



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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USEPA Finds District's PCB Related Work Meets EPA Guidelines to Protect Public Health at Malibu High School and Juan Cabrillo Elementary School

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) concluded that all polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) removal and repair work conducted this summer at Malibu High School (MHS) and Juan Cabrillo Elementary School (JCES) meets USEPA standards and guidance, and that, with continued use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) there is no need for any additional PCB testing of building materials (e.g., caulk) until the buildings are renovated or demolished when planned.

The letter to SMMUSD, dated Nov. 2, 2015, specifically finds that the District has demonstrated that conditions at both schools continue to meet USEPA national guidelines to protect public health from PCBs in schools. The USEPA also approved ongoing BMP cleaning, consistent with USEPA's national guidelines, to continue to ensure the school environment remains free from harmful PCB exposures.

USEPA's letter also makes the following conclusions:

- With continued use of BMPs, there is no need for additional testing of potential PCB source materials (e.g., caulk) until planned renovation or demolition.
- The District's removal work, BMP, and air and wipe sampling were performed consistent with EPA's national guidelines to protect public health from PCBs in schools. The USEPA referenced air and wipe sampling collected at MHS and JCES in concluding that PCB exposures in both schools remain below USEPA's health-protective standards—in other words, that people occupying the buildings are not being exposed to unsafe levels of PCBs.
- The District has successfully treated the porous and non-porous substrates in contact with the caulk consistent with the requirements approved by USEPA.
- PCB remediation wastes at MHS and JCES do not pose an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment.

"We are pleased that the USEPA has reviewed our work and validated our adherence to its strict guidelines for ensuring the continued safety of students and staff at MHS and JCES," Superintendent Sandra Lyon said. "Our ongoing BMP cleaning practices have resulted in testing that has been non-detectable for PCBs or below the USEPA's health protective threshold for schools."

The complete USEPA letter is posted here:

<http://www.smmusd.org/publicnotices/MalibuSupplementalApproval.pdf>

Additional information and background:

As described in a news release of October 14, 2015:

<http://www.smmusd.org/publicnotices/PCBreports.html>, SMMUSD and its contractors submitted reports and correspondence to the USEPA regarding the completion of the PCB Sampling Pilot Study and PCB Removal Activities at both campuses during the summer of 2015. In part, the reports explain that all 112 regularly occupied rooms at both MHS and JCES have undergone air and wipe sampling to test for PCB exposures. Exposures in every regularly occupied room tested below USEPA benchmark levels for schools, and, in many cases, samples did not even return detections of PCBs above the laboratory reporting limit. In other words, both schools met USEPA benchmark levels even before remediation and continue to meet USEPA's health-protective exposure benchmarks across the board.

In addition, the reports confirmed that pursuant to the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) and its implementing regulations, the District also completed caulk removal activities in the rooms at MHS and JCES containing building materials in which PCBs were identified and verified at concentrations exceeding the USEPA threshold.

We are pleased to report that USEPA concurred with SMMUSD's submittals, finding the removal work that occurred this summer met the terms of USEPA's Approval. On November 2, 2015, the USEPA issued a letter stating that SMMUSD's removal work, Best Management Practices (BMP) and air and wipe sampling were performed consistent with USEPA's national guidelines to protect public health from PCBs in schools.

USEPA further noted that PCB remediation waste remaining at the property does not pose risk of injury to students, teachers and staff. Finally, USEPA stated that conditions at both schools continue to meet USEPA national guidelines to protect public health from PCBs in schools. (In fact, sampling data indicates that all exposure and final post-caulk removal confirmatory air and dust samples collected during the summer of 2015 were well below USEPA's national standards.)

Based on these conclusions, USEPA stated that, with continued use of BMPs, there is no need for further testing of potential PCB-containing building materials (e.g., caulk) until planned renovation or demolition of school buildings.

In an abundance of caution, SMMUSD proposed, and EPA approved, additional monitoring activities relating to encapsulated building materials as well as a modicum of air sampling following Summer BMP cleanings in 2016 and 2017.

With receipt of USEPA's letter, SMMUSD will now turn a page in management of this issue.

Both SMMUSD and USEPA are aware of America Unites' recent unauthorized sampling activities. SMMUSD will now work within the approved planning documents and pursuant to USEPA national school's policy to repair the damage caused by the perpetrators and evaluate, as necessary, further removal work in the future. In the interim, BMPs will continue at the MHS and JCES to ensure the continued safety of all.

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