



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 8, 2014

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District Re-Opens SIXTH Building at Malibu High When Environmental Testing Shows No PCB Exposure Issues

MALIBU, Calif. – Environmental test results at Malibu High School (MHS) continue to be announced and continue to indicate the school is safe for students and staff. The District recently re-opened the high school's Music Building (Thresher Shark/Building F) – the sixth building to re-open on the MHS campus where nine buildings have been identified by the District for air and surface wipe sampling, as well as soil testing on the campus, after parents raised concerns about PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) exposure.

To date, environmental tests conducted over the summer have consistently found that students and staff are not in danger of unhealthy levels of exposure to PCBs, based on EPA's health-based benchmarks.

This is the eighth building re-opened in Malibu, after two buildings were re-opened at Juan Cabrillo Elementary earlier this week, following test results that show PCB levels that were either non-detectable or below the EPA benchmarks for further action both before and after the cleaning. One room, however, remains closed off to HVAC systems and requires further cleaning as a result of the removal of orchestra risers that caused a disturbance of building materials.

The following buildings have been deemed safe for teachers, staff and students, and have been re-opened. Testing results for each building can be found by clicking the appropriate link/building name.

August 6 -- [Juan Cabrillo Elementary School, Administration/Classroom Buildings \(Building A/B\)](#)

August 5 -- [Malibu Middle School, Classroom/Blue Shark Building \(Building E\)](#)

August 4 -- [Malibu High School, Cafeteria/Auditorium \(Building H\)](#)

July 28 -- [Malibu High School, Administration \(Building B/C\)](#)

July 28 -- [Malibu High School, Library \(Building A\)](#)

July 18 -- [Malibu High School, Old Gym \(Building J\)](#)

All air, soil and surface testing are scheduled to be completed before the start of school. The District will open and occupy classrooms **only if** the testing results are in line with the protective public health standards set by EPA indicating that the schools/rooms are safe to occupy. If the results are delayed or outside of acceptable limits set by EPA for any buildings or rooms or limits set by DTSC for outside areas of the campuses, the District is preparing start-of-school contingency plans.

“The health and safety of our students and staff is our first priority,” said Superintendent Sandra Lyon. “No one will be housed in these buildings until the testing results indicate that it is safe to do so.”

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Editor’s Note: For additional information about ENVIRON’s work with the school district, including weekly reports it provides, please click [here](#).



August 8, 2014

Update from the Superintendent

BUILDING C TO REOPEN FOLLOWING ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING

The first phase of our environmental inspection, sampling and cleaning has been completed in Building C. Attached you will find a summary of pre- and post-cleaning results for this area. This report provides the preliminary results and initial conclusions. These data show that PCB concentrations in all air and post-BMP wipe samples for the four classrooms in Building C are below USEPA health standards criteria. However, a small office (room 6) off of one of the classrooms has a post-cleaning wipe sample just above the USEPA threshold, so additional cleaning will occur in this office. Therefore, BMP cleaning was successful and no additional BMP cleaning in the high-occupancy rooms of Building C is needed. Based on this information, the District will reopen this area for school and community activities beginning August 11, 2014. Room 6 (the office) will remain closed until re-cleaning and additional surface wipe investigation has been completed. A building-specific report summarizing inspection observations, sampling locations and results, and conclusions is pending receipt of validated data and will be posted online when completed.

August 7, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: Sandra Lyon, SMMUSD Superintendent

From: ENVIRON International Corporation

Re: **Summary of Pre- and Post-Cleaning Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Results for JCES Building C**

This report is submitted to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD or District) to summarize the preliminary¹ results from pre- and post-cleaning sampling in Building C at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School (JCES). This report also provides initial conclusions from the data pending preparation of a building-specific report summarizing inspection observations, sampling locations and results, and conclusions after receiving all validated data, as discussed in our [July 25, 2014 update](#) to the District.

Executive Summary

The results show that PCB concentrations in all air and wipe samples taken in all four regularly occupied classrooms in Building C are below USEPA health-based benchmarks both before and after BMP cleaning. Since pre-cleaning sampling values were below USEPA thresholds, the results would indicate that BMP cleaning was not needed to address any residual PCB concentrations. Despite these results, the District proceeded with BMP cleaning of this building, and post-BMP cleaning testing indicates that no additional BMP cleaning in the regularly occupied classrooms of Building C is needed per the July 3rd MHS Specific Plan². One post-cleaning wipe sample for Room 6 (office) is just above the USEPA threshold and additional cleaning will be conducted in this room per the July 3rd MHS Specific Plan:

- Based on review of all preliminary¹ air sample results, the results for JCES Building C show that all airborne levels of PCBs in the sampled classrooms are either not detected or below USEPA's recommended health-based benchmark of 200 ng/m³ or the 100 ng/m³ benchmark for children aged 3 to less than 6 years old³, including samples taken both before and after the BMP cleaning of the classrooms.
- Based on review of all preliminary¹ surface wipe samples results for the regularly occupied rooms of Building C, PCB concentrations in all (22 samples) surface wipe samples are below USEPA's recommend threshold of 1 µg/100 cm² both before and after BMP cleaning, except for a post-

¹ Data is undergoing Level III/IV third party data validation, as described in the USEPA Contract Laboratory Program National Functional Guidelines (USEPA 2008).

² 2014. *Site-Specific PCB-Related Building Materials Management, Characterization and Remediation Plan for the Library and Building E Rooms 1, 5, and 8 at Malibu High School*. Prepared for SMMUSD by ENVIRON. July 3. [Accessed here.](#)

³ Note that a threshold of 100 ng/m³ is recommended by USEPA for children 3-<6 years old. This threshold will be used for the sampled JCES classrooms known to be regularly occupied by children older than 3 and less than 6 years old. This applies to Room 8 (classroom) in Building C, which we understand will be a kindergarten class.

cleaning wipe sample from Room 6 (office).⁴ ENVIRON understands that the District will clean remaining low-occupancy rooms (electrical and janitorial rooms), and re-clean Room 6 (office) in Building C before this area is routinely accessed.

- Due to the additional surface wipe investigation planned for Room 6, ENVIRON recommends that this room remain closed pending the results from the further investigation to be conducted after re-cleaning is completed. Given this, the data in this memoranda focuses on results for the four classrooms in this building (Rooms 8, 9, 10, and 11).

Further information on the above-presented results is provided in the remainder of this memorandum.

Additional Information on Preliminary Findings

BMPs – Annual Cleaning for JCES Building C

- Annual HVAC cleaning has been completed by the District's contractor.
- Annual BMP cleaning of all regularly occupied rooms has been completed by District staff. ENVIRON understands that the District will clean remaining low-occupancy rooms (electrical and janitorial rooms), and re-clean Room 6 (office) in Building C before this area is routinely accessed.

BMPs – Air and Wipe Sampling MHS Pilot Study on BMPs for JCES Building C

- Preliminary review and analysis of all air sample results¹ collected prior to and after BMP cleaning (with a greater number of post-BMP samples taken per the sampling protocol as indicated in the table below) indicates that **all** airborne levels of PCBs in the sampled classrooms are either not detected or below USEPA's recommended health-based benchmark.⁵

Preliminary¹ Air Sampling Results To Date					
Building	BMP Cleaning	Number of Indoor Samples	Not Detected^{5,6}	Detected and Below 200 ng/m³	Above 200 ng/m³
Building C	Pre-BMP	2	1	1 (Office: 120 ng/m ³)	None
	Post-BMP	5	4 (classrooms)	1 (Office: 110 ng/m ³)	None

- Preliminary review and analysis of all BMP surface wipe sample results¹ in Building C indicates that PCBs were not detected in 100 percent (%) of pre-BMP and approximately 94% of post-BMP

⁴ One post-cleaning wipe sample from Room 6 (office) was above the USEPA threshold. Re-cleaning and re-testing of Room 6 (office) is recommended prior to granting routine access to this room.

⁵ Note that a threshold of 100 ng/m³ is recommended by USEPA for children 3-<6 years old. This threshold will be used for the sampled JCES classrooms known to be regularly occupied by children older than 3 and less than 6 years old. This applies to Room 8 (classroom) in Building C, which we understand will be a kindergarten class.

⁶ The method reporting limit for air samples in Building C ranged from 68 ng/m³ to 72 ng/m³.

samples (note that a greater number of post-BMP samples were taken as indicated in the table below). **All** surface wipe sample results were not detected, except for a post-cleaning wipe sample from Room 6 (office) as noted above.⁴

- No post-cleaning results required further actions in Building C classrooms in accordance with Appendix D of the July 3rd MHS Specific Plan.
- A post-cleaning wipe sample from Room 6 (office) indicated the need for additional re-cleaning and re-testing of the office in accordance with Appendix D of the July 3rd MHS Specific Plan.

Preliminary¹ Surface Wipe Sampling Results To Date					
Building	BMP Cleaning	Number of Samples	Not Detected⁷	Detected and Below 1 µg/100 cm²	Above 1 µg/100 cm²
Building C	Pre-BMP	4	4	None	None
	Post-BMP	18 (includes 1 duplicate and 1 replicate) ⁸	17	None	1 (Office: 1.8 µg/100 cm ²)

⁷ The method reporting limit for surface wipe samples in Building C is 0.10 µg/100cm².

⁸ Duplicate samples are collected adjacent to the original sample. Replicate samples are collected in the same location as the original sample, after the original sample is collected and are applicable to wipe samples only.