

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

Subject: FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

Project Title: Removal Action Workplan, Calexico High School Modernization Project

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022080061

Project Location: 1030 Encinas Avenue, Calexico, California 92331

County: Imperial

Project Applicant: Calexico Unified School District

Project Description: The project activities involve the implementation of a removal action workplan (RAW) for the Calexico High School (School) Expansion and Modernization Project, which consists of the modernization and rehabilitation of the School campus including demolition, new construction, and renovation/modernization activities. The project would remove eight buildings and structures and would construct a new administrative building; construct two new Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics classroom buildings; and construct a new multi-purpose room/cafeteria. The purpose of the RAW is to minimize exposure of humans to chemicals of concern (COCs) in soil through the inhalation, dermal absorption, and ingestion exposure pathways; minimize potential for migration of COCs from soil to other media; establish cleanup goals equivalent to DTSC screening levels for residential soil; and establish post-RAW site conditions that do not pose a significant risk to human health, safety, or the environment.

Background: The Site consists of approximately 17.5 acres located within the existing 42.56-acre Calexico High School (School) property. The Site covers most of the western half of the School property. The 42.56-acre property includes the School itself, the Calexico Unified School District's (District) Maintenance Department Facility, and the District's Administrative Department. The property was purchased by the District in 1952 and the first school buildings were constructed shortly thereafter. New buildings and facilities have been constructed over the years since that time. Prior to school development, the parcel was used for agricultural row crop production.

A Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was completed for the Site in June 2021, and a Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) was completed in June 2022. The purpose of the investigations was to establish whether a release or potential release of hazardous materials substances which may pose a threat to human health via ingestion, dermal contact, and inhalation exposure pathways exist at the Site. The results of the ESA and SSI identified the presence of aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin (organochlorine pesticides or OCPs), and arsenic in soil above DTSC recommended screening levels for residential soil. These four soil contaminants are considered the COCs at the Site. The SSI also defined the lateral and vertical extent of OCPs and arsenic in surface and subsurface soil at concentrations exceeding DTSC recommended screening levels for residential soil which consists of approximately 17.5-acres of the overall 42.56-acre parcel.

The Site is bordered to the north by a City of Calexico utility easement, beyond which is East Birch Street (State Hwy 98), and further out commercial and residential development; to the east by the District Maintenance Department Facility, baseball fields, a football field, and a running track, beyond which is Andrade Avenue; to the south by Elmer Belcher Street, beyond which is residential development, Crummett Park, and the Calexico City Library; and to the west by a portion of School property and Encinas Avenue, beyond which is residential development.

Project Activities: The cleanup of the Site will consist of excavation and offsite disposal of soil containing elevated levels of identified COCs. Excavation activities will use loaders, backhoes, large diameter augers, and/or other appropriate equipment. Excavation operations could generate fugitive dust emissions. Therefore, suppressant foam, water spray, and other forms of dust control may be required during excavation, and workers may be required to use personal protective equipment to reduce exposure to the COCs. Confirmation soil sampling and analysis will be conducted to verify that cleanup goals are met at the excavation bottom and sidewalls. Off-site disposal will involve removing impacted soil from the Site and transportation to an appropriate off-site disposal facility.

DTSC utilized information and analysis in the *Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration, Calexico High School Expansion and Modernization Project* (ISMND), to support a final determination about the type of environmental document required to be prepared for the *Removal Action Workplan, Calexico High School Modernization Project*, as provided by Sections 15162, 15163, and 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines. As Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC approved the above-described project on April 27, 2023 and has made the following determinations:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of project approval.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
5. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
 5796 Corporate Avenue
 Cypress, CA 90630
 (714) 484-5300 (call for an appointment)

Additional project information is available on EnviroStor:
www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60003142

Contact Person	Contact Title	Phone Number
Johnson Abraham	Environmental Scientist	(717) 484-5380

Approver's Signature:



Date:

April 27, 2023

Approver's Name	Approver's Title	Approver's Phone Number
Shahir Haddad, P.E.	Acting Branch Chief	(714) 484-5368

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: