



# Adelanto Elementary School District

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May 27, 2016

Information Release

Adelanto Elementary School District

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As previously reported, the Adelanto Elementary School District (the “District”) was contacted on January 8, 2016 by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (“DTSC”), at the request of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (“CRWQCB”), as to the potential presence of contaminated soil at two school properties located on the former George Air Force Base (“the Base”). Any possible contamination arose solely out of Air Force operations, and was reported by DTSC as involving reported Air Force application of pesticides around housing units constructed in the early 1960s and used by military personnel housing until transferred to the City of Victorville. AESD was notified of the possible contamination due to the Air Force transfer in 1995 of adjacent school site property to the District.

After receipt of preliminary notification from DTSC, the District was in close and constant communication with regulatory authorities regarding what it needed to do, what it should do, and what it could do to assist, the District’s singular focus being on confirming the presence or absence of contamination in order to protect the health and safety of students, employees and others. While DTSC advised that the District did not need to undertake any testing or take any other action at this juncture, the District put the safety of its students and employees first. The Superintendent and Board immediately endorsed the District engaging an independent testing firm to determine whether soil contamination was in fact present and, if so, whether there existed any risk, however small, to students, employees and people on District property, so that steps could be put in place as needed.

The District engaged TRC Companies, Inc. (“TRC”), an independent laboratory, provided TRC with a copy of the DTSC communication, and at District expense proceeded to have soil sampling activities undertaken by TRC at the former George Elementary School and Harry R. Sheppard Middle School sites, with appropriate laboratory analysis completed to detect any pesticide-affected soil contamination arising out of prior Base operations and pesticide use. TRC issued a report dated April 22, 2016, reviewed by the Board at its recent meeting on May 17, 2016, which found no evidence of pesticide contamination. To quote TRC’s findings from the soil samples tested:

“None of the soil samples collected during this investigation contained organochlorine pesticides at concentrations in excess of health-based residential screening levels. Consequently, the concentrations of organochlorine pesticides detected in soil do not

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pose a significant health risk to current or future students, staff or site workers. No additional investigation or mitigation is warranted for either the former George Elementary School or Harry R. Sheppard Middle School properties.”

A copy of the TRC report of April 22, 2016 will be made available on request.

While TRC’s findings were in line with DTSC’s recommendations as to no testing or action being required on the part of the District, the work directed by the District was done in an abundance of caution to assure that there existed no potential for any risk to students, employers or visitors to District property. The District has forwarded the full TRC report to DTSC and to the CRWQCB, and asked that TRC respond to any questions from the agencies regarding the soil sampling and testing. The District stands ready to work with DTSC and the CRWQCB, or any other agency, for access, further testing, and analysis. The District understands liability and cost responsibility for any remediation is to be borne by the Air Force or through available third party resources, but the District has and will continue to be proactive in its support of any further testing or remediation efforts, and has extended full cooperation to DTSC and any agency to assure that any further work is done as needed

The Superintendent and Board of the District will continue to monitor matters, and stay in close contact with DTSC as to any further assistance the District can provide, or updates on the DTSC’s efforts in regard to the former Base property. While all advices and reports suggest the absence of contamination or risk, the District is committed to continued close contact with DTSC to assure that anything and everything is done to eliminate any potential issue at the school sites or on District Property. If you have any questions, please direct them to Dr. Edwin Gomez, Superintendent, at 760-246-8691, ext. 10217.

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