



Yana Garcia
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

December 19, 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mr. Brian Biggs
Golden State Finance Authority
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814
Gsnr@gsnnet.org

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE GOLDEN STATE NATURAL RESOURCES FOREST RESILIENCY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (TUOLUMNE FACILITY) – DATED NOVEMBER 18, 2022 (STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2022110466)

Dear Mr. Biggs:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Golden State Natural Resources Forest Resiliency Demonstration Project (Project). The Lead Agency is receiving this notice from DTSC because the processing facility proposed in the foothills of the Central Sierra Nevada Mountain range (Tuolumne facility) includes one or more of the following: groundbreaking activities, presence of site buildings that may require demolition or modifications, and/or importation of backfill soil.

Additionally, the proposed location for the Tuolumne facility abuts the [Louisiana-Pacific Lumber](#) site that is recommended for further evaluation due to low concentrations of chlorinated phenols found in soil samples collected in the mid-1980s.

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

1. A State of California environmental regulatory agency such as DTSC, a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), or a local agency that meets the requirements of [Health and Safety Code section 101480](#) should provide

regulatory concurrence that the Tuolumne facility site is safe for construction and the proposed use.

2. The DEIR should acknowledge the potential for historic or future activities on or near the Tuolumne facility site to result in the release of hazardous wastes/substances on the 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 DEIR 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. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on the Tuolumne facility, 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.](#)
4. 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.](#)

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Project. 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.](#)

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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 and Research
State Clearinghouse
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Mr. Dave Kereazis
Office of Planning & Environmental Analysis
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov