

Environmental Initiatives

Carlos A. Torres, Director

Office of Environmental
Health & Safety (OEHS)

LAUSD
UNIFIED

Enhanced Air Filtration with SCAQMD

The District has been working with The South Coast Air Management District (SCAQMD) since 2015 to fund the installation and maintenance of enhanced air filtration systems attached to existing HVAC systems to dramatically reduce exposure to air pollution contaminants, especially diesel exhaust and paved roadway dust, for students, staff, and teachers as part of the District's ongoing commitment to health and safety.

52 additional school sites recently received enhanced air filtration system as part of a \$7.1B settlement between SCAQMD and SoCal Gas as part of the Aliso Canyon gas leak. This brings the total of District school sites with enhanced air filtration systems up to 107. School sites are typically chosen from the District's Priority List of School Most at Risk from Air Pollution.

The District is currently pursuing up to \$13.7M in grants from the SCAQMD Public School Air Filtration Program to allow for enhanced air filtration system installations and ongoing maintenance at schools in AB617 Communities (East LA, Boyle Heights, W. Commerce, Wilmington, Carson, South LA, and SE LA – amongst others) that do not currently have these systems.

Ultra High-Performance HVAC Air Filter



Turns School HVAC Systems into High-Efficiency Air Cleaners

Van Gogh Elementary School

Since early 2000s, Sunshine Canyon Landfill, located approximately 1 mile northeast of Van Gogh ES, has been affecting Van Gogh ES and the surrounding community with odor issues. OEHS staff routinely respond to odor complaints.

A committee consisting of school administration, community members, local agency representatives, and landfill staff attend a bi-monthly meeting to discuss odor complaints and to receive landfill updates. OEHS staff also attend the bi-monthly community meetings and provide technical support or comments.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill has more NOV's than all other Southern California landfills combined. In 2023 Sunshine Canyon Landfill received 61 NOV's and 1,721 complaints regarding odor and dust issues. As of August 2024, the landfill has received 41 NOV's and 1,377 complaints. Of the 41 NOV's issued, 27 NOV's were from Van Gogh ES.

As a result of the ongoing odor issues, OEHS conducted an air toxics study at the school. Sample results did not identify toxic chemicals present in the vicinity of the school. However, the study did acknowledge ongoing odor issues. In addition, the City of Los Angeles placed a monitoring station at the school to continuously collect air monitoring samples. This effort is part of a long-term study



Mary McLeod Bethune Middle School

During the implementation of the ADA project in the quad area, PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) were detected in the soil. The maximum PCB concentration exceeded the screening level and the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) threshold of 50 parts per million (PPM), necessitating notification and oversight by the EPA.

OEHS conducted soil investigation and completed a Site Characterization and Cleanup plan, which was approved by the EPA. Interim measures were implemented to limit the exposure of students and staff to the impacted area until full remediation could be conducted.

In the summer of 2024, approximately 2,500 cubic yards of PCBs impacted soil was removed per the approved cleanup plan and an orange barrier to sever exposure with potentially impacted soil was installed.

OEHS is currently preparing the removal completion report and will develop a land use control plan to ensure long-term compliance and safety.



Methane

The City of Los Angeles has identified areas (zones) within their boundaries that have the potential for methane.

Given the right conditions, methane can accumulate and cause an explosion. Because of this explosive potential, school construction projects in areas that might encounter methane include gas mitigation systems. Passive systems are designed to naturally vent an area, whereas active systems utilize mechanical blowers to force ventilation. Active gas mitigation systems will have gas detection sensors that will sound an alarm to notify students and staff that methane gas was detected. OEHS staff is notified anytime alarms are received. This will also trigger a school inspection by staff.

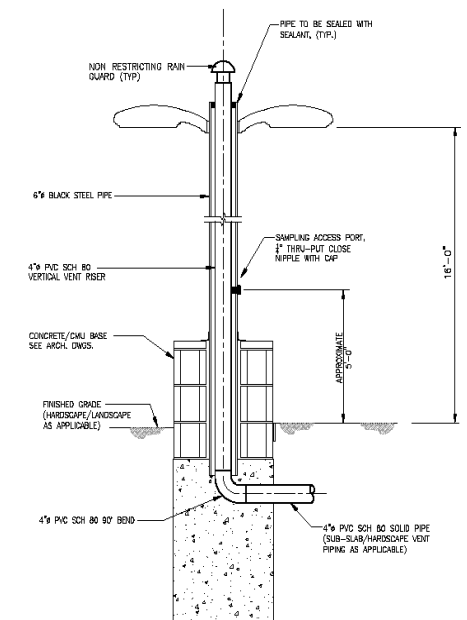
School sites with either passive or active gas mitigation systems require routine inspections to ensure the system is operating as intended.



Installation of Membrane



Vent Riser

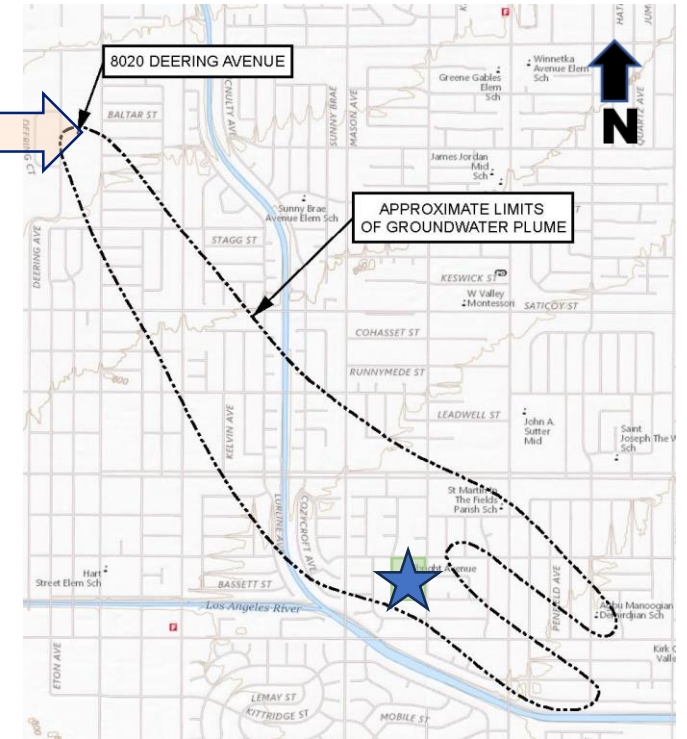


DETAIL - VERTICAL VENT RISER
N.T.S.

Fullbright Elementary School

Former Litton Site

Prior to its purchase by Northrop Grumman, Litton Industries operated at 8020 Deering Avenue, Woodland Hills. These operations created a plume of chlorinated solvents in soil, soil vapor, and groundwater. The plume is being treated by the responsible party under the oversight of the Los Angeles Region of the State Water Board. This work has demonstrated no issues with the southern half of the plume which includes the school. OEHS monitors developments of the cleanup, including an August 20, 2024, teleconference with Water Board representatives.



Dolores Huerta Elementary School

Former UPR Site



Chlorinated solvents were identified as part of an investigation of a property across the street from the school. The property owner and responsible party is Union Pacific Railroad (UPR). The investigation is overseen by the DTSC. Low levels of chlorinated solvents were identified at the school and as part of the DTSC investigation. The detected levels are below an action level. As such, there is no threat to students and staff.

A pilot clean-up at the UPR site is in progress. The DTSC collects soil gas samples at the school twice a year to ensure the safety of students and staff and to measure the effectiveness of the clean-up plan.



Studying Environmental Factors Near Schools

OEHS periodically conducts surveys to identify potential environmental factors near schools such as:

- Facilities that may or are likely to contain chemicals of concern
- High voltage power lines
- Transformers
- Underground gas and oil pipelines
- Earthquake faults

What about unknown incompatibilities around our schools?



TITLE:	Environmental Hazards in Proximity to Schools	ROUTING All Schools and Offices
NUMBER:	REF-5892.1	
ISSUER:	Carlos A. Torres, Director Office of Environmental Health and Safety	
DATE:	December 21, 2020	
PURPOSE:	The purpose of this Reference Guide is to define the responsibilities of the school site administrators and the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) regarding the identification of potential environmental hazards in proximity to Los Angeles Unified schools and provide guidance to assist site administrators in procuring the necessary information.	
MAJOR CHANGES:	This Reference Guide replaces REF-5892.0 (October 8, 2012) <i>Environmental Hazards in Proximity to Schools</i> . The responsibilities of site administrators and OEHS was updated in the Roles and Responsibilities section. In the Types of Environmental Hazards section, new resources were added for identifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• facilities containing toxic chemical or radioactive materials,• transportation routes of vehicles carrying hazardous materials,• underground gas and oil pipelines, and• the Seismic Building Evaluation Status of buildings on a campus. In addition, the Related Resources Section was updated.	
INSTRUCTIONS:	Outlined below is a listing of responsibilities to ensure proper identification of potential environmental hazards. A. Roles and Responsibilities Site Administrators <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When preparing the Integrated Safe School Plan for your school, download and review the environmental hazards survey for your school and utilize the resources provided in this Reference Guide to identify environmental hazards near your school. To access the survey for your school, either follow this link:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Environmental Hazards Near Schoolsor◦ go to the OEHS website (https://achieve.lausd.net/oehs) and select <i>Environmental Hazards Near Schools</i> under the <i>Programs</i> tab in the menu near the top of the page.• Conduct a physical survey of the community adjacent to your school to supplement information provided by OEHS or obtained from the resources provided in this Reference Guide.	

Environmental Factors Near Schools Surveys



Environmental Factors Survey

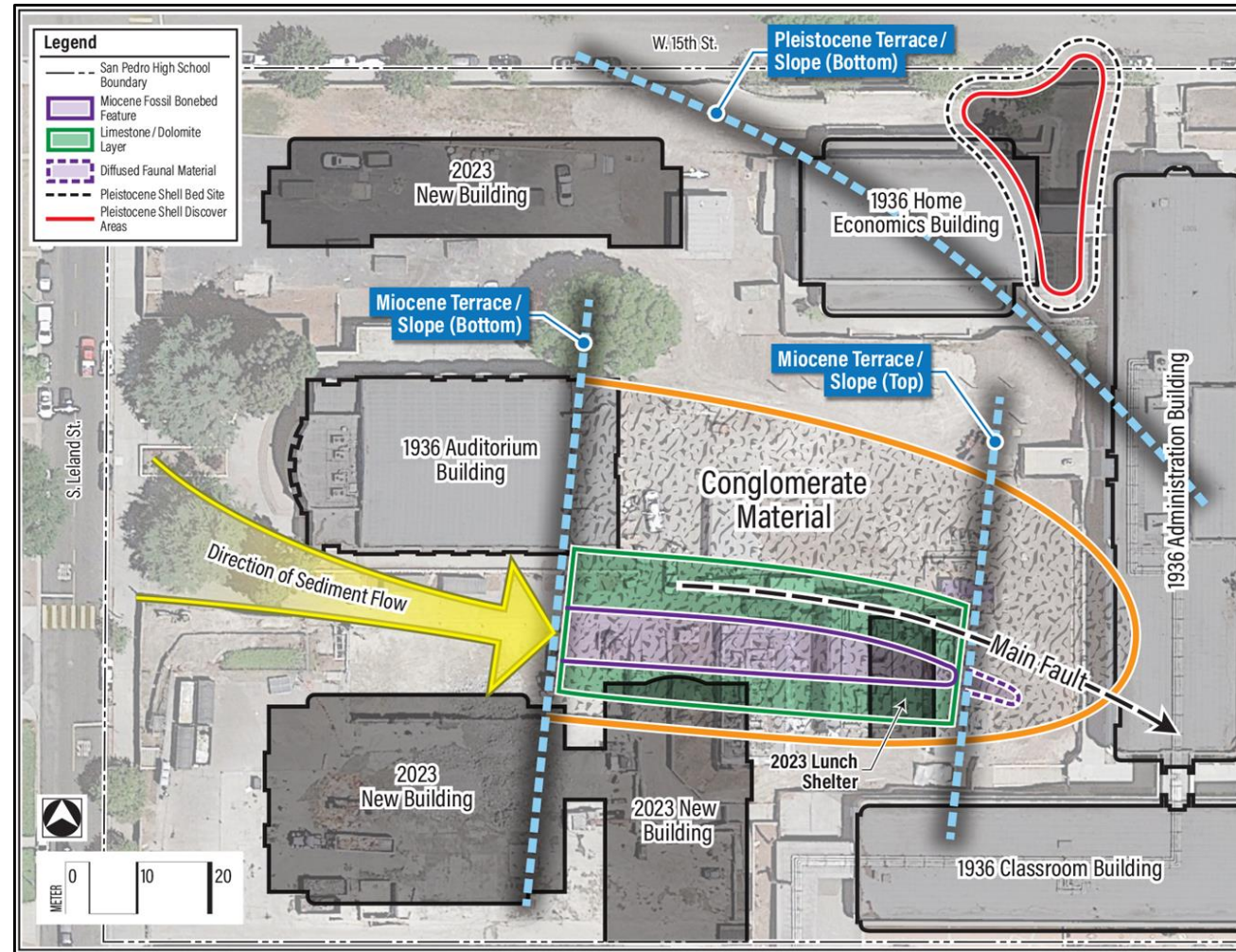


Belmont Senior High (c. 1923)	Principal	Marcos Solorzano
1575 W 2ND ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90026	E-mail	mss0819@lausd.net
213-241-4300	Site ID	14201
	Yes	No
		Notes
Rail line (active, easement, or spurs) within 128 ft?		X
Cellular phone antenna adjacent or on site?		X
50-200 kilovolt (kV) power line within 100 ft (above ground)/25 ft (below ground)?		X
200-230 kV power line within 150 ft (above ground)/37.5 ft (below ground)?		X
500-550 kV power line within 350 ft (above ground)/87.5 ft (below ground)?		X
Major transportation corridor within 500 ft?		X
Reservoirs, water, or fuel storage tank facilities within 500 ft?	X	Argus Holdings 245ft west of site
Haz mat transmission pipelines within 50 ft?		X
Oil production facilities (existing or former oil wells/borings and processing equipment) within 50 ft?	X	Onsite (wells are idle)
Located within an Oil Field / Methane Zone / Methane Buffer Zone?	X	Methane Zone
Located within a High Risk Radon Zone?		X Moderate
Superfund Site within 500 ft?		X
Landfill facility within 500 ft?		X
Mapped or active earthquake fault within 500 ft?		X
CalEPA Regulated Sites of Concern* within 500 ft?	X	Argus Holdings 245ft west of site
<p>* The CalEPA Regulated Site Portal (Portal) combines data about environmentally regulated sites and facilities in California into a single, searchable database and interactive map. To use the Portal to identify facilities near an LAUSD school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First zoom in to a school location on the map by either using the search bar to enter the school's address or by using a mouse and zoom tools - Once the user has zoomed in to a school site, the map shows all the regulated sites near the school - Users can click on the regulated sites to find out additional information about the sites - The Portal also includes tools to measure the distances between locations on the map 		
Here is a link to the CalEPA Regulated Site Portal:		https://siteportal.calepa.ca.gov/

This survey was completed in August 2024.

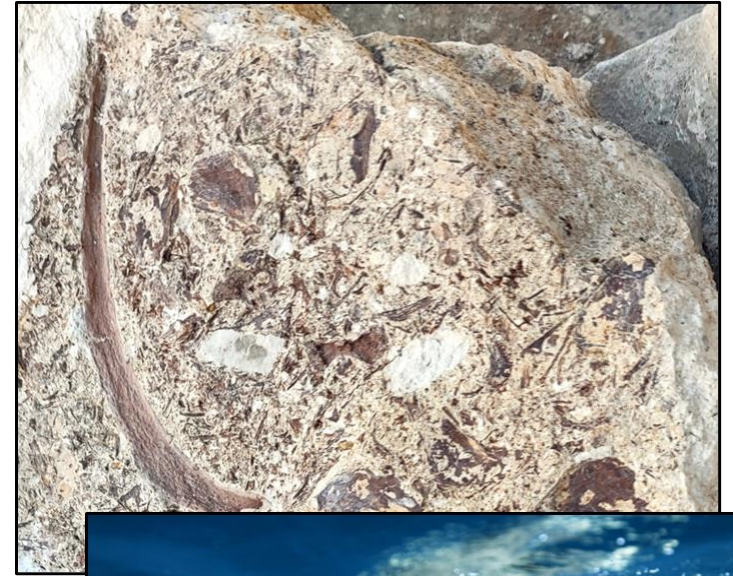
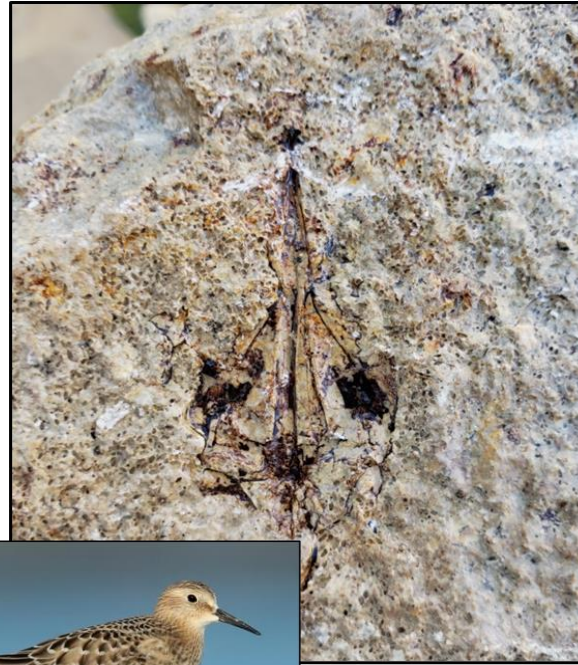
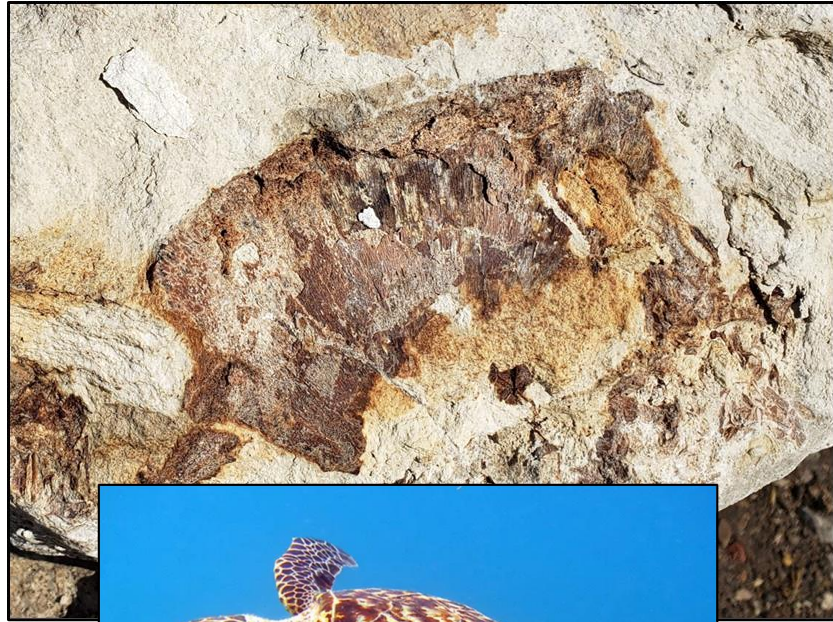
San Pedro High School Miocene Fossil Discovery

San Pedro HS was identified as being an area with high paleontological sensitivity due to the Monterey Formation, a sedimentary rock formation, underneath the campus.



As part of our environmental due diligence, paleontological monitoring was required during ground disturbing activities of construction.

San Pedro High School Miocene Fossil Discovery



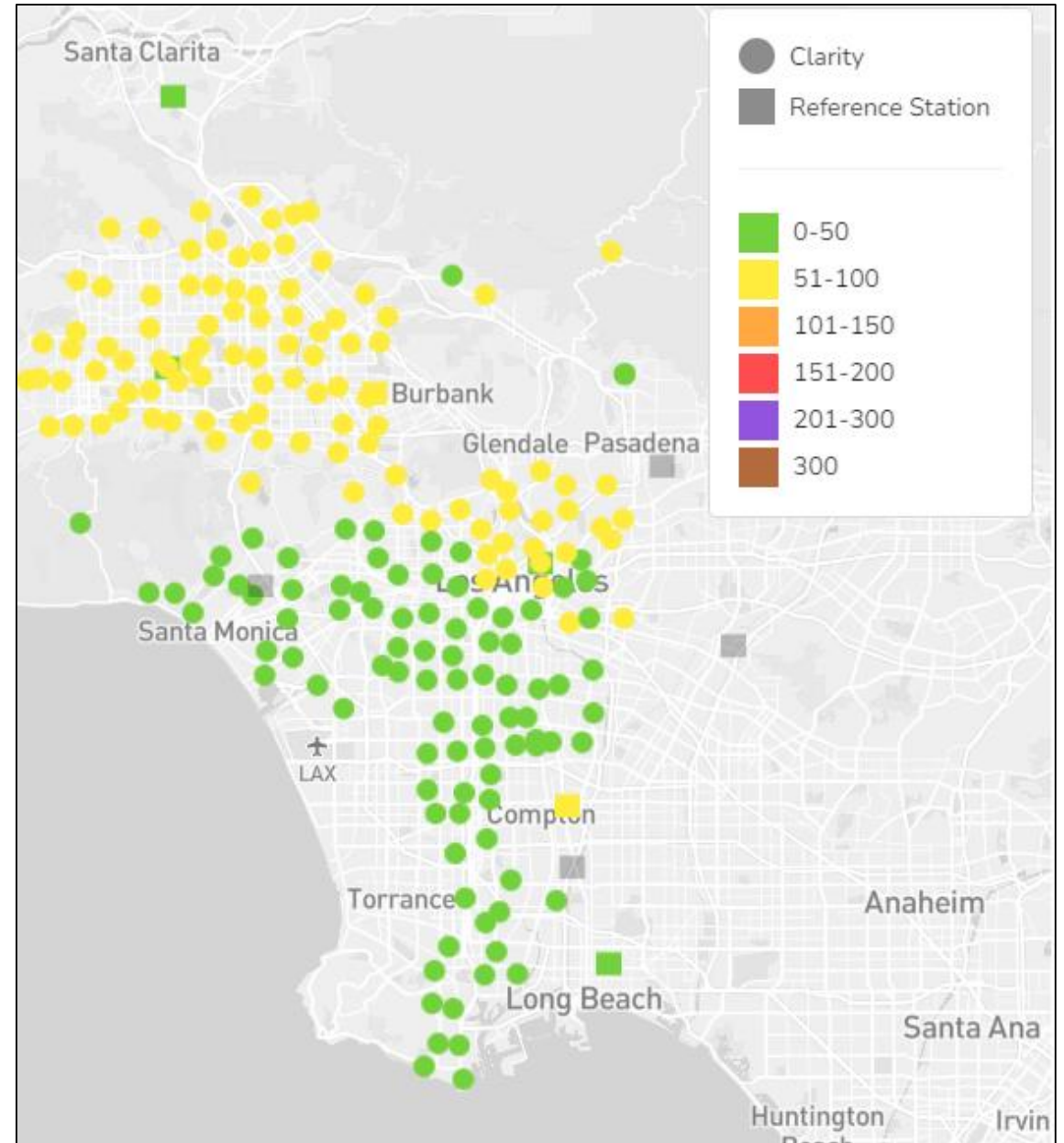


Know Your Air Network

OEHS maintains a network of 202 air quality sensors deployed across the boundaries of LA Unified.



Air Quality Index (AQI) data reported from the Know Your Air Network help school administrators make decisions about outdoor activities, field trips, and safety of students and staff.



lausd.org/knowyourairnetwork

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Greening Projects

OEHS supports Facilities Services Department (FSD), Maintenance & Operations (M&O), and Office of Eco-Sustainability for the implementation of greening projects:

- Determination pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines
- Soil sampling, pursuant to AQMD Rule 1466
- Soil Import/Export review, pursuant to Spec. 01-4524

OEHS support of greening projects ensures compliance with regulations and safety of students, staff, and workers

Greening Type	Office	Projects YTD
Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP)	FSD	32
Sustainable Environment Enhancement Development for Schools (SEEDS)	Eco-Sustainability	23
Playground and Campus Exterior Upgrade Projects (PACEUP)	FSD	14
Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE)	FSD	8
Misc. Greening Projects	M&O, Eco-Sustainability	4



SEEDS Garden at Glenfeliz ES



ELOP Concept at Hoover ES



Outdoor Learning Environment at Haddon EEC

Questions or Comments?

Please contact:

OEHS Call Center: (213) 241-3199

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