



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Gavin Newsom
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SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 22, 2024

Noelle Tomlinson

Planner

Kings County Community Development Agency

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RE: ADDENDUM FOR THE MODIFICATION NO. 1 TO CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 20-02 (GRAPE SOLAR PROJECT AND GEN-TIE LINE), DATED AUGUST 8, 2024, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2021030459](#)

Dear Noelle Tomlinson,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received an Addendum (ADM) for the Modification No. 1 to Conditional Use Permit No. 20-02 (Grape Solar Project and Gen-Tie Line) project (Project). The applicant proposes to amend a previously approved Conditional Use Permit for a 250-megawatt commercial solar photovoltaic facility with battery storage located at 24770 Nevada Ave. in Stratford, California. Three modifications are proposed within the ADM, Modification One is to exchange 640 acres with the previously approved [Conditional Use Permit No. 22-05 \(Westlands Cherry Solar Project\)](#). Modification Two proposes to relocate the substation and project operations area approximately 0.9 mile north and Modification Three proposes to include a 120' x 80' steel storage building for spare parts to be located in the project operations yard.

DTSC previously [commented](#) on the Westlands Cherry Solar Project due to the site encompassing a site that DTSC has identified for need of further investigation for potential remediation, the [Lemoore Auxiliary Field #4 site](#). Due to the restructuring of the boundary of the Westlands Cherry Solar Project, the Lemoore Auxiliary Field #4 site is now within the boundary of the Grape Solar Project and Gen-Tie Line. Due to the Lemoore Auxiliary Field #4 site being transferred within this Project's boundaries, we are submitting these comments for the record.

DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. The environmental document should acknowledge the potential for historic or future activities on or near the project site to result in the release of hazardous wastes/substances on the project site. In instances in which releases have occurred or may occur further studies should be carried out to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination, and the potential threat to public health and/or the environment should be evaluated. The environmental document should also identify the mechanism(s) to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation and the government agency who will be responsible for providing appropriate regulatory oversight.
2. DTSC recommends that all imported soil and fill material should be tested to ensure any contaminants of concern are within DTSC's and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Screen Levels for the intended land use. To minimize the possibility of introducing contaminated soil and fill material there should be documentation of the origins of the soil or fill material and, if applicable, sampling be conducted to ensure that the imported soil and fill material meets screening levels outlined in the [Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Guidance Manual](#) for the intended land use. The soil sampling should include analysis based on the source of the fill and knowledge of the prior land use. Additional information can be found by visiting [DTSC's Human and Ecological Risk Office \(HERO\) webpage](#).
3. When agricultural crops and/or land uses are proposed or rezoned for residential use, a number of contaminants of concern (COCs) can be present.

The Lead Agency shall identify the amounts of Pesticides and Organochlorine Pesticides (OCPs) historically used on the property. If present, OCPs requiring further analysis are dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane, toxaphene, and dieldrin. Additionally, any level of arsenic present would require further analysis and sampling and must meet [HHRA NOTE NUMBER 3, DTSC-SLs](#) approved thresholds. If they are not, remedial action must take place to mitigate them below those thresholds.

4. Additional COCs may be found in mixing/loading/storage areas, drainage ditches, farmhouses, or any other outbuildings and should be sampled and analyzed. If smudge pots had been routinely utilized, additional sampling for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and/or Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons may be required.

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the ADM for the Modification No. 1 to Conditional Use Permit No. 20-02 (Grape Solar Project and Gen-Tie Line) project. 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,



Dave Kereazis
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Nicole Tomlinson
August 22, 2024
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cc: (via email)

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