



Communications Office
West Contra Costa Unified School District
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MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR PLANNING PURPOSES
August 13, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT: Liz Sanders
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Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

CROSS-AGENCY TOWN HALL TO SHARE UPDATES ON CONTINUED ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING AT KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

RICHMOND – The West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) will join staff from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the City of Richmond at a community town hall **tonight, August 13, at 6:30pm** to share updates with the greater Kennedy High School community regarding ongoing environmental testing at the campus of Kennedy High School and the Richmond Swim Center.

In response to a recommendation by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), our Board approved third-party testing for underground vapors at the Kennedy High School campus at the July 15 regular board meeting.

On Friday, July 31, the WCCUSD Executive Team received preliminary results from this testing, which showed varying levels of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) underground below the Kennedy High School campus. WCCUSD immediately notified our Board and began reaching out to the DTSC for assistance understanding these preliminary results. We also began reaching out to local, county, and state officials to make aligned decisions in partnership.

On Monday, August 3, following our first full cross-agency meeting and out of an abundance of caution, WCCUSD and the City of Richmond made aligned determinations to restrict entry into the Kennedy High School campus and the adjacent Richmond Swim Center until further environmental testing can be done at both sites. We provided an initial update to the school community on August 3 and have continued to update our Board, labor partners, the school community and broader community on emerging information since that time.

Since that time, WCCUSD, DTSC, and the City of Richmond have been engaged in an around-the-clock, multi-agency response to conduct additional testing so that the Kennedy community can gain more information about any potential health risk as quickly as possible. **WCCUSD is expected to share updates on this additional testing and next steps for the Kennedy High community this evening.**

From 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. tonight, August 13, the District, DTSC, and the City of Richmond will hold a Cross-Agency Town Hall at the Richmond Auditorium to provide the community with an opportunity to receive information and ask questions about this ongoing environmental testing.

Who: WCCUSD Superintendent Cheryl Cotton

WCCUSD Board President Guadalupe Enllana
WCCUSD Interim Associate Superintendent of Business Services, Jeff Carter
Representatives of the DTSC
Representatives of the City of Richmond

What: Cross-Agency Town Hall presented by WCCUSD, DTSC, and the City of Richmond to provide the Kennedy community with an opportunity to receive information and ask questions about ongoing environmental testing

Where: Richmond Auditorium, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond

When: Thursday, August 13, 2026, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

****Media availability for interviews:** 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Members of the media should RSVP to Liz Sanders, Assistant Superintendent of Community Engagement & Communications, at 341-213-8147 or communications@wccusd.net.

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