



Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D.
Acting Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

October 7, 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 07 2019

Mr. Phillip Alfano
Superintendent
Patterson School District
510 Keystone Boulevard
Patterson, California 95363

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

DRAFT INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PATTERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT WALNUT GROVE SCHOOL NEW ADDITIONS PROJECT, WALNUT AVENUE AND NORTH HARTLEY STREET, PATTERSON, STANISLAUS COUNTY (SCH #2019099061)

Dear Mr. Alfano:

The Northern California Schools Unit of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reviewed the draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Patterson School District Walnut Grove School New Additions Project (Project) proposed by the Patterson School District (District). The due date to submit comments is October 17, 2019.

As reported in the IS/MND, the proposed Project includes the new construction of two classroom buildings at Walnut Grove School in Patterson, California.

Based on a review of the draft IS/MND, DTSC would like to provide the following comment:

1. Currently, the District is working with DTSC to finalize a Phase I Environmental Assessment (Phase I, Chico Environmental Science and Planning) that reviewed past and present land use practices, site operations and conditions, and nearby off-site land uses to evaluate the potential for soil and/or groundwater contamination of the site. The Phase I concludes that no evidence was revealed of a historical, controlled, or active recognized environmental conditions at the site and recommends a determination of no action required. At the time of this letter, DTSC is working with the District to revise the document based on comments provided by DTSC and is expected ultimately to approve the Phase I and issue a determination

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of no action required. It is DTSC's recommendation that the IS/MND be revised to include the revised Phase I and DTSC's approval letter once they are issued.

DTSC is also administering the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program, which provides revolving loans to investigate and clean up hazardous materials at properties where redevelopment is likely to have a beneficial impact to a community. These loans are available to developers, businesses, schools, and local governments.

For additional information on DTSC's Schools process or RLF Program, please visit DTSC's web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (916) 255-3695, or via email at bud.duke@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Harold (Bud) Duke, PG
Northern California Schools Unit
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program

cc: (via email)

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