



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Gavin Newsom
Governor

November 10, 2022

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Rene Castro, Director
Planning and Development
Riverside Unified School District
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INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE JW NORTH HIGH SCHOOL NEW CLASSROOM BUILDING, GYMNASIUM, AND MODERNIZATION PROJECT (SCH # 2022100217)

Dear Ms. Castro:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received the Initial Study and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the JW North High School New Classroom Building, Gymnasium and Modernization Project (JWNHS). The JWNHS is located at 1550 3rd Street (Chicago Avenue and 3rd Street) in the city of Riverside. The IS/MND includes project description and analyzes environmental impacts from project activities.

JWNHS campus is approximately 43-acres and is developed with nine classroom buildings, an administration building, a library and media center, an existing gymnasium, a cafeteria, thirty-one portables, various athletic facilities, and two surface parking lots. The Riverside Unified School District proposes to the removal of 8 existing portable structures, the renovation of other existing structures, and the construction of one new two-story classroom building, one new gymnasium, and outdoor facilities. In addition to the construction of the new classroom building and gymnasium, the project includes upgrades to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning and lighting in seven existing buildings within the campus as part of the proposed project. New landscaping and irrigation would be provided around the two new buildings.

DTSC recommends the following items be addressed in the IS/MND:

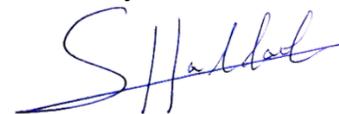
1. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment is necessary to identify any recognized environmental conditions. If state funding is anticipated, then DTSC review/approval is required pursuant to California Education Code. For school

projects that do not require state funding, DTSC recommends environmental review under the DTSC school program oversight to ensure the school is safe for students and staff.

2. If there are any recognized environmental conditions in the project area, then proper investigation, sampling and remedial actions overseen by the appropriate regulatory agencies should be conducted prior to the new development or any construction. DTSC recommends environmental review under the DTSC schools program oversight prior to construction to ensure the school is safe for students and staff.
3. Identify the mechanism to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation, if needed, and the government agency to provide appropriate regulatory oversight.
4. The IS/MND states, "In 2005 1.3 tons of hazardous waste was removed from the campus and there are no violations listed for the high school." No further details are provided in the IS/MND. Provide the information regarding the source of the waste. Indicate whether the waste is associated with environmental investigation and/or cleanup at the Site.
5. Discuss whether project may require soil excavation or backfill in certain areas. If soil is contaminated, it must be properly characterized and disposed of. If the project proposes to import soil to backfill the areas excavated, DTSC recommends sampling be conducted in accordance with DTSC's Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/SMP_FS_Cleanfill-Schools.pdf)
6. Discuss procedures to be taken if the soil and/or groundwater contamination is suspected during construction/demolition in the project area.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Johnson P. Abraham, Project Manager, at (714) 484-5380 or Johnson.Abraham@dtsc.ca.gov or me at (714) 484-5368 or Shahir.Haddad@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Shahir Haddad, P.E.
Supervising Engineer
Brownfields Restoration and School Evaluation Branch
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program

mm/ja/sh

cc: See next page

Ms. Rene Castro
November 10, 2022
Page 3

cc: (via e-mail)

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