



*Statement from the Superintendent
Update on Malibu Schools Environmental Task Force*

The Malibu Schools Environmental Task Force met Thursday morning, October 31, and was joined by Dr. Paul Rosenfeld, a principal with SWAPE (Soil/Water/Air Protection Enterprise) who has been hired by the Malibu Parents for Safe Schools to prescribe testing protocols and analysis independent of the District's efforts.

We invited Dr. Rosenfeld to join yesterday's meeting in order to bring the conversations on testing nuances before the Task Force, which represents the Malibu school community and our public. The discussion was positive, productive and yielded agreement on refined testing protocols for PCBs.

Specifically, the task force agreed to test PCBs for health-based limits that are recommended for homes, but the formula would be modified to accommodate the fact that exposure in a home is more (time) extensive than at a school, or place of employment. With adjustment for the duration of exposure, the group agreed to test for this extremely conservative limit.

It is worthy of note that this testing limit is far below the EPA-approved health limit, but we feel strongly that our community seeks information that is conservative in nature and, therefore, allows us to address and minimize to the best of our ability any risks.

Our conversation was informed by scientists and scientific information and guided by the community's desire to seek detailed and instructional information on the condition of our facilities.

Following the Task Force meeting, Mark Katchen did receive approval for the proposed testing program from the Department of Public Health, which will allow us to move forward expeditiously with our data collection.

Testing for radon at Cabrillo and radon and PCBs at Malibu High School is set to begin today, November 1, and continues through Sunday, November 3. Results are expected by the week of November 18. Again, please remind everyone that this is our initial testing phase as we build a plan for moving forward and create next steps.

Again, I thank the many members of the MSETF for dedicating their time and integrity to this very important process. Keeping our community involved and informed is a commitment from which we will not waver.

Please address questions to mhsfaq@smmusd.org.