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Secretary for
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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Gavin Newsom
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SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 1, 2023

CJ Knowland

Director of Facilities, Maintenance, Operations and Transportation

Los Alamitos Unified School District

10293 Bloomfield Street

Los Alamitos, CA 90720

cknowland@losal.org



RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE LOS ALAMITOS HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM PROJECT, DATED JULY 2023 SCH# [2023070238](#)

Dear CJ Knowland:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Los Alamitos High School Gymnasium Project. The proposed project plans to remove fifteen storage containers and relocate eight portable classroom buildings and construct a 32,000 square foot gymnasium.

According to [EnviroStor \(30820024\)](#) and the [STEM Initial Study/MND](#), a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) was conducted in 2005 at the Los Alamitos High School for the construction of buildings 700 (L1) and 750 (L2) and a parking lot located west of the proposed STEM building site. The conclusion of the 2005 PEA report prepared for that project determined contaminants onsite were below levels of significance and no further action was required. A PEA for the recently completed STEM building was completed in April of 2020 and revealed similar conclusions as the 2005 PEA report.

Although No Further Action (NFA) and PEA approval letters were issued by DTSC on May 17, 2005 for buildings 700 and 750 and on April 24, 2020 for the STEM building construction, a PEA has not been conducted on the area proposed for the construction of the gymnasium.

DTSC recommends that the following issues be evaluated prior to the gymnasium construction:

1. The Lead Agency 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 conducted to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination, and the potential threat to public health and/or the environment should be evaluated. They 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.
2. If state funding is anticipated, then preparation of a PEA is required on the proposed gymnasium site with DTSC's oversight pursuant to California Education Code prior to the new development or any construction. For school projects that do not require state funding, DTSC recommends environmental review under the [DTSC's Evaluating & Clean-up School 3-Step Process](#) to ensure the school is safe for students and staff.
3. 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 review and comment on the MND for the Los Alamitos High School Gymnasium Project. If you have any questions, please contact the DTSC School's Unit or respond to this email for guidance.

Sincerely,

Dave Kereazis

Dave Kereazis
Associate Environmental Planner
Hazardous Waste Management Program
Permitting - CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (via email)

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