

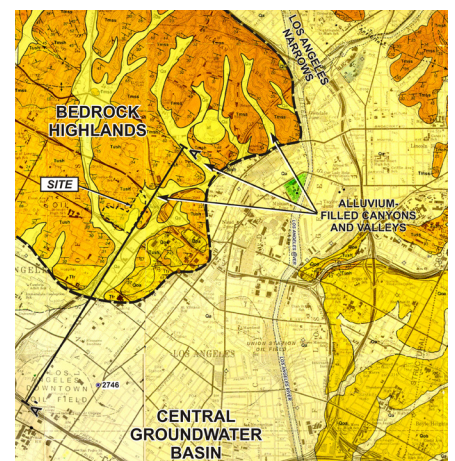
VISTA HERMOSA

Keeping Schools Safe in Los Angeles

Project Type	Site Investigation / Remediation
Project Location	Los Angeles, California
Project Size	
Client	Los Angeles Unified School District
Date Completed	2005
Services Provided	Soil and Soil Vapor Sampling, Geophysical Surveys



In 2003, after 15 years of environmental study, the Los Angeles Unified School District considered abandoning a partially constructed high school because of unresolved environmental concerns. The Planning Center was retained to complete the environmental review process and secure regulatory approval for the Vista Hermosa Project (formerly the Belmont Learning Center). A comprehensive Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was prepared, and focused soil and soil vapor sampling and geophysical surveys were conducted. Field activities also involved monitoring oil field pressures and abandoning four inactive oil wells. The baseline health risk assessment determined that naturally occurring methane and hydrogen sulfide gases presented an unacceptable health hazard.



The FS evaluated three remedial action alternatives. The preferred alternative combined impermeable gas barriers, raised floors with subfloor venting and passive venting of open areas, gas detection and alarm systems, and an aggressive gas monitoring program. The Planning Center also prepared a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) that provided detailed engineering drawings and specifications. The RAP was accompanied by a plan that directed procedures to confirm the effectiveness of the gas mitigation system and ensure the continued safety of future site occupants. The Department of Toxic Substances Control approved the RAP in 2005, allowing construction of the new high school to proceed.

