



**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

August 1, 2022

**Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

Andrew Amelung

**AUG 02 2022**

Associate Planner

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Lake County Community Development

255 N. Forbes Street

Lakeport, CA 95453

Andrew.Amelung@lakecountyca.gov

Pura Vineyards Use Permit 20-61 – DATED 07/25/2022 (SCH# 2022070449)

Dear Andrew Amelung,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration IS/MND for the Use Permit 20-61 Pura Vineyards (Project). As mentioned within the IS/MND the Project is near an existing Land Use Covenant, the Benson Ridge Facility.

### **Background**

The IT Corporation, owner of the real property referred to as the Benson Ridge (facility) located in the County of Lake, State of California conducted hazardous waste management operations within an area of approximately 9-acres of the 150-acre parcel (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 7-018-13,7-029-6,7-030-21, and 9-022-01). Operations were conducted under Land Use Permit No. 76-65 issued by the County of Lake on June 3, 1976 and expanded on July 3, 1978.

The Benson Ridge facility received liquid, sludge, and solid wastes from the geothermal industry in the Geysers area. The facility ceased receiving wastes in 1984. Closure of the facility, conducted during 1991 and 1992, consisted of solidifying/stabilizing waste prior to its transfer to the two cells of the Waste Consolidation Area (WCA) located in the northern portion of the facility, construction of an evaporation basin for remediation of impacted groundwater, installation of a groundwater control system, construction of engineered closure covers over the WCA and waste excavation area (WEA), and construction of a surface water runoff control system. Approximately 103,000 cubic yards of waste, subsoils, and solidification agents are contained in the WCA. No wastes remain in the WEA.

Due to the presence of hazardous waste or waste constituents on the above described nine acres of this property, the use of the property is restricted under the California Code of Regulations, Division 4.5 - Environmental Health Standards for Management of Hazardous Waste, Chapter 15 - Interim Status Standards for Owners and Operators of Hazardous Waste Transfer, Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities, Article 7 - Closure and Post-Closure. following restriction exists: the closure covers, and other system components shall not be disturbed or destroyed unless the State of California finds that it is necessary to the proposed use of the property and will not increase the potential hazard to human health or the environment or it is necessary to reduce a threat to human health or the environment.

The declaration and restriction are made in accordance with Title 22 California Code of Regulations, Sections 66265.1 16 and 66265.1 19.

### **Recommendations**

DTSC requests the following:

That the restrictions involving the closure covers, and other system components shall not be disturbed or destroyed, are followed.

That runoff is directed away from the WCA and WEA, to reduce the potential for spreading of contamination from these areas.

**Andrew Amelung**

**8/1/2022**

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If cultivation is to occur within 1000 feet of the WCA and WEA, it is recommended that the soil be tested for potential contaminants.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 255-3638 or via email at [Rebecca.depont@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Rebecca.depont@dtsc.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

*Rebecca De Pont*

**Rebecca De Pont**

Supervising Environmental Planner

CEQA Unit-Permitting/HWMP

(916) 255-3638

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Department of Toxic Substances Control

California Environmental Protection Agency

cc: (via email)

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Mr. Dave Kereazis

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