



Jared Blumenfeld
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

March 30, 2022

Mr. Lonnie Bell
Supervising Planner
County of Kern
Planning and Natural Resources Department
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR TINY HOME VILLAGE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS PROJECT – DATED February 25, 2022 (STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2022030234)

Dear Mr. Bell:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Tiny Home Village for Homeless Veterans Project (Project). The Lead Agency is receiving this notice from DTSC because the Project includes one or more of the following: groundbreaking activities, importation of backfill soil, and/or work on or in close proximity to an agricultural or former agricultural site, as described below.

Additionally, an inactive DTSC site, [Action Fabrication and Engineering](#), is located directly south of the Project site at 400 Covey Avenue. DTSC's May 2013 Site Screening Assessment concluded that the site may have utilized chemical solvents in their operations which could have contributed to the tetrachloroethene (PCE) groundwater contamination to the northeast and recommended additional investigation to determine whether the site is a source of groundwater contamination or to determine if there has been a release of hazardous substances. In March 2013, DTSC collected two soil gas samples from locations on Covey Road. PCE was detected in one of the two samples. In addition to DTSC's soil gas sampling, PCE has been detected in groundwater samples collected from supply wells in the vicinity of the Site. DTSC recommends evaluating the proposed Project's location for soil gas concerns and

mitigating soil gas concerns if necessary. DTSC recommends that the following issues be evaluated in the EA:

1. The EA 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 EA 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. 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](#).
3. If any sites included as part of the proposed project have been used for agricultural, weed abatement or related activities, proper investigation for organochlorinated pesticides should be discussed in the EA. DTSC recommends the current and former agricultural lands be evaluated in accordance with DTSC's 2008 [Interim Guidance for Sampling Agricultural Properties \(Third Revision\)](#).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the EA. Should you need any assistance with an environmental investigation, please visit DTSC's [Site Mitigation and Restoration Program](#) page to apply for lead agency oversight. Additional information regarding voluntary agreements with DTSC can be found at [DTSC's Brownfield website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 255-3710 or via email at Gavin.McCreary@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Gavin McCreary
Project Manager
Site Evaluation and Remediation Unit
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control

Mr. Lonnie Bell
March 30, 2022
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cc: (via email)

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