

KENSINGTON POLICE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

KENSINGTON COMMUNITY NOTICE

It has recently been discovered, thanks to the astute observation of a Kensington resident, that there is a small outcropping of what is known as “serpentine” rock in the Kensington Park. This is significant because serpentine rock is known to contain a form of asbestos known as “chrysotile,” which can be hazardous to those exposed to it depending on the amount of chrysotile fibers breathed into the lungs over a long period of time.

Because asbestos becomes a hazard only if it enters the breathing zone in significant amounts, it is important to avoid situations that make it become airborne. Accordingly, I have taken steps to fence off the area so that nobody can enter and create any disturbance of the material.

At this stage, we are unsure of the degree of the hazard posed by this phenomenon, although preliminary sampling of the material has indicated the presence of chrysotile in the range of 2 to 3 percent, which is considered sufficient to constitute a potential hazard if it enters the breathing zone in significant amounts. It is for this reason that we are preventing access to the specific marked off area in the park until we have a better handle on how to mitigate any hazard the presence of this serpentine rock may pose.

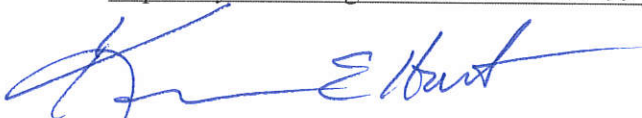
We will soon be retaining an expert to help us determine the degree of actual hazard posed by this situation, and we will also be contacting the East Bay Regional Parks District to determine how they have dealt with this phenomenon over time in some of the East Bay Parkland, which we understand they have had experience with.

We will be updating this information on the District Website as we receive it.

More information about the presence of serpentine rock in California can be found in the articles contained in the links below.

<https://ww2.kqed.org/quest/2010/08/05/learn-the-facts-about-serpentinite-before-its-removed-as-californias-state-rock/>,

<http://baynature.org/article/should-we-be-worried-about-asbestos-in-serpentine-rock/>.



Kevin E. Hart
Kensington Interim General Manager

Date: September 22, 2016