



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

May 3, 2023

Salian Garcia

Staff Services Manager - Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road

Azusa, CA 90731

<mailto:info@rmc.ca.gov>



RE: Draft Initial Study & Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS) for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project, dated April 2023 SCH# [2023040250](#)

Dear Salian Garcia:

The Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (Project), located on the border of Los Angeles and Orange counties, addresses the intent to restore currently degraded salt marsh, seasonal wetlands, and other freshwater wetlands within an approximately 503-acre area. The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP), a partnership of 17 state and federal agencies, has identified the acquisition and restoration of the Los Cerritos Wetlands as a high regional priority.

Based on DTSC review of applicable sections of the Draft IS, DTSC does not have significant concerns with the preparation of the document, or the implementation of the planned design as described.

DTSC notes that the Project is located in proximity of Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Seal Beach, as well as the Long Beach Ammunition Loading Pier, which is identified as a formerly used defense site (FUDS) and is currently described as part of NWS Seal Beach. Although it is not anticipated, due to the location of the FUDS related to the Project, DTSC has the following general comments:

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- In the event that evidence of potential soil or groundwater contamination (such as soil staining, noxious odors, debris or buried storage containers) is encountered during restoration activities, procedures should be followed to notify the environmental professional overseeing project activities. Additional soil or groundwater sampling may become necessary in the event contamination is encountered.
- Consistent with Mitigation Measure HAZ-2 described in the Draft IS, contractor(s) shall develop and implement a Soil, Landfilled Materials, and Groundwater Management Plan that includes a materials disposal plan specifying how the contractor will remove, handle, transport, and dispose of all excavated material in a safe, appropriate, and lawful manner. Based on the development of these documents, additional soil and/or groundwater sampling may be required, especially in compliance with disposal practices.
- In the event that any debris are encountered during excavation that could be associated with the FUDS, including but not limited to munitions and explosives of concern (MEC), material potentially presenting an explosive hazard (MPPEH), and munitions constituents (MC), follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety; Recognize, Retreat and Report: **Recognize**, when you have encountered munitions; **Retreat**, note your location as you are backing away. Do not approach, touch, or disturb a suspect munitions, safely leave the area; and **Report**, immediately what was found to state and or local law enforcement – call 911. Please then notify DTSC.

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft IS. If you have any questions, please contact me at (657) 777-9803 or via email at Alexis.White@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Alexis White,
Environmental Scientist
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control

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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Planning and Research

State Clearinghouse

State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Ms. Tamara Purvis

Associate Environmental Planner

CEQA Unit-Permitting/HWMP

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov

Mr. Dave Kereazis

Associate Environmental Planner

CEQA Unit-Permitting/HWMP

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov