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Secretary for
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Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D.
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Gavin Newsom
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SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 27, 2022

Mr. Jonathan Atkinson
City of Fairfield
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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR SUNSET AVENUE APARTMENTS –
DATED AUGUST 2022 (STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2022080702)

Dear Mr. Atkinson:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Sunset Avenue Apartments (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 a roadway, presence of site buildings that may require demolition or modifications, importation of backfill soil, 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. Appendix H of the MND presents a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the Project site dated March 2021. According to the Phase I ESA, the DTSC EnviroStor Database listed the Project site as a “School site” and a Phase I ESA was previously performed in 1999. No reference specific to a 1999 Phase I was provided in the MND or Appendix H of the MND. Additionally, the MND and ESA refer to removal of two underground storage tanks (USTs) in 1986 with oversight from the Solano County Health Services Department. According to the MND and ESA, two samples were collected from the UST excavation and did not indicate that a release of petroleum hydrocarbons had occurred. No additional information is provided regarding removal of the USTs. A State of California environmental regulatory agency such as DTSC or Regional Water

Quality Control Board (RWQCB), or a qualified local agency that meets the requirements of [Assembly Bill 304 \(AB304\)](#) should provide regulatory concurrence that the site is safe for construction and the proposed use.

2. 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.
3. Refiners in the United States started adding lead compounds to gasoline in the 1920s in order to boost octane levels and improve engine performance. This practice did not officially end until 1992 when lead was banned as a fuel additive in California. Tailpipe emissions from automobiles using leaded gasoline contained lead and resulted in aerially deposited lead (ADL) being deposited in and along roadways throughout the state. ADL-contaminated soils still exist along roadsides and medians and can also be found underneath some existing road surfaces due to past construction activities. Due to the potential for ADL-contaminated soil DTSC, recommends collecting soil samples for lead analysis prior to performing any intrusive activities for the project described in the MND.
4. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any project sites included in the proposed project, surveys should be conducted for the presence of lead-based paints or products, mercury, asbestos containing materials, and polychlorinated biphenyl caulk. Removal, demolition and disposal of any of the above-mentioned chemicals should be conducted in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. In addition, sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's 2006 [Interim Guidance Evaluation of School Sites with Potential Contamination from Lead Based Paint, Termiticides, and Electrical Transformers](#).
5. 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](#).

6. 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 choose DTSC to provide oversight for any environmental investigations, 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)

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