

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

## Environmental Investigations Update for Magnolia Elementary School

### What is the Project History?

The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is supervising an environmental investigation and clean-up activities associated with the former Ketema/AMETEK aerospace facility ("Ketema Site"), located at 790 Greenfield Drive in El Cajon, California. Past operations at the Ketema Site resulted in the release of chlorinated solvents, primarily trichloroethene (TCE), into groundwater.

Since 1987, the San Diego Water Board and DTSC have overseen extensive investigation and clean-up efforts, including:

- Installation and testing of more than 70 groundwater wells
- Extraction and treatment of groundwater and soil vapor from the former Ketema Site and the adjacent Magnolia Elementary School
- Application of a compound to directly break down and destroy chemicals in the groundwater
- Indoor air testing at the Ketema Site, Magnolia Elementary School, and nearby residences and mitigating potentially contaminated indoor air as a precaution where appropriate

### Is Magnolia Elementary School Safe for Staff and Students?

Yes, since sampling of indoor air began in 1994, the DTSC has consistently concluded that the school is safe to occupy for both staff and students.

As an added protective measure, AMETEK worked with the Cajon Valley Union School District to install sub-slab depressurization and air exhaust system units in all classrooms at Magnolia Elementary School. These units limit underlying soil vapors from entering indoor air. A vapor barrier has also been installed in the newly constructed classroom building.

### How Can You Be Sure These Measures Are Working?

Soil vapor and indoor air testing has been conducted at the school since 1994. Testing occurs four times per year in all classrooms, the library, auditorium, and administration office. The most recent testing occurred on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and all chemicals of concern were below the DTSC screening levels. To ensure the continued safety on campus, vapor monitoring at the school will continue.

### Where Can I Get More Information?

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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