



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY •
REGION IX**

75 Hawthorne Street • San Francisco, CA 94105

March 2016

**The King's Academy
Sunnyvale, California**

Dear Parents, Staff and Community Members:

We are sending this letter to update you with the **results of the recent round of trichloroethene (TCE) indoor air testing that was conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at your school this past January and February**, associated with the long-term groundwater cleanup at the "Triple Site."

EPA is working diligently to ensure the community is being protected from any chemicals related to the Triple Site. Attached to this letter is a fact sheet summarizing the results of the last year of indoor air testing in the nearby neighborhood. This fact sheet also describes EPA's plans to expand the testing area and mitigate buildings where EPA has found an unacceptable risk.

As you may recall, the 2015 indoor air testing at your school showed that levels of TCE in classrooms fully meet EPA's requirements for protecting children's health.

Because EPA has learned more about how these levels can vary over time, EPA collected another set of samples at The King's Academy this past January and February.

In this past round of testing, indoor air samples from one building – the small auxiliary gym – showed results that were slightly higher than in the previous year, indicating that the process called vapor intrusion may be occurring. Vapor intrusion is a process where vapors from groundwater contamination may migrate into the indoor air of nearby buildings.

The good news is that the TCE levels measured in all other samples were similar to last year's results.

All of these other locations showed very low levels of TCE which do not pose a health risk.

The King's Academy Sampling Results

As expected, the majority of the locations sampled at The King's Academy in this latest sampling event showed low concentrations of TCE which do not pose a health risk. Only one room, the small auxiliary gym, showed a concentration above EPA's short-term health-protective screening level of 2 micrograms per cubic meter or $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). In this room, TCE concentrations of up to $2.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ were observed. We re-tested the small auxiliary gym immediately and found that TCE levels were lower – up to $1.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. However, another round of testing revealed that levels had risen again – to $2.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. EPA considers the protective range of concentrations of TCE to be below $2.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for “residential use,” which assumes a 24-hour-per-day/7-day-per-week exposure. These levels are very protective for school occupancy, where exposures times are much less.

Vapor Intrusion Issue

The measurements in the small auxiliary gym show that vapor intrusion is occurring, though the levels appear to vary over time. For example, all of the 2015 testing results for this building met EPA's short-term screening level. Out of precaution, we are working with the school administration to design and install a mitigation system beneath the building to prevent vapors from entering and accumulating in indoor air.

Background on EPA Investigation

As you may know, EPA has been investigating the potential for vapor intrusion at schools and residences in the Duane/San Miguel Avenue neighborhood. In 2015, EPA sampled over 120 homes and all four neighborhood schools. Five school buildings (at the Rainbow Montessori campus) and 18 households showed evidence of vapor intrusion, primarily in crawlspaces underneath buildings. EPA is overseeing the design and installation of mitigation systems for these buildings to prevent vapors from accumulating indoors. Based on the overall 2015 results, EPA is expanding the sampling area to include more residences on Coachella, San Pablo and San Patricio Avenues. More information can be found on the attached fact sheet.

TCE and Vapor Intrusion

The main chemical of concern in this area of Sunnyvale is TCE. TCE can move as a vapor from groundwater up through soil under certain conditions. If vapors move under a building, it is possible for them to pass through cracks and other openings in the foundation and enter the indoor air. If this happens, and if the levels are high enough and prolonged enough, it might create a health risk. *Note: Your drinking water is not affected by this contamination. Drinking water in this area of Sunnyvale comes from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and meets all state and federal drinking water standards.*

Next Steps for Vapor Intrusion Mitigation in Auxiliary Gym

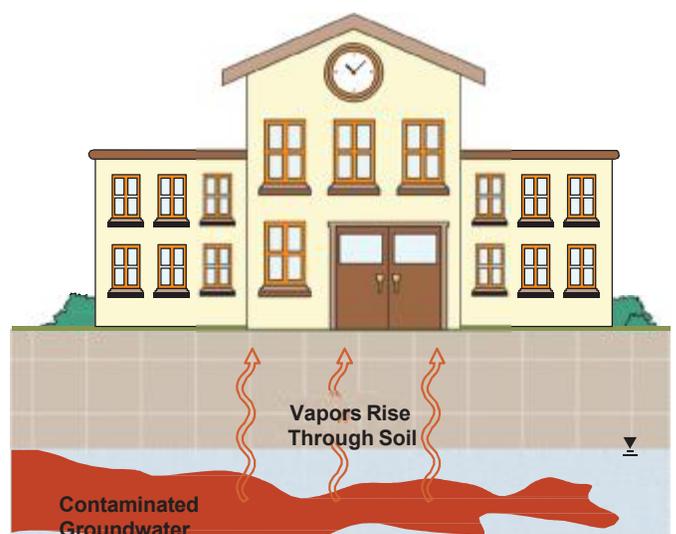
In the next few weeks EPA will oversee the design of a vapor intrusion mitigation system for the small auxiliary gym. We will work with the school administration to coordinate the timing of the installation work. More sampling events at the school are planned to help us decide whether additional mitigation systems are needed as precautionary measures to further reduce risk.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 972-3050 or by e-mail to morash.melanie@epa.gov if you have any questions or would like more information. You may also contact EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, Alejandro Diaz, at (415) 972-3242 or by e-mail to diaz.alejandro@epa.gov. EPA also has a website for the project: www.epa.gov/region9/triplesite which has additional information.

Sincerely,

Melanie Morash

Melanie Morash, EPA Project Manager



Vapor intrusion into a building