PEER
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
2000 P Street, NW • Suite 240 • Washington, D.C. 20036 • 202-265-PEER(7337) • fax: 202-265-4192
e-mail: info@peer.org • website: www.peer.org

March 18, 2014

Sandra Lyon, Superintendent of Schools
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
1651 16th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90404

By postal mail and email to slyon@smmusd.org

Dear Superintendent Lyon,

We are writing on behalf of the Concerned Malibu/Cabrillo Teachers on whose behalf we have written you several times before; and the new organization Malibu Unites, a collaboration of parents, teachers, community members, celebrity environmentalists, medical professionals, scientists and environmental organizations working together for healthy, toxin-free schools.

We are pleased that you and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control have now committed in writing to the soil testing of all three campuses that we have been seeking over the last several months. This is an important step in the right direction. While we are pleased the District is publicly pledging to conduct soil testing, it must ensure that the testing is comprehensive and the affected communities are truly involved. We want to ensure that testing and remediation extend to all areas of all three campuses, both indoors and out, and address all potential toxins. Testing and remediation must be planned and carried out in a fully transparent manner with full community involvement, so that it will be meet the highest scientific standards and will succeed in fully resolving all community concerns. We certainly do not want to see an additional major effort and expenditure that will not in the end satisfy community concerns. We believe it is in the interest of the District as well as the parents, teachers and students, to carry out this process in a manner that will assure everyone that the school environment is safe and healthy.

In order to do this, we request that all testing and remediation plans and protocols, as well as proposed community surveys, be posted publically and subject to public comment before adoption, and that funding be provided for the community to hire independent experts to oversee the entire process of test planning, testing and remediation.

Sincerely,

Paula Dinerstein
Senior Counsel

Jennifer de Nicola
President,
Malibu Unites

Jeff Ruch
Executive Director

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

cc: Jared Blumenfeld, EPA Region IX Administrator
Patrick Wilson, Region IX, EPA
Steve Armann, Region IX, EPA
Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. EPA
Deborah Raphael, Director, California Department of Toxic Substances Control
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Henry Waxman
State Senator Fran Pavley