



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Dr. Ravi Arulanantham  
Alameda County Health Department  
1131 Harbor Parkway  
Alameda, California 94502

**RE: Verdese Carter Park**

Dear Mr. Arulanantham:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the results of EPA's recent soil sampling from residential yards located adjacent to Verdese Carter Park.

As you know, Verdese Carter Park is an approximately 3 acre park located at 96th and Bancroft Avenues in Oakland, California. The park was constructed in approximately 1978 on property formerly used by a lead battery manufacturer. These historic manufacturing activities resulted in the contamination of soils with lead. For the past 18 months, EPA has been working directly with Alameda County to provide oversight to the City of Oakland for the removal of lead contaminated soils from the park and the Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry (ATSDR) has been coordinating with Alameda County on blood lead testing at the nearby Cox Elementary School. To date, approximately 15,000 cubic yards of soil have been removed from the park and all confirmation samples indicate the cleanup has met the remediation goals. Meanwhile, Alameda County has obtained and evaluated over 600 blood lead samples.

While the cleanup of the park is complete, EPA has recently conducted soil sampling to determine if contamination is present in yards adjacent to the park (see Attachment 1 for sampling locations). Preliminary analytical results (summarized in Attachment 2) indicate that elevated levels of lead are present in yards of several homes located near the corner of 98th Avenue and Sunnyside Street. These yards are located in an area directly adjacent to the former battery manufacturer where significant contamination was detected and large quantities of soil have been removed. Although the soil samples taken from these yards were analyzed using a field screening device, fixed laboratory confirmation samples indicate a strong correlation between the field and laboratory. This confirmation analyses gives us a high degree of confidence that the field samples are

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*Report: The EPA has found high lead in soil, in private houses surrounding the Verdese Park in Oakland. I am assisting the City & EPA in this matter*

*Ravi  
2/4/95*

Mr. Ravi Arulanantham  
Page 2.

truly representative of these yards (copies of the analytical results and a graph of the correlation analysis are contained in Attachment 3).

In addition to the elevated lead levels in yards directly adjacent to the former battery facility, there are also isolated areas of elevated lead that are not located near areas where battery manufacturing occurred. The relative age of the homes where isolated elevated lead levels were detected, and the fact that flaking paint was observed in some of the samples with the highest concentrations of lead, suggest that lead-based paint may also be a source of lead contamination in this community. For this reason, EPA would like to coordinate with Alameda County to develop an appropriate response strategy to address the potential for combined lead exposures in the vicinity of the park.

EPA is proposing to conduct a number of activities in the near future as follow-up to our sampling: immediately notify the residents of the homes with the highest soil lead levels; provide advice to these residents for reducing their potential exposure to lead; recommend that young children that live or frequently visit these yards have their blood tested for lead; and evaluate potential mitigation/abatement options. In addition to these near-term activities, EPA would like to conduct additional sampling to determine the extent and contribution of lead contamination from the former battery facility and develop a coordinated multi-agency outreach program.

Using the approach outlined above, and building upon our past work with Alameda County, we believe we can cooperatively and positively address the lead contamination identified near Verdese Carter Park. EPA appreciates Alameda County's past assistance and we hope to continue to benefit from your expertise in devising and carrying out a coordinated response.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the attachments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 744-2362 or Michael Bellot of my staff at (415) 744-2364.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski  
Chief, Superfund Enforcement  
Programs Section

Attachments

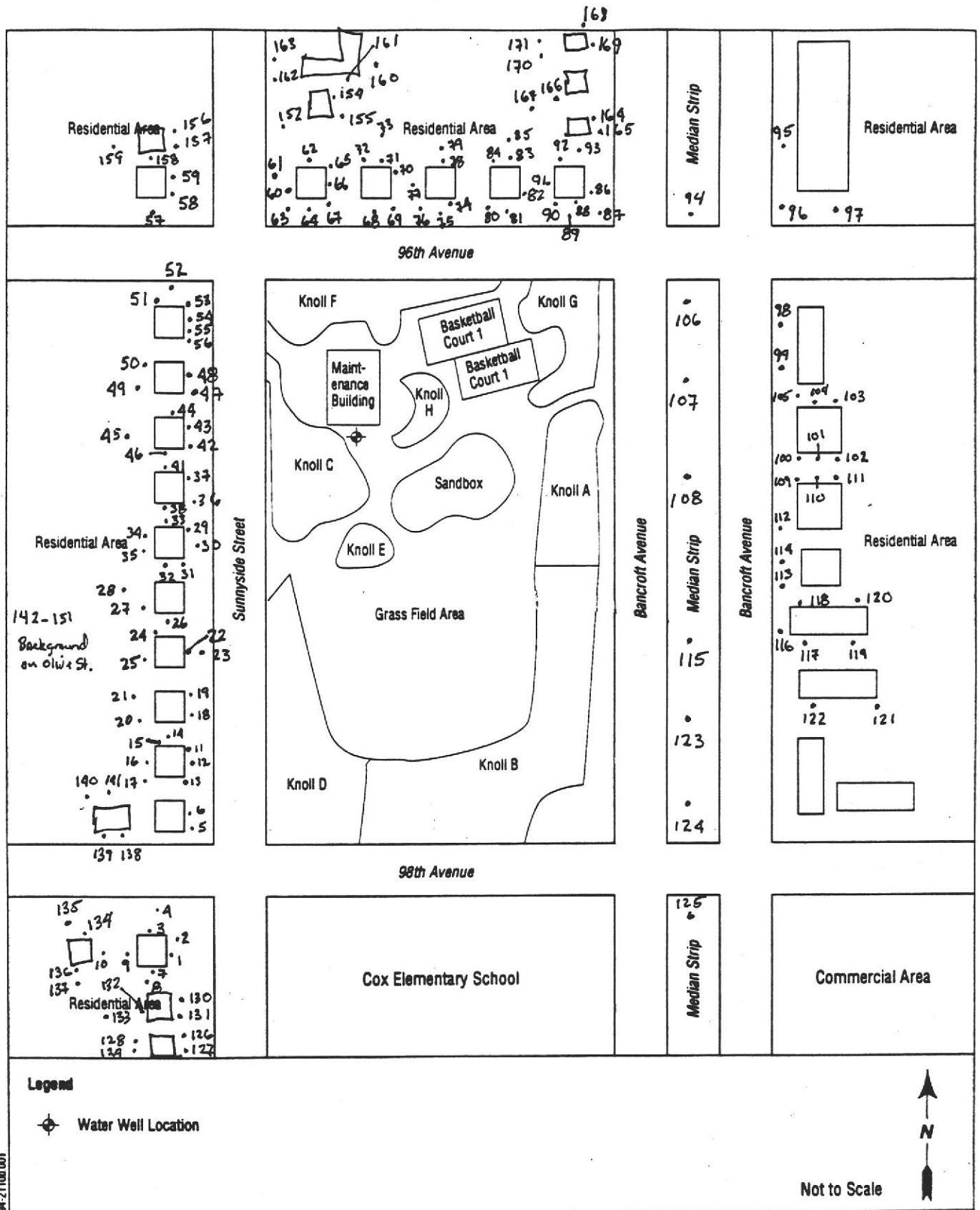


Figure 2-2 Site Layout

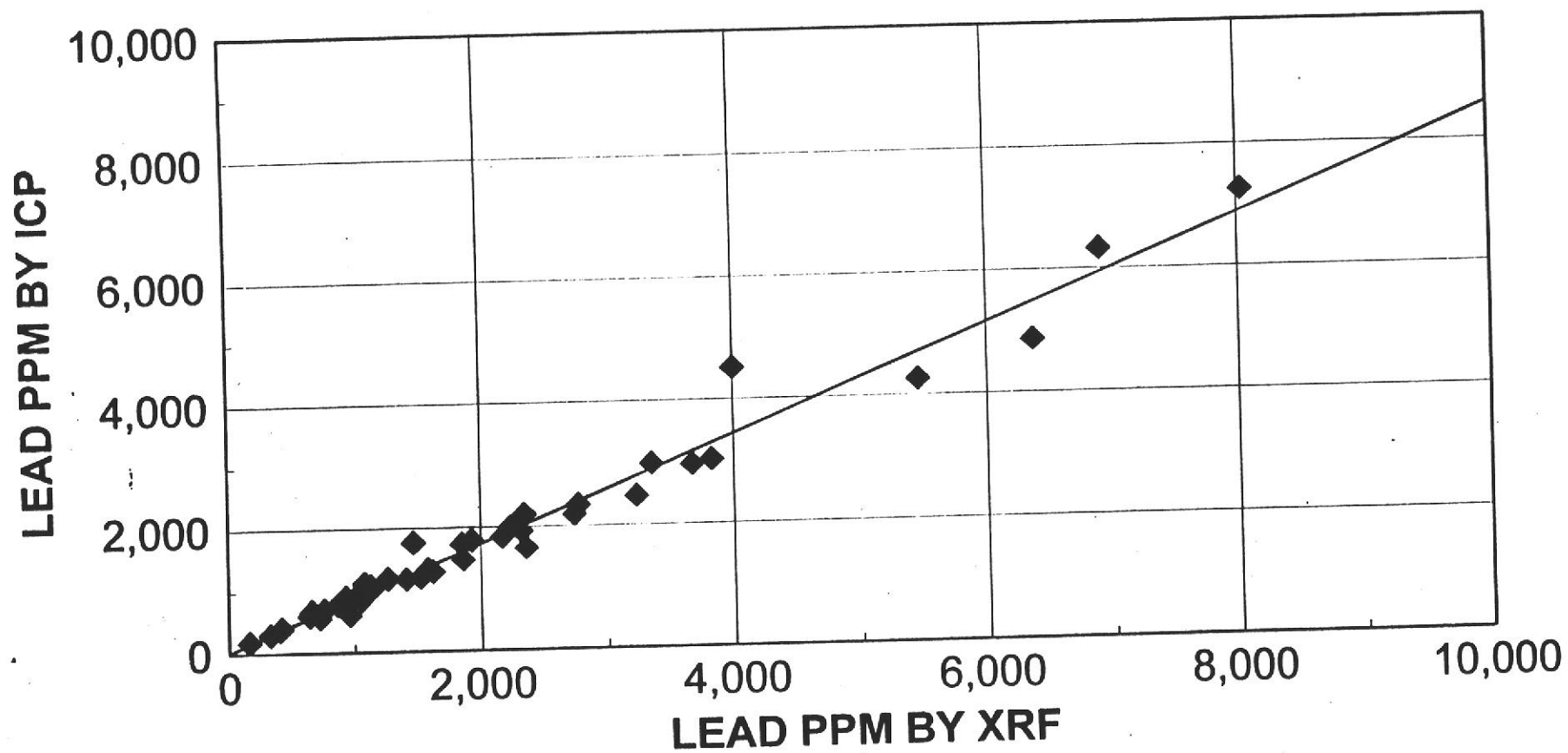
94-2110b.001

**ATTACHMENT 2 SUMMARY OF RESIDENTIAL SOIL SAMPLING**

ADDRESS	MAXIMUM LEAD CONCENTRATION	AVERAGE LEAD CONCENTRATION
9809 Sunnyside	3999 ppm	1547 ppm
9805 Sunnyside	947 ppm	782 ppm
9801 Sunnyside	2345 ppm	1437 ppm
9727 Sunnyside	8034 ppm	3583 ppm
9723 Sunnyside	1953 ppm	1201 ppm
9719 Sunnyside	2739 ppm	2054 ppm
9711 Sunnyside	1383 ppm	585 ppm
9703 Sunnyside	2543 ppm	1416 ppm
9637 Sunnyside	1928 ppm	895 ppm
9623 Sunnyside	1489 ppm	877 ppm
9617 Sunnyside	482 ppm	338 ppm
9534 Sunnyside	9999 ppm	3639 ppm
9533 Sunnyside	865 ppm	601 ppm
9510 Sunnyside	968 ppm	3570 ppm
2024 98th	1076 ppm	747 ppm
2041 98th	2918 ppm	1699 ppm
2045 98th	6371 ppm	3042 ppm
2045 96th	659 ppm	428 ppm
2111 96th	3230 ppm	1559 ppm
2121 96th	3827 ppm	2012 ppm
2129 96th	2321 ppm	1586 ppm
2270 96th	1232 ppm	819 ppm
2200 96th	1535 ppm	996 ppm
9437 Bancroft	705 ppm	328 ppm
94? Bancroft	1145 ppm	720 ppm
9521 Bancroft	2172 ppm	1006 ppm
9630 Bancroft	1862 ppm	1004 ppm
9636 Bancroft	2358 ppm	1111 ppm
9640 Bancroft	2232 ppm	1206 ppm
9740 Bancroft	1054 ppm	433 ppm
9750 Bancroft	1267 ppm	820 ppm
9742 Olive	641 ppm	467 ppm
9730 Olive	932 ppm	608 ppm
9702 Olive	1470 ppm	1047 ppm
9701 Olive	1538 ppm	836 ppm
9623 Olive	722 ppm	485 ppm

(Note: because the property boundaries for the yards sampled were not surveyed, it is unclear which exact property corresponds with each sampling location. For this reason, the average and maximum lead concentrations presented in above may vary depending upon which samples are used in the calculations).

**FIGURE 4: CONCENTRATION OF LEAD DETERMINED BY ICP  
VERSUS XRF**



$r = 0.99$   
 $b = 0.86$

**TABLE 3: VERDESE CARTER PARK XRF SOIL SAMPLE AND SAMPLE REANALYSIS REPORT**

SAMPLE	PRIMARY ANALYSIS				REANALYSIS				As RPD	Pb RPD	Zn RPD
	DATE	ARSENIC	LEAD	ZINC	DATE	ARSENIC	LEAD	ZINC			
SS-1	12/13/94	<100	1131	494							
SS-2	12/13/94	<100	1333	82							
SS-3	12/13/94	<100	2031	382							
SS-4	12/13/94	<100	2345 E	173	12/15/94	<100	2521 E	211	N/A	-7	-20
SS-5	12/13/94	<100	<50	162							
SS-6	12/13/94	<100	6371 E	688	12/15/94	<100	6305 E	728	N/A	1	-6
SS-7	12/13/94	<100	2223 E	1542							
SS-8	12/13/94	<100	1413	570							
SS-9	12/13/94	<100	294	314							
SS-10	12/13/94	<100	730	141							
SS-10D	12/13/94	<100	804	82							
SS-11	12/13/94	<100	1682	556							
SS-12	12/13/94	<100	3235 E	293							
SS-13	12/13/94	<100	8034 E	854	12/15/94	<100	7702 E	875	N/A	4	-2
SS-14	12/13/94	<100	6905 E	1809	12/15/94	<100	6828 E	1565	N/A	1	14
SS-15	12/13/94	<100	3074 E	2183E							
SS-16	12/13/94	<100	3032 E	1037							
SS-17	12/13/94	<100	2706 E	957							
SS-18	12/13/94	<100	1953	606							
SS-19	12/13/94	<100	952	306							
SS-20	12/13/94	<100	1850	582	12/15/94	<100	1973	578	N/A	-6	1
SS-20D	12/13/94	<100	1996	530							
SS-21	12/13/94	<100	<50	<50							
SS-22	12/13/94	<100	2246 E	538							
SS-23	12/13/94	<100	2739 E	457	12/15/94	<100	2604 E	439	N/A	5	4
SS-24	12/13/94	<100	1398	360							
SS-25	12/13/94	<100	1854	437							
SS-26	12/13/94	<100	168	104							
SS-27	12/13/94	<100	418	234	12/15/94	<100	473	343	N/A	-12	-38
SS-28	12/13/94	<100	373	304							
SS-29	12/13/94	<100	994	301							
SS-30	12/13/94	<100	950	111							
SS-30D	12/13/94	<100	1073	120							
SS-31	12/13/94	<100	1334	385							
SS-32	12/13/94	<100	1343	386							
SS-33	12/13/94	<100	2543 E	469							
SS-34	12/13/94	<100	1081	628	12/15/94	<100	1188	692	N/A	-9	-10
SS-35	12/13/94	<100	1724	408							
SS-36	12/13/94	<100	702	201							
SS-37	12/13/94	<100	821	86							
SS-38	12/13/94	<100	458	180							
SS-39	12/13/94	<100	1928	314	12/15/94	<100	1796	388	N/A	7	-21
SS-40	12/13/94	<100	1016	237							
SS-40D	12/13/94	<100	1043	233							
SS-41	12/13/94	<100	449	125							
SS-42	12/13/94	<100	637	273							

E: Sample result exceeds calibrated range

VER1220.W1

**TABLE 3: VERDESE CARTER PARK XRF SOIL SAMPLE AND SAMPLE REANALYSIS REPORT**

SAMPLE	PRIMARY ANALYSIS				REANALYSIS				As RPD	Pb RPD	Zn RPD
	DATE	ARSENIC	LEAD	ZINC	DATE	ARSENIC	LEAD	ZINC			
SS-43	12/13/94	<100	406	189							
SS-44	12/13/94	<100	1209	363							
SS-45	12/13/94	<100	645	293	12/15/94	<100	639	354	N/A	1	-19
SS-46	12/13/94	<100	1489	224							
SS-47	12/14/94	<100	482	345							
SS-48	12/14/94	<100	446	268							
SS-49	12/14/94	<100	163	152	12/15/94	<100	159	160	N/A	2	-5
SS-50	12/14/94	<100	261	238							
SS-51	12/14/94	<100	696	334							
SS-52	12/14/94	<100	225	140							
SS-53	12/14/94	<100	142	131							
SS-54	12/14/94	<100	757	292	12/15/94	<100	743	253	N/A	2	14
SS-55	12/14/94	<100	555	474							
SS-56	12/14/94	<100	374	220							
SS-57	12/14/94	<100	340	346							
SS-58	12/14/94	<100	281	252							
SS-59	12/14/94	<100	659	478	12/15/94	<100	665	469	N/A	-1	2
SS-60	12/14/94	<100	683	395							
SS-60D	12/14/94	<100	563	347							
SS-61	12/14/94	<100	733	182							
SS-62	12/14/94	<100	338	257							
SS-63	12/14/94	<100	5456	355	12/15/94	<100	5203 E	353	N/A	5	1
SS-64	12/14/94	<100	633	250							
SS-65	12/14/94	<100	874	307							
SS-66	12/14/94	<100	701	113							
SS-67	12/14/94	<100	722	133							
SS-68	12/14/94	<100	508	199							
SS-69	12/14/94	<100	679	595							
SS-70	12/14/94	<100	3352	557	12/15/94	<100	3140 E	558	N/A	7	-0
SS-71	12/14/94	<100	490	180							
SS-72	12/14/94	<100	1718	345							
SS-73	12/14/94	<100	3230	210	12/15/94	<100	3299 E	223	N/A	-2	-6
SS-74	12/14/94	<100	3827	1319	12/15/94	<100	3782 E	1230	N/A	1	7
SS-75	12/14/94	<100	725	101							
SS-76	12/14/94	<100	488	332							
SS-77	12/14/94	<100	570	221							
SS-78	12/14/94	<100	1241	281							
SS-79	12/14/94	<100	915	174							
SS-80	12/14/94	<100	2321	740	12/15/94	<100	2320 E	765	N/A	0	-3
SS-80D	12/14/94	<100	1933	691							
SS-81	12/14/94	<100	1928	1177							
SS-82	12/14/94	<100	2048	416							
SS-83	12/14/94	<100	939	632							
SS-84	12/14/94	<100	1100	717							
SS-85	12/14/94	<100	1129	585	12/15/94	<100	1140	555	N/A	-1	5
SS-86	12/14/94	<100	361	216							

E: Sample result exceeds calibrated range

**TABLE 3: VERDESE CARTER PARK XRF SOIL SAMPLE AND SAMPLE REANALYSIS REPORT**

SAMPLE	PRIMARY ANALYSIS				REANALYSIS				As RPD	Pb RPD	Zn RPD
	DATE	ARSENIC	LEAD	ZINC	DATE	ARSENIC	LEAD	ZINC			
SS-87	12/14/94	<100	795	190							
SS-88	12/14/94	<100	362	207							
SS-89	12/14/94	<100	522	193							
SS-90	12/14/94	<100	2172	438	12/15/94	<100	2206 E	473	N/A	-2	-8
SS-91	12/14/94	<100	1078	396							
SS-92	12/14/94	<100	785	445							
SS-93	12/14/94	<100	1043	826							
SS-94	12/14/94	<100	119	155							
SS-95	12/14/94	<100	656	211							
SS-96	12/14/94	<100	1232	183	12/15/94	<100	1190	229	N/A	3	-22
SS-97	12/14/94	<100	570	148							
SS-98	12/14/94	<100	658	191							
SS-99	12/14/94	<100	1411	1731	12/15/94	<100	1474	1910	N/A	-4	-10
SS-100	12/14/94	<100	1862	283	12/15/94	<100	1734	324	N/A	7	-14
SS-100D	12/14/94	<100	1718	319							
SS-101	12/14/94	<100	423	208							
SS-102	12/14/94	<100	243	250							
SS-103	12/14/94	<100	1535	733							
SS-104	12/14/94	<100	828	270							
SS-105	12/14/94	<100	552	797							
SS-106	12/15/94	<100	71	88							
SS-107	12/15/94	<100	166	122							
SS-108	12/15/94	<100	798	141							
SS-109	12/15/94	<100	434	161							
SS-110	12/15/94	<100	671	273							
SS-110D	12/15/94	<100	794	158							
SS-111	12/15/94	<100	2358	461	12/21/94	<100	2396 E	492	N/A	-2	-7
SS-112	12/15/94	<100	1164	303							
SS-113	12/15/94	<100	332	131							
SS-114	12/15/94	<100	2234	477	12/21/94	<100	2207 E	468	N/A	1	2
SS-115	12/15/94	<100	144	165							
SS-116	12/15/94	<100	355	128							
SS-117	12/15/94	<100	413	92							
SS-118	12/15/94	<100	<50	<50							
SS-119	12/15/94	<100	293	99							
SS-120	12/15/94	<100	1054	191	12/21/94	<100	1129	214	N/A	-7	-11
SS-121	12/15/94	<100	374	125							
SS-122	12/15/94	<100	1267	335	12/21/94	<100	1370	309	N/A	-8	8
SS-123	12/15/94	<100	313	121							
SS-124	12/15/94	<100	<50	118							
SS-125	12/15/94	<100	89	119							
SS-126	12/16/94	<100	1160	714							
SS-127	12/16/94	<100	721	128							
SS-128	12/16/94	<100	3999	862	12/21/94	<100	3449 E	822	N/A	15	5
SS-129	12/16/94	<100	308	194							
SS-130	12/16/94	<100	490	162							

E: Sample result exceeds calibrated range

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**TABLE 3: VERDESE CARTER PARK XRF SOIL SAMPLE AND SAMPLE REANALYSIS REPORT**

SAMPLE	PRIMARY ANALYSIS				REANALYSIS				As RPD	Pb RPD	Zn RPD
	DATE	ARSENIC	LEAD	ZINC	DATE	ARSENIC	LEAD	ZINC			
SS-130D	12/16/94	<100	338	194							
SS-131	12/16/94	<100	947	79							
SS-132	12/16/94	<100	773	179							
SS-133	12/16/94	<100	918	121	12/21/94	<100	877	140	N/A	5	-15
SS-134	12/16/94	<100	1076	466							
SS-135	12/16/94	<100	399	259							
SS-136	12/16/94	<100	1036	351	12/21/94	<100	1036	483	N/A	0	-32
SS-137	12/16/94	<100	475	308							
SS-138	12/16/94	<100	2918	795							
SS-139	12/16/94	<100	1631	572							
SS-140	12/16/94	<100	2249	1272	12/21/94	<100	2189 E	1285	N/A	3	-1
SS-141	12/16/94	<100	1717	898							
SS-142	12/16/94	<100	587	865							
SS-143	12/16/94	<100	167	52							
SS-144	12/16/94	<100	641	269	12/21/94	<100	634	288	N/A	1	-7
SS-145	12/16/94	<100	478	270							
SS-146	12/16/94	<100	932	1150	12/21/94	<100	981	1254	N/A	-5	-9
SS-147	12/16/94	<100	368	132							
SS-148	12/16/94	<100	620	181							
SS-149	12/16/94	<100	512	251							
SS-150	12/16/94	<100	1470	1018	12/21/94	<100	1480	1051	N/A	-1	-3
SS-150D	12/16/94	<100	1622	1247	12/21/94	<100	1606	1362	N/A	1	-9
SS-151	12/16/94	<100	625	268							
SS-152	12/16/94	<100	3676	560	12/21/94	<100	3748 E	402	N/A	-2	33
SS-153	12/16/94	<100	419	191							
SS-154	12/16/94	<100	>9999	474	12/21/94	<100	>9999 E	481	N/A	N/A	-1
SS-155	12/16/94	<100	465	156							
SS-156	12/16/94	<100	396	415							
SS-157	12/16/94	<100	865	317	12/21/94	<100	891	313	N/A	-3	1
SS-158	12/16/94	<100	607	603							
SS-159	12/16/94	<100	537	330							
SS-160	12/16/94	<100	53	66							
SS-161	12/16/94	<100	963	343	12/21/94	<100	919	324	N/A	5	6
SS-162	12/16/94	<100	233	278							
SS-163	12/16/94	<100	176	167							
SS-164	12/16/94	<100	409	441							
SS-165	12/16/94	<100	601	157							
SS-166	12/16/94	<100	728	801							
SS-167	12/16/94	<100	1145	880	12/21/94	<100	1213	832	N/A	-6	6
SS-168	12/16/94	<100	705	524							
SS-169	12/16/94	<100	75	<50							
SS-170	12/16/94	<100	403	493	12/21/94	<100	406	524	N/A	-1	-6
SS-170D	12/16/94	<100	330	417	12/21/94	<100	361	420	N/A	-9	-1
SS-171	12/16/94	<100	130	95							
SS-203	12/15/94	<100	220	134							
SS-204	12/15/94	<100	1513	557							

E: Sample result exceeds calibrated range

VER1220.WK

**TABLE 3: VERDESE CARTER PARK XRF SOIL SAMPLE AND SAMPLE REANALYSIS REPORT**

SAMPLE	PRIMARY ANALYSIS				REANALYSIS				As RPD	Pb RPD	Zn RPD
	DATE	ARSENIC	LEAD	ZINC	DATE	ARSENIC	LEAD	ZINC			
SS-205	12/14/94	<100	852	96							
SS-206	12/14/94	<100	2769	478	12/15/94	<100	2891 E	514	N/A	-4	-7
SS-207	12/14/94	<100	656	237							
SS-208	12/14/94	<100	709	324							
SS-209	12/14/94	<100	590	393							
SS-210	12/14/94	<100	665	144							
SS-211	12/14/94	<100	1209	514							
SS-212	12/14/94	<100	804	218							
SS-213	12/14/94	<100	2333	329							
SS-214	12/14/94	<100	401	820							
SS-215	12/15/94	<100	<50	94							
SS-216	12/16/94	<100	601	342							
SS-217	12/16/94	<100	398	200							
SS-218	12/16/94	<100	423	185							
SS-219	12/16/94	<100	65	118							
SS-220	12/16/94	<100	453	246							
BG-1	12/15/94	<100	200	186							
BG-2	12/15/94	<100	318	464							
BG-3	12/15/94	<100	405	290							
BG-4	12/15/94	<100	478	303							
BG-5	12/15/94	<100	694	145							
BG-6	12/15/94	<100	588	259							
BG-7	12/15/94	<100	475	409							
BG-8	12/15/94	<100	722	190	12/21/94	<100	743	234	N/A	-3	-21
BG-9	12/15/94	<100	857	938							
BG-10	12/15/94	<100	856	352							
BG-10D	12/15/94	<100	964	347							
BG-11	12/15/94	<100	1583	916	12/21/94	<100	1564	1013	N/A	1	-10
BG-12	12/15/94	<100	660	291							
BG-13	12/15/94	<100	442	414							
BG-14	12/15/94	<100	307	184							
BG-15	12/15/94	<100	419	313							
BG-16	12/15/94	<100	1524	518		<100	1654	523	N/A	-8	-1
									<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-4.7</b>
									<b>STD</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>12.1</b>

E: Sample result exceeds calibrated range

VER1220.W



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

JAN 24 1995

The Honorable Dezie Woods-Jones  
Council Member, District 7  
The City of Oakland  
One City Hall Plaza  
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: Verdese Carter Park Residential Soil Sampling**

Dear Councilmember Woods-Jones:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the results of EPA's recent soil sampling from residential yards located adjacent to Verdese Carter Park.

As you know, Verdese Carter Park is an approximately 3 acre park located at 96th and Bancroft Avenues in Oakland, California. The park was constructed in approximately 1978 on property formerly used by a lead battery manufacturer. These historic manufacturing activities resulted in the contamination of soils with lead. For the past 18 months, EPA has been coordinating with Alameda County to provide technical assistance and oversight to the City of Oakland for the removal of lead contaminated soils from the park. To date, approximately 15,000 cubic yards of soil have been removed from the park and all confirmation samples indicate the cleanup has met the remediation goals.

While the cleanup of the park is complete, EPA has recently conducted soil sampling to determine if contamination is present in yards adjacent to the park (see Attachment 1 for sampling locations). Preliminary analytical results (summarized in Attachment 2) indicate that elevated levels of lead are present in yards of several homes located near the corner of 98th Avenue and Sunnyside Street. These yards are located in an area directly adjacent to the former battery manufacturer where significant contamination was detected and large quantities of soil have been removed. Although the soil samples taken from these yards were analyzed using a field screening device, fixed laboratory confirmation samples indicate a strong correlation between the field and laboratory. This confirmation analyses gives us a high degree of confidence that the field samples are truly representative of these yards (copies of the analytical results and a graph of the correlation analysis are contained in Attachment 3).

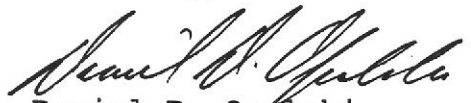
In addition to the elevated lead levels in yards directly adjacent to the former battery facility, there are also isolated areas of elevated lead that are not located near areas where battery manufacturing occurred. The relative age of the homes where isolated elevated lead levels were detected, and the fact that flaking paint was observed in some of the samples with the highest concentrations of lead, suggest that lead-based paint may also be a source of lead contamination in the area of the park. For this reason, EPA is currently coordinating with the Alameda County Health Department, the California Department of Health Services, and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ASTDR) to develop an appropriate response strategy to address the potential for combined lead exposures near the park.

EPA is also proposing to conduct a number of activities in the next few weeks as follow-up to our sampling: immediately notify the residents of the homes with the highest soil lead levels; provide advice to these residents for reducing their potential exposure to lead; recommend that young children that live or frequently visit these yards have their blood tested for lead; and evaluate potential mitigation/abatement options.

In addition to the immediate activities listed above, EPA is also planning to conduct the following activities in the next few months: prepare a fact sheet for distribution to the residents surrounding the park; conduct a public forum to present the results of our sampling, present our proposed sampling approach and respond to questions from the community; and conduct additional sampling to define the extent and contribution of lead contamination from the former battery facility.

In closing, we would like to continue to develop our partnership with the City of Oakland involving our activities near Verdese Carter Park. To this end, please contact me at (415) 744-2362 or Michael Bellot of my staff at (415) 744-2364 if you have suggestions regarding EPA's proposed activities or if you have questions or comments on any of the attached information.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski  
Chief, Superfund Enforcement  
Programs Section

Attachments



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

022 2 4 199

Mr. Steven M. Schwartzberg  
Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
2000 Embarcadero, Suite #300  
Oakland, California 94606

**RE: Verdese Carter Park**

Dear Mr. Schwartzberg:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the results of EPA's recent soil sampling from residential yards located adjacent to Verdese Carter Park.

As you know, Verdese Carter Park is an approximately 3 acre park located at 96th and Bancroft Avenues in Oakland, California. The park was constructed in approximately 1978 on property formerly used by a lead battery manufacturer. These historic manufacturing activities resulted in the contamination of soils with lead. For the past 18 months, EPA has been working directly with Alameda County to provide oversight to the City of Oakland for the removal of lead contaminated soils from the park and the Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry (ATSDR) has been coordinating with Alameda County on blood lead testing at the nearby Cox Elementary School. To date, approximately 15,000 cubic yards of soil have been removed from the park and all confirmation samples indicate the cleanup has met the remediation goals. Meanwhile, Alameda County has obtained and evaluated over 600 blood lead samples.

While the cleanup of the park is complete, EPA has recently conducted soil sampling to determine if contamination is present in yards adjacent to the park (see Attachment 1 for sampling locations). Preliminary analytical results (summarized in Attachment 2) indicate that elevated levels of lead are present in yards of several homes located near the corner of 98th Avenue and Sunnyside Street. These yards are located in an area directly adjacent to the former battery manufacturer where significant contamination was detected and large quantities of soil have been removed. Although the soil samples taken from these yards were analyzed using a field screening device, fixed laboratory confirmation samples indicate a strong correlation between the field and laboratory. This confirmation analyses gives us a high degree of confidence that the field samples are

truly representative of these yards (copies of the analytical results and a graph of the correlation analysis are contained in Attachment 3).

In addition to the elevated lead levels in yards directly adjacent to the former battery facility, there are also isolated areas of elevated lead that are not located near areas where battery manufacturing occurred. The relative age of the homes where isolated elevated lead levels were detected, and the fact that flaking paint was observed in some of the samples with the highest concentrations of lead, suggest that lead-based paint may also be a source of lead contamination in this community. For this reason, EPA would like to coordinate with Alameda County to develop an appropriate response strategy to address the potential for combined lead exposures in the vicinity of the park.

EPA is proposing to conduct a number of activities in the near future as follow-up to our sampling: immediately notify the residents of the homes with the highest soil lead levels; provide advice to these residents for reducing their potential exposure to lead; recommend that young children that live or frequently visit these yards have their blood tested for lead; and evaluate potential mitigation/abatement options. In addition to these near-term activities, EPA would like to conduct additional sampling to determine the extent and contribution of lead contamination from the former battery facility and develop a coordinated multi-agency outreach program.

Using the approach outlined above, and building upon our past work with Alameda County, we believe we can cooperatively and positively address the lead contamination identified near Verdese Carter Park. EPA appreciates Alameda County's past assistance and we hope to continue to benefit from your expertise in devising and carrying out a coordinated response.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the attachments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 744-2362 or Michael Bellot of my staff at (415) 744-2364.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski  
Chief, Superfund Enforcement  
Programs Section

Attachments