



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

April 21, 2023

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Julie Arthur
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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOL FIELD LIGHTING PROJECT (SCH #2006011095)

Dear Ms. Arthur:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received the Notice of Preparation of Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Rancho Mirage High School Field Lighting Project (RMHS) located at 31001 Rattler Road in the City of Rancho Mirage. The SEIR includes project description and analyzes environmental impacts from project activities.

The Palm Springs Unified School District is proposing field lighting improvements at RMHS around the perimeter of the baseball, softball, and soccer fields. The proposed lighting improvements would include 38 lighting fixtures on poles ranging in height from 50 feet to 100 feet tall. All luminaries would utilize light emitting diode (LED) technology and would be fixed to cast light downward to reduce spill onto adjacent properties. The proposed lighting improvements of the athletic fields was prompted by the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 328, which requires high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. The proposed lights would safely allow use of the athletic fields into the evening hours and the design meets the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) recommended lighting levels.

DTSC recommends the following items be addressed in the SEIR:

1. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment is necessary to identify any recognized environmental conditions. If state funding is anticipated, then DTSC review/approval is required pursuant to California Education Code. For school projects that do not require state funding, DTSC recommends environmental review under the DTSC school program oversight to ensure the school is safe for students and staff.
2. Identify the mechanism to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation, if needed, and the government agency to provide appropriate regulatory oversight.
3. Identify whether the site was previously used for agriculture. If the site was used for agricultural or related activities, residual pesticides may be present in onsite soil. DTSC recommends investigation and mitigation, as necessary, to address potential impact to human health and environment from residual pesticides.
4. Discuss potential presence of hazardous chemicals related to building materials, such as lead-based paints, mercury, and asbestos containing materials. If these chemicals are identified, removal and disposal should be conducted in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations and policies.
5. If there are any recognized environmental conditions in the project area, then proper investigation, sampling and remedial actions overseen by the appropriate regulatory agencies should be conducted prior to the new development or any construction. DTSC recommends environmental review under the DTSC schools program oversight prior to construction to ensure the school is safe for students and staff.
6. Discuss whether project may require soil excavation or backfill in certain areas. If soil is contaminated, it must be properly characterized and disposed of. If the project proposes to import soil to backfill the areas excavated, DTSC recommends sampling be conducted in accordance with DTSC's Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/SMP_FS_Cleanfill-Schools.pdf)
7. Discuss procedures to be taken if the soil and/or groundwater contamination is suspected during construction/demolition in the project area.
8. Discuss procedures to be taken if the soil and/or groundwater contamination is suspected during construction/demolition in the project area.

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Johnson P. Abraham, Project Manager, at (714) 484-5380 or Johnson.Abraham@dtsc.ca.gov or me at (714) 484-5368 or Shahir.Haddad@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



For Shahir Haddad, P.E.
Supervising Engineer
Brownfields Restoration and School Evaluation Branch
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program

mm/ja/sh

cc: (via e-mail)

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