



OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

# Report on Subsurface Contamination in OUSD *CBOC* - February 13, 2023 -



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# Ask of the Committee

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- Receive presentation regarding and discuss, as desired, subsurface contamination in OUSD
- Presentation will cover
  - General overview of subsurface contamination
  - McClymonds and the Acorn Woodland/EnCompass campus
  - District-wide impact
  - Next steps
- Presentation to Facilities Committee in November 2021 contains similar information as well as maps and more detailed information on each school site

# Subsurface Contamination

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- Focus here is on indoor air intrusion from Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
  - Human-made chemicals used in manufacturing and industrial practices
  - Examples: benzene, formaldehyde, tetrachloroethylene (PCE), Trichloroethylene (TCE)
  - Suspected long-term effects of VOCs: organ damage, cancer
    - Exception: Possible birth defects from short-term exposure to TCE

# We're NOT talking about...

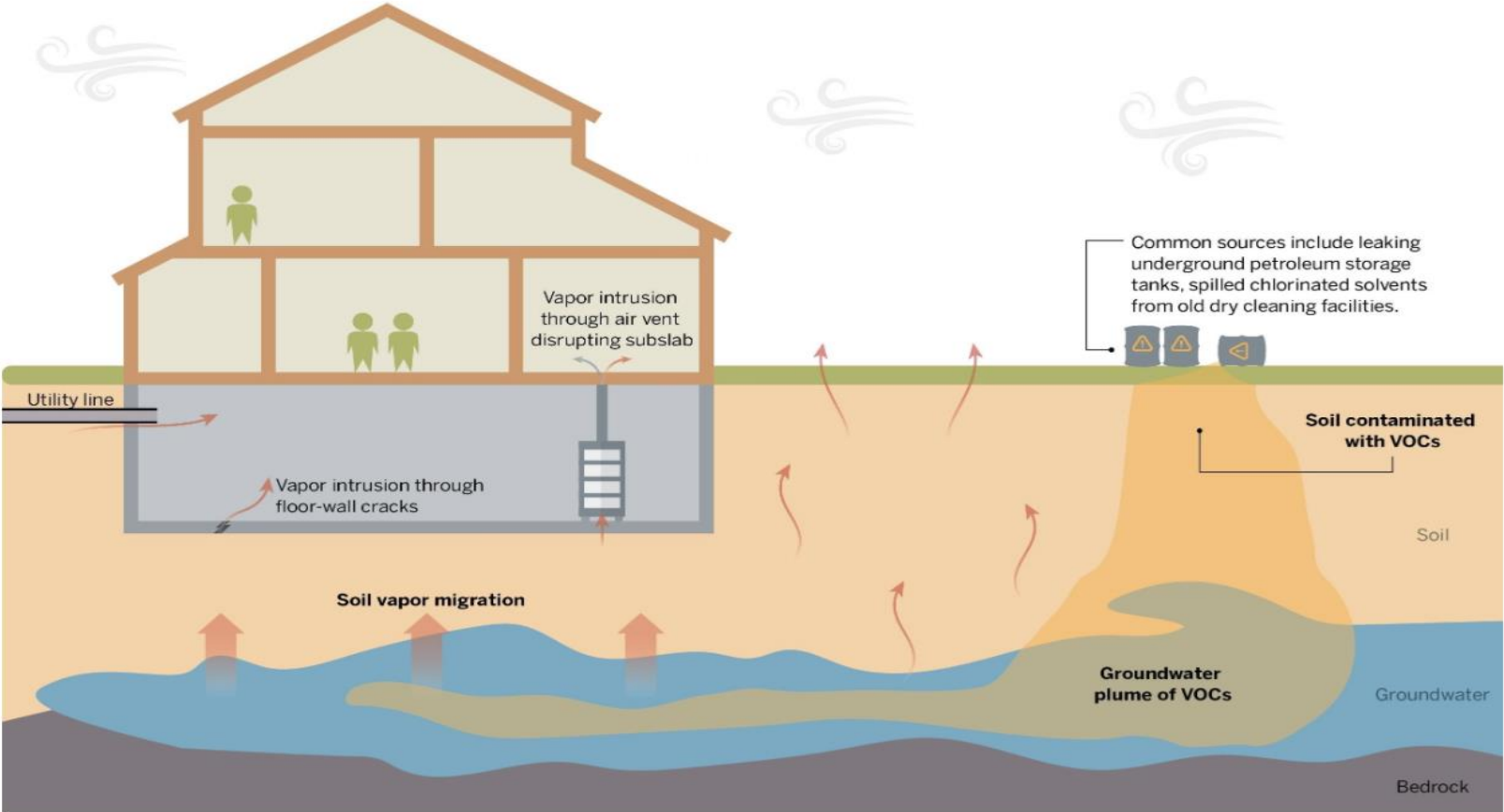
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~~Contaminated Drinking Water~~

~~Heavy Metals~~

~~Air Pollution~~

# Subsurface Contamination → Indoor Air



# Testing

## Groundwater



## Soil Vapor



## Indoor Air



*\* Indoor air testing is paired with outdoor testing to determine original of indoor air concentrations*

# Risk Mitigation

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- VOCs are everywhere
  - Can come from external sources: subsurface, outdoor air
  - Can come from internal sources: off-gassing of furniture, use of chemicals inside for cleaning, printers
- So the important questions are...

**1) In what concentrations are VOCs present in indoor air in OUSD schools?**

**2) At what concentrations are VOCs dangerous to students and staff?**

# Screening Levels

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- Threshold set at one in a million risk of adverse health impact from long-term exposure:
  - Odds of being hit by lightning in the U.S. in any given year: 1 in 700,000
- Below screening levels
  - Generally no further action required
- Above screening levels
  - Further investigation/action is warranted



# McClymonds

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- Former fuel oil tank was removed in 1997
- In order to “close” site, groundwater was tested
- TCE detected (offsite source; NOT from oil tank)
- Closed school out of abundance of caution & risk from TCE
- Indoor air testing commenced immediately and subsequent indoor air testing on quarterly basis
- **Indoor air continues to be safe for students and staff**
  - Samplings to date are “below de minimis,” which means “not presenting threat to human health or environment”

# Acorn Woodland/EnCompass

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- After McClymonds, Alameda County Dept of Environmental Health staff began to examine known VOC release sites near OUSD school campuses
- Acorn Woodland/EnCompass Campus was identified
- Indoor air testing commenced immediately
- Will test again in different season
- **Indoor air continues to be safe for students and staff!**
  - Samplings to date are “below de minimis,” which means “not presenting threat to human health or environment”

# District Wide Problem

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- McClymonds became known to OUSD due to testing for unrelated issue
- Acorn Woodland/EnCompass became known to OUSD because county reached out (after being put on notice from McClymonds)
- But this is a District Wide problem due to historic and present environmental racism and injustice
  - Need to advocate for state funding/solution

# Next Steps

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- Entering into contract with third party expert to project manage risk assessment and testing process
  - Analyze risk at school sites
  - Conduct testing (if necessary)
  - Recommend mitigation strategies (if necessary)
- Current funding is not from bond funds
  - But such funds would be a permissible use due to the fact that mitigation strategies are likely to require construction



# Quality Schools in Every Neighborhood!



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