



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 13, 2023

Julie Arthur

Executive Director

Palm Springs Unified School District

150 District Center Drive

Palm Springs, CA 92264

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Oct 13 2023

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: REVISED SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (SEIR) FOR THE RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOL FIELD LIGHTING PROJECT REVISED SEIR DATED OCTOBER 04, 2023 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # [2006011095](#)

Dear Julie Arthur:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a SEIR for the Rancho Mirage High School Field Lighting Project Revised SEIR. The proposed Project includes field lighting improvements at Rancho Mirage High School around the perimeter of the baseball, softball, soccer, and practice fields. The proposed lighting improvements would include 39 lighting fixtures on poles ranging in height from 50 feet to 90 feet tall. All luminaries would utilize LED technology and would be fixed to cast light downward to reduce spill onto adjacent properties. Based on our Project review, DTSC requests consideration of the following comments.

1. If the district plans to use State funds for the project, then the district shall comply with the requirements of California Education Code (CDE),

sections 17210, 17213.1 and 17213.2, unless otherwise specifically exempted under section 17268. If the district is not using State funds for the project, or is otherwise specifically exempted under section 17268, DTSC recommends the district continue to investigate and clean up the Site, if necessary, under the oversight of Riverside County and in concurrence with all applicable DTSC guidance documents.

A local education agency may also voluntarily request the CDE site/plan approval for locally funded site acquisitions and new construction projects. In these cases, CDE will require DTSC to review and approve prior to its final approval, except when exempt under section 17268.

2. Because the project is school site related, DTSC recommends that an environmental review, such as a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and/or Preliminary Environmental Assessment, be conducted to determine whether there has been or may have been a release or threatened release of a hazardous material, or whether a naturally occurring hazardous material is present based on reasonably available information about the property and the areas in its vicinity. Such an environmental review should generally be conducted as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. If the District elects to proceed and conduct an environmental assessment at the Site under DTSC oversight, it should enter into an Environmental Oversight Agreement with DTSC to oversee the preparation of the environmental assessment.
3. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any project sites included in the proposed project, surveys should be conducted for the presence of lead-based paints or products, mercury, asbestos containing materials, and polychlorinated biphenyl caulk. Removal, demolition, and disposal of any of the above-mentioned chemicals

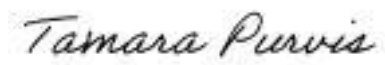
should be conducted in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. In addition, sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's 2006 [Interim Guidance Evaluation of School Sites with Potential Contamination from Lead Based Paint, Termiticides, and Electrical Transformers](#)

4. If any projects initiated as part of the proposed project require the importation of soil to backfill any excavated areas, proper sampling should be conducted to ensure that the imported soil is free of contamination. DTSC recommends the imported materials be characterized according to [DTSC's 2001 Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material](#) webpage.

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Rancho Mirage High School Field Lighting Project's Revised SEIR. If you would like to proceed with DTSC's school environmental review process, please visit [DTSC's Evaluating & Clean-up School 3-Step Process](#) to begin a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment.

Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances. If you have any questions or would like any clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via [email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,



Tamara Purvis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control

Julie Arthur
October 13, 2023
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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Planning and
Research State Clearinghouse
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Mr. Dave Kereazis
Associate Environmental Planner
CEQA Unit - HWMP
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov

Scott Wiley
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
HWMP – Permitting Division - CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov