



Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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Ms. Alicia Forsythe
Sites Project Authority
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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE 2022-2024 SITES RESERVOIR GEOLOGIC, GEOPHYSICAL, AND GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS – DATED MAY 2022 (STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2022050480)

Dear Ms. Forsythe:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the 2022-2024 Sites Reservoir Geologic, Geophysical, and Geotechnical Investigations (Project). The Lead Agency is receiving this notice from DTSC because the Project includes one or more of the following: groundbreaking activities, work in close proximity to mining or suspected mining or former mining activities, and/or work on or in close proximity to an agricultural or former agricultural site.

DTSC recommends that the following issues be evaluated in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section of the MND:

1. The MND 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 MND 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 sites within the Project area or sites located within the vicinity of the Project have been used or are suspected of having been used for mining activities, proper investigation for mine waste should be discussed in the MND. DTSC recommends that any Project sites with current and/or former mining operations onsite or in the Project site area should be evaluated for mine waste according to DTSC's 1998 [Abandoned Mine Land Mines Preliminary Assessment Handbook](#).
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 MND. 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 MND. 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

cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Planning
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State Clearinghouse
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