials derive from inhalation of contaminated air; and secondarily from contact with PCBs in dust and subsequent incidental ingestion<sup>5</sup>. Overall, the sampling data from the two schools demonstrate that these PCB exposure pathways are currently being addressed by the District's BMPs in a manner that protects public health. Thus, the District's undertaking of the BMPs, as verified by pre- and post-BMP sampling data, demonstrates that the TSCA standard for no unreasonable risk is currently being met at MHS and JCES.

10/31/2014 EPA approval letter to SMMUSD





- DTSC has statutory authority for environmental evaluations of schools (Schools Evaluation Division)
- District and DTSC executed VIA
- Evaluation vehicle is the PEA
  - Driven by scientific principles
  - Based on established regulations and vetted guidance
  - Incorporates all stakeholders
  - Follows prescribed and thorough process NO SHORTCUTs
- Evaluate subsurface at JCES and MHS using a sound scientific approach to understand if schools are safe





- Identified 18 Areas of Interest (AOIs) that led to extensive investigation
- Advanced 778 borings (742 soil and 26 soil gas)
- Analyzed 454 soil, 62 soil gas, and 9 groundwater samples (total 525 samples)
- Samples selectively analyzed for PCBs, pesticides, herbicides, metals, TPH, VOCs, SVOCs, and pH by state-certified laboratory
- Conducted third-party data validation



- 4 AOIs
- Analyzed samples:
  - 135 soil
  - 12 soil gas
  - 3 groundwater





- 14 AOIs
- Analyzed samples:
  - 319 soil
  - 50 soil gas
  - 6 groundwater
- Step-out sampling:
  - Building G
  - Cornucopia Area
  - Building H
- Limited soil excavation east of Building G



## PCBs Removal Action at Building G Area

- Soil sampling results were below the DTSC risk thresholds for schools
- Excavation ensures area can be used for any purpose
- Excavated and disposed of approximately 15 yd<sup>3</sup> of non-hazardous soil
- Expect No Further Action from DTSC





- Investigation has been completed at both schools
- Localized removal action east of Building G is complete
- Removal Action report submitted to DTSC on February 20, 2015
- PEA Report to be delivered-April 2015
- Expect to receive final approvals from DTSC
  - April/May
  - No further investigation/remediation requested
  - Results are acceptable for school uses
  - Land can be used for any purpose





### TSCA Regulations

- Regulates many substances including <u>use</u> of PCBs
- Intended to remove PCBs from the environment over time
- Set 50 ppm standard for PCBs as a determination of prohibited <u>use</u>
- Gives EPA authority to implement TSCA through regulation and guidance
- EPA's Schools Policy
  - EPA uses risk-based policy for regulation of PCBs, asbestos, and lead paint in schools and public buildings
  - Evaluates risk presented by exposure to building materials
  - If risk is low, materials are managed in place, removed at end of life, and then disposed of

# Primary ENVIRON Efforts for SMMUSD (started March 2014)

- Comprehensive Plan applicable to any of the 16 schools in District
  - Used as basis for more specific next steps at MHS and JCES
- Development of Specific Plan for MHS/JCES
  - Supplemented on September 26, 2014
  - Approved by EPA on October 31, 2014
- Exposure monitoring pilot study
  - Summer 2014
  - Winter 2014/2015
  - Summer 2015
- Other services not related to MHS





- EPA has oversight of PCBs in building materials
- Important resources utilized
  - EPA's TSCA regulations
  - EPA's guidelines, research, and recommendations
  - East Coast schools
  - ENVIRON's experience in EPA Region I and II

# Key concepts from these relevant PCB resources

- Some sources can result in high airborne exposures (e.g., light ballast and associated leaks)
- Other sources may not result in high airborne exposures (e.g. caulk)
- Evaluation of exposures is needed to determine if schools are safe and to evaluate impact from potential sources
- Some building materials containing PCBs can be managed in place; lessons learned from asbestos and lead paint
- Removal of some materials is complex

## Important to note: PCBs can be found in other materials besides caulk

- Multiple sources have been found in schools
  - Primary sources (e.g., fluorescent light ballasts, caulk, paint)
  - Secondary sources (e.g., concrete, wood, etc.)



Source: USEPA. 2012. September. Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in School Buildings: Sources, Environmental Levels, and Exposures. Available online: http://www.epa.gov/pcbsincaulk/pdf/pcb\_EPA600R12051\_final.pdf

## Key TSCA Compliance Accomplishment: SMMUSD's Approved Plan for MHS/JCES

- July 3, 2014 Site Specific Plan as supplemented on September 26, 2014 approved by EPA (10/31/14)
- Main features:
  - Specific Plan covers both manage-in-place elements (e.g. BMPs) and detailed remediation steps
  - Removal scheduled (June) for MHS Library, 3 rooms in Building E and woodshop
  - Additionally any specific caulk identified and verified to have PCBs  $\geq$  50 ppm, within a year or other timeframe as approved by EPA
    - Providing notification to EPA for additional areas
  - Includes removal of old light fixtures, some of which showed evidence of past ballasts leakage
  - Includes pilot monitoring study (air/wipe)

## Key EPA School Policy Accomplishments at MHS/JCES

- PCB exposures (air/dust) are acceptable
  - 250 air and 765 surface wipe samples total to date
  - Results were below Region IX's no-further-action benchmarks
    - including rooms reportedly tested by third parties
      - Wipe samples: 85% Summer and 88% Winter samples were not detected
      - Air samples: 73% Summer and 100% Winter samples were not detected
  - EPA concurred that the data meet TSCA's standard for no unreasonable risk and do not present a public health risk
  - A majority of the buildings had acceptable exposure levels prior to annual BMP cleaning
  - Demonstrates that any potential sources in the schools are not contributing to unacceptable exposure levels





### Key EPA School Policy Accomplishments at MHS/JCES (cont.)

- BMP cleaning was effective and frequency is more than sufficient
- Evidence of past ballasts leaks in old light fixtures
  - Given air results, past leak residues are not causing unsafe levels of PCBs in air
  - District is replacing old light fixtures
- Collectively, shows any potential sources can be safely managed in place until the next renovation or demolition

# MHS/JCES is not like other examples cited in other venues

- All MHS/JCES exposure data collected to date indicate PCB exposures (air/dust) are within safe levels
  - Demonstrates that any potential sources in the schools are not contributing to unacceptable exposure levels
- This is different than East Coast Schools cited
  - Westport Middle (MA), Burke Elementary (MA), Clark Elementary (CT), Osborn Hill Elementary (CT)
  - Caulk sampling conducted as part of planned renovation/ repairs
  - Air testing done after discovery of materials with > 50 ppm PCBs
  - Unlike MHS/JCES, some air tests at these schools were above USEPA's Public Health Levels for Schools

Hartford, CT Clark Elementary School

 December 2014: PCBs detected in paint samples (12 – 100 ppm) during pre-renovation building materials testing

- Associated with renovation of fire protection system (sprinklers)
- Required by CT Department of Education, Office of school Facilities (OSF) for projects seeking State reimbursement
- December 19, 2014: PCBs detected in air samples (194 to 223 ng/m<sup>3</sup>)
- **December January 2015**: Consultant investigates other building materials to determine source of PCBs in air
  - PCBs detected in caulk (31,000 97,000 ppm)
  - PCBs detected in indoor air after several days of exchange (110 to 571 ng/m<sup>3</sup>)
  - Report published in March 2015
- January 2015: CT DPH says air is "way below a level that could cause health problems"
- January 12, 2015: Students relocated to other schools

# Hartford, CT Clark Elementary School (cont.)

### Next Steps/Coming Months:

- Additional sampling (soil, substrate, etc.) necessary to finalize PCB remediation plan and get EPA approval
- Developing a pilot study to determine effective remediation techniques
- Seek bids from PCB removal firms to prepare detailed cleanup plan for EPA approval
- School superintendent estimated it could take more than a year before school can be re-occupied
- Hartford Courant reported a "ballpark" figure of \$4M for remediation that could easily change
- Goal is to "get air levels to an acceptable level" as quoted in Hartford Courant article



- Summer Break 2015
  - Old light fixture replacement (by August 14, 2015)
  - Caulk removal in 4 rooms and MHS library (by June 30, 2015)
  - Annual BMP cleaning
  - HVAC inspection/cleaning
  - PCB sampling given results to date, smaller effort
    - Conclusion of Pilot Study basis for future monitoring recommendations
    - Testing related to caulk removal activities
- Future ENVIRON activities at MHS/JCES
  - Reduced level of assistance
  - Areas potentially include future monitoring and District's ongoing implementation of Specific Plan



## PEA Investigation Costs

Laboratory Cost Per Sample: \$52 to \$775 (525 samples analyzed)



Total Cost Per Sample: \$1,700 to \$2,400

## PCB Summer Investigation Costs

Laboratory Expedited Cost Per Sample (198 air; 548 surface wipes):

- Air \$228
- Surface Wipes \$130



Total Cost Per Sample:

- Air ~\$1,600
- Surface Wipes ~\$1,500

To be done in 39 days of Summer school – all work expedited

### ENVIRON's MHS/JCES Investigation Efforts - Costs (including direct costs)

- Worked with the District to define scope/schedule of the efforts needed to accomplish District goals
  - Regular updates with the District on level of effort
- PEA
  - Investigation Work Plan: \$240k
  - Execution: \$850k
  - PEA Report: \$150K
  - RAW: \$175k
- Building Materials
  - Best Management Plans and EPA plans: \$160k
  - BMP Training: \$23k
  - Summer 2014 activities: \$1.1M
  - Winter 2014/2015 sampling: \$150k
- Communications and Meetings: \$377k



## EPA Involvement in Remediation

- EPA approval required at some project stages
- Prudent to seek EPA concurrence and peer review at many other project stages
- District/EPA communication builds transparency in the project
- Achieves District goal of seeking input from expert lead agencies
- EPA Region IX has requested to be kept informed and has provided comment on all work to date at key project milestones

Remediation Steps & EPA Involvement

- Implementation of Building Material Sampling Program
  - PCB Sampling Summary Report to EPA for review
- EPA and Public Stakeholder Involvement
  - Remediation Work Plan, under Bulk Product Waste removal, to EPA for their review and concurrence
- Abatement of PCB Building Materials
  - Notify EPA of changes in conditions or new information
- Post-Remediation Confirmatory Sampling
  - PCB Completion Report to EPA upon finishing work

### **PCB** Remediation Options **Option A - Caulk** (Temporary Solution) Remove caulk > 50ppm PCBs

Encapsulate adjacent contaminated substrate (brick, cement, wallboard, etc.)

and

**Option B – Caulk** (Permanent Solution) Remove caulk > 50ppm PCBs and **Remove** adjacent contaminated substrate material containing > 1 ppm PCBs

**Option C** 

(PCB-free Solution) Abate all PCB impacted materials.

Demolish school buildings constructed pre-1981

and

Rebuild

#### Major Cost Drivers (Options A and B)

% of caulk > 50 ppm PCBs drives:

- Extent of remediation efforts
- Extent of consultant sampling efforts for ٠ characterization, oversight, and postremediation confirmatory sampling
- Assumed 40% (reasonable case) and 100% (reasonable worst case)

**Major Cost Driver** (Option C)

Demolition and construction costs

### PCB Remediation Cost Estimates MHS/ JCES – Options A/B for Caulk



### PCB Remediation Cost Estimates MHS/JCES – Option C for PCB-free Solution



### Reference PCB Remediation Cost Estimates from other Schools<sup>1</sup>

- All had air concentrations above EPA Public Health Levels for Schools
- Five Public Schools/New York City (WDOE, 2015)
  - Feasibility study evaluated caulk remedial/mitigation options
  - \$3.2M to \$3.6M per school (abatement/mitigation)
- Elementary School/Lexington, MA (Goddard, 2010; Parker 2014)
  - Estimated \$2.8 to \$4.2 million to relocate students during remediation
  - Officials decided to replace the school at a cost of \$33M to \$40M
- Westport, MA School (CGKV Architects, 2013)
  - Costs of initial 2011 Source Removal Project = \$3.2 million
  - Feasibility study recommended the following sustainable solution:
    - Mandatory removal of remaining PCB Source Material = \$1.6M;
    - Limited removal & encapsulation of known PCB Remediation Waste = \$4.4M; and
    - Remediation of unconfirmed PCB Remediation Waste = \$1.75M \$2.1M (encapsulation versus removal)
- 41 <sup>1</sup> Washington Department of Ecology. 2015. PCB Chemical Action Plan. Publication No. 15-07-002. P. 161. February 2015.



- PEA
  - Results are acceptable for school uses
  - Land can be used for any purpose
- Building Materials
  - EPA made finding that there is no unreasonable risk at MHS or JCES
  - Collected data show that any potential sources can be safely managed in place until the next renovation or demolition while protecting public health & EPA agrees
  - Have EPA approved plan under TSCA
    - Removal scheduled (June) for MHS Library, 3 rooms in Building E and woodshop





### Air benchmarks protect students and teachers

- Accounts for exposure in schools and background
- Used nationally in schools

3-<6 yr	6-<12 years	12-<15 years	15-<19 years	19+ years
	Elementary	Middle	High	Adult
100 ng/m <sup>3</sup>	300 ng/m <sup>3</sup>	450 ng/m <sup>3</sup>	600 ng/m <sup>3</sup>	450 ng/m <sup>3</sup>

- Surface benchmark1ug/100 cm<sup>2</sup>
  - More protective than the 10 ug/100 cm<sup>2</sup> required under TSCA and frequently applied
- Air and wipe benchmarks are protective of cancer and non-cancer endpoints

http://www.epa.gov/pcbsincaulk/maxconcentrations.htm