Environmental Health Department
Alameda County Health

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For Hazardous Materials Releases

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Alameda High School
Environmental Investigation Update and Consideration to Re-Open the Softball Field

2253 Encinal Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501
Cleanup Program Site Case No. RO0003666
GEOTRACKER GLOBAL ID T10000022988

Alameda County Environmental Health Department (ACEHD) is issuing this notice to inform the community about results of environmental investigations conducted at the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Alameda High School softball field during the summer of 2025 and next steps that are required prior to ACEHD providing clearance to AUSD to re- open the softball field.

Public Comment Period – August 21 – September 22, 2025

ACEHD is considering re-opening the softball field for use. We invite you to review and comment on the Surface Soil Sampling Data, Softball Field Maintenance Guide and Health Risk Assessment described below. All comments must be received by 5 p.m. on September 22, 2025. Comments can be sent to.

Tracy Craig, Community Outreach
1900 Powell Street, Suite 700, Emeryville, CA 94608
(510) 334-4866 or tracy@craig-communications.com

Community Meeting – Thursday, September 4 at 6:00 p.m.

You are invited to attend a public meeting to learn more about Site conditions, the Health Risk Assessment and ACEHD's decision-making process to re-open the softball field. There will be time set aside to answer questions and accept public comments on the plan.

When: Thursday, September 4, 2025, 6 – 7 p.m.
Join via Zoom: **https://tinyurl.com/AlamedaHS-Mtg**
Join by Phone: Dial 1-669-900-9128 and enter meeting ID: 863 0897 6621#

Please contact Tracy Craig at 510-334-4866 or tracy@craig-communications.com if you need assistance accessing the meeting.

SITE BACKGROUND

Environmental investigations conducted during construction of the new swim center project in 2024 and 2025 found elevated levels of pesticides, petroleum products, polychlorinated biphenyls and metals in native soil and fill material, and metals, chloroform and petroleum in groundwater. Given the proximity of the softball field and soil contamination to the new swim center construction work, ACEHD required AUSD to collect additional soil samples in the softball field and the area where a new tennis court will be constructed to evaluate if contamination extends beneath these areas and the potential risk to users of the softball field and construction and maintenance workers from potential chemicals of concern.

SOFTBALL FIELD & NEW TENNIS COURT SOIL SAMPLING RESULTS AND HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSEESSMENT

AUSD's environmental consultant collected 16 surface soil samples throughout the softball field and adjacent tennis court area. Metals and petroleum constituents were detected in the top 2.5 feet of soil in the softball field at

concentrations exceeding the 2025 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) for residential direct exposure human health risk, but below the commercial and construction worker direct exposure ESLs. Metals have also been detected in deeper soil (greater than 2.5 feet) at concentrations exceeding residential, commercial and/or construction worker direct exposure ESLs. Hexavalent chromium was also detected in surface soil samples in the new tennis court area adjacent to the softball field above residential ESLs but below commercial and construction worker ESLs.

ESLs serve as an aid in assessing risk to human health or the environment. Sites that are adequately characterized with chemical concentration data below the ESLs most likely do not pose a significant threat to human health or the environment. The presence of a chemical at concentrations exceeding an ESL does not necessarily indicate adverse effects on human health or the environment, but rather that additional evaluation is warranted. Residential ESLs are used as a preliminary assessment to identify potential risks at school sites. Due to concentrations of metals and petroleum exceeding residential direct contact ESLs in shallow soil in the softball field area and the new tennis court area, a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) was prepared by AUSD using guidelines provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment for evaluating school-based exposures and risks. The HHRA indicates that the risks posed by the concentrations of metals and petroleum in soil in the softball field and new tennis court areas do not pose a significant human health risk to student, staff and maintenance workers at the Site. Therefore, ACEHD is considering providing clearance to AUSD to open the softball field for use with the condition that the softball field surface covering (turf and infield dirt) and irrigation system is maintained and repair work is limited to the upper 2.5 feet to prevent contact with deeper contaminated soil in accordance with the AUSD's Softball Field Maintenance Guide.

Until the HHRA has been approved by ACEHD and a thirty day public comment period on the HHRA has been completed, ACEHD has required AUSD to fence off the softball field and the new tennis court areas and maintain the softball field turf and infield dirt and the temporary cover over the soil in the new tennis court area, to restrict access and prevent direct contact with soil and migration of metals and petroleum in surface water or dust onto adjacent areas of the Site or off-site. ACEHD has also required AUSD to fence and cover the new tennis court area to restrict access to the soil and prevent migration of hexavalent chromium in surface water or dust to the adjacent softball field. This area will be permanently covered with clean soil and hardscape as part of the swim center construction project.

After the swim center project is complete, AUSD will update the Sitewide Soil and Groundwater Management Plan to detail how impacted soil in the softball field, tennis court and swim center construction areas will be handled and managed to provide long-term protection of public health and the environment.

NEXT STEPS

ACEHD is accepting public input from August 21 to September 22, 2025 on the agency's consideration to re-open the softball field and the environmental decision-making process. The agency is hosting a public meeting Thursday, September 4 to describe the Site conditions and health risk assessment that support this decision, answer questions and accept comments. Meeting details can be found on the first page of this fact sheet. ACEHD will review and consider all public comments. ACEHD will issue a Response to Comments document to all those who commented and provided contact information. Based on the comments received, ACEHD will make a final determination to open the softball field for use.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You are invited to review the case file for the Alameda High School Swim Center project, including the following documents prepared by Kleinfelder on behalf of AUSD:

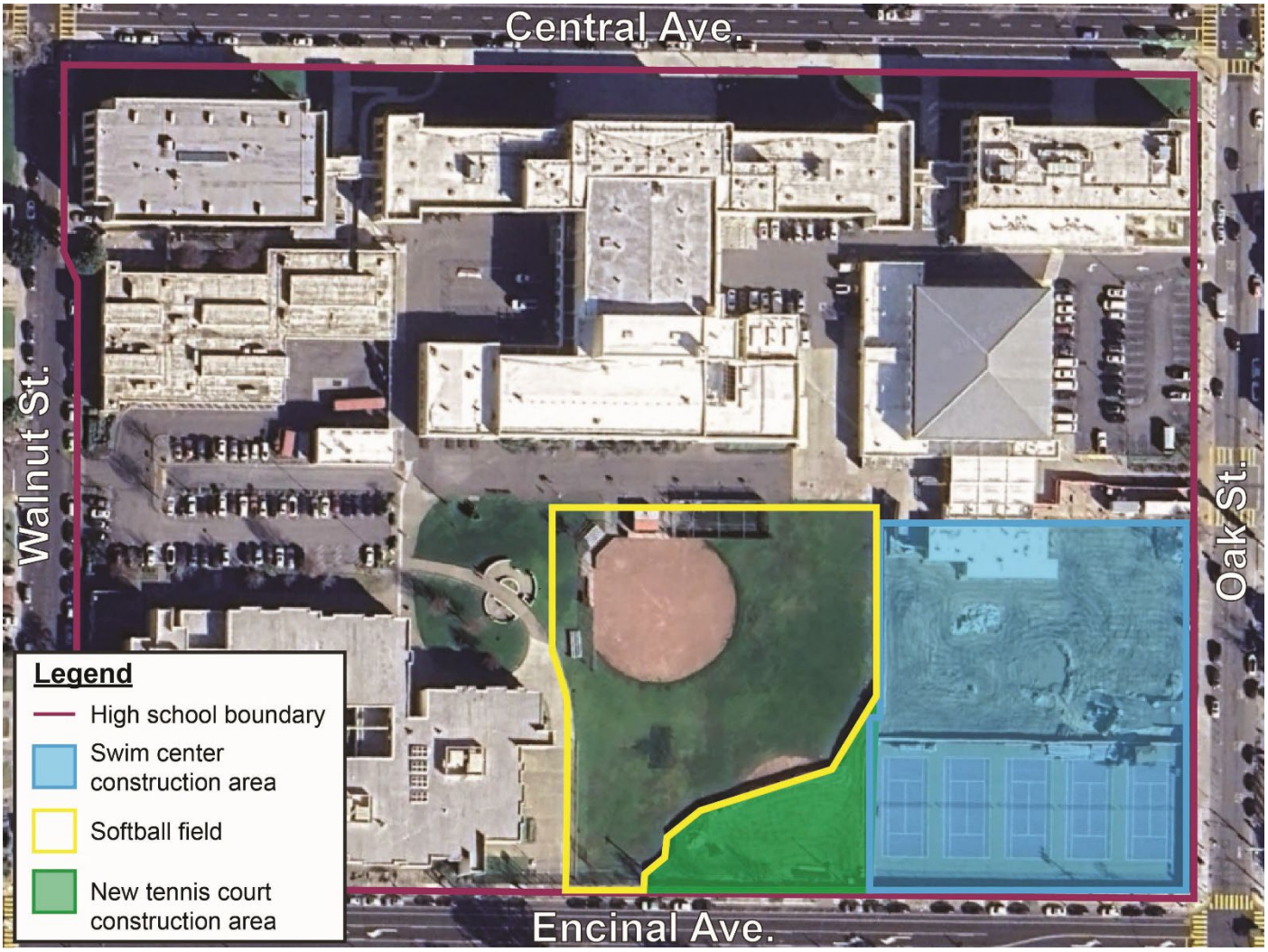
- Surface Soil Sampling Data Deliverable, dated July 30, 2025
- Softball Field Human Health Risk Assessment, dated August 18, 2025 (pending)
- Softball Field Soil Maintenance Guide, dated July 30, 2025

These documents are available online at the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker website at https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov and searching for the address "2253 Encinal Avenue, Alameda."

Questions or Concerns

ACEHD and AUSD welcome your questions, comments, or concerns. For more information please contact:

- Tracy Craig
- (510) 334-4866 (24/7)
- tracy@craig-communications.com



A map of the swim center construction area, softball field and new tennis court construction area.