

# Memorandum

**To:** Malibu High School Staff

**CC:** Board of Education; Senior Cabinet; Sarah Braff, SMMCTA; Gary Bradbury,  
Risk Management

**From:** Sandra Lyon, Superintendent

**Date:** 10/4/2013

**Re:** **Malibu High School Environmental Concerns**

Over the past few weeks we have heard from teachers at Malibu High School who are concerned that health issues experienced by some staff members could possibly be related to environmental contaminants. In addition to the specific health issues, the staff members also cite odors within certain classrooms, problems with rodent infestation, and concerns about carpet cleaning. Some have also questioned the nature of the soil removed from the Middle School Quad. We take these concerns and questions seriously and, as a result, will provide a full environmental evaluation of the campus.

We have engaged the services of Executive Environmental, a highly qualified environmental consulting firm, to investigate these concerns and to recommend corrective action to address any hazardous conditions, should any be identified.

The current course of this investigation is as follows:

1. Initial site investigation (completed 9/20) by Vicki Uchida, Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH), that consisted of an in-depth interview with teachers who are experiencing or have experienced health issues that they believe may be related to environmental issues, as well as with other teachers who wanted to voice their concerns. Environmental testing was begun with room 1 in building E.
2. Continued site investigation and additional testing of building E to determine if there is any mold contamination problem in this building or other environmental conditions that may be linked to the symptoms reported by staff who work in this building.
3. Daniel Ginsborg, CIH and CEO/Principal of Executive Environmental will investigate campus wide factors to determine if any could be linked to a recent reported frequency of

specific cancers and other health issues. He will review the report for the soil remediation project that was performed in 2010 and also examine current and historical environmental factors for the campus to determine if there is any link to these health problems.

4. Based on the findings from the site evaluation and Mr. Ginsborg's investigation, a professional opinion will be issued regarding the need for additional testing. The district will follow the professional guidance provided.

5. At the conclusion of this investigation, Executive Environmental will provide to the district a full written report of their findings along with any recommendations to correct hazardous or unhealthful conditions. This report will include the test results and findings that support their conclusions and recommendations. This report will be made available to the site staff for review.

Please know that safety of our staff and students is a primary concern. We appreciate that staff members have conveyed these concerns to us so that we can take the appropriate action. I can assure you that once the investigation and analysis are completed we will address the recommendations and will work with closely with you as we plan and implement any recommended next steps. Again, thank you for your involvement throughout this process.

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