



**Yana Garcia**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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**Gavin Newsom**  
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September 19, 2023

Tim Ryan  
Senior Director of Strategic Facility Planning  
San Rafael City Schools  
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RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT EIR (DEIR) FOR THE  
TERRA LINDA HIGH SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, DATED  
AUGUST 30, 2023 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # [2023080737](#)

Dear Tim Ryan:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Report (DEIR) for the Terra Linda High School Capital Improvements Project. Based on our project review, DTSC would like to provide the following comments.

1. If the district plans to use State funds for the project, then the district shall comply with the requirements of California Education Code (CDE), sections 17210, 17213.1 and 17213.2, unless otherwise specifically exempted under section 17268. If the district is not using State funds for the project, or is otherwise specifically exempted under section 17268, DTSC recommends the district continue to investigate and clean up the Site, if necessary, under the oversight of (County) and in concurrence with all applicable DTSC guidance documents.

A local education agency may also voluntarily request the CDE site/plan approval for locally funded site acquisitions and new construction projects. In these cases, CDE will require DTSC to review and approve prior to its final approval, except when exempt under section 17268.

2. Because the project is school site related, DTSC recommends that an environmental review, such as a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and/or Preliminary Environmental Assessment, be conducted to determine whether there has been or may have been a release or threatened release of a hazardous material, or whether a naturally occurring hazardous material is present based on reasonably available information about the property and the areas in its vicinity. Such an environmental review should generally be conducted as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. If the District elects to proceed and conduct an environmental assessment at the Site under DTSC oversight, it should enter into an Environmental Oversight Agreement with DTSC to oversee the preparation of the environmental assessment.
3. 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](#)
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](#) webpage.

5. Our correspondence confirmed there was no record of a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment, or a Preliminary Environmental Assessment conducted on the school site therefore, these assessments should be conducted prior to the project's commencement.

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Terra Linda High School Capital Improvements Project. If you would like to proceed with DTSC's school environmental review process, please visit [DTSC's Evaluating & Clean-up School 3-Step Process](#) to begin a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment.

If you have any questions, please respond to this letter for additional guidance.

Sincerely,



Dave Kereazis

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