



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Gavin Newsom
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SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 20, 2024

Raphael Breines

Senior Planner

UC Berkeley

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RE: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR) FOR THE UC BERKELEY INNOVATION ZONE PROJECT DATED MARCH 1, 2024 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2023100861](#)

Dear Raphael Breines,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a DEIR for the University of California (UC) Berkeley Innovation Zone Project. The project would demolish all existing structures and redevelop the project site with two laboratory buildings and vehicle parking. The two proposed buildings, referred to as the South Building and the North Building, would include offices and other collaborative meeting spaces in addition to a North Building parking garage. The project would not result in UC Berkeley student population growth but would result in an increase in employment. After reviewing the project, DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. 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 [Update to June 2006 Phase I Addendum Guidance](#).

2. In the DEIR, under the Hazards and Hazardous Materials Section Impact 3.8-4: it states, "As part of the project, UC Berkeley would prepare and implement a soils management plan that would require further site assessment to determine whether soil and groundwater contamination is present and identify and implement remedial actions in coordination with the applicable oversight agency, if necessary. Regulatory processes and implementation of UC Berkeley's CBP HAZ-5 would be sufficient to ensure that implementing the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment if soil or groundwater contamination is identified at the project site." If soil and groundwater contamination is present, DTSC recommends that UC Berkeley enter into DTSC's Standard Voluntary Agreement (SVA) program or work with the appropriate [Certified Local Agency Resource](#), [Alameda County Department of Environmental Health](#), so a proper evaluation of the Project is completed. If entering into an SVA with DTSC, the [FLUXX portal link](#) is provided and the page also has a link to the [Fluxx User Guide](#) that can help you navigate the system. You will need to create a new profile and once in the system, click "Start a Request for Lead Agency Oversight Application. If you have any questions about the application portal, please contact the DTSC Brownfield Coordinator [Gregory Shaffer](#) or contact the [Application Portal Inbox](#).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DEIR for the UC Berkeley Innovation Zone Project. Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances. If you have any questions or

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would like any clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via [email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,

Tamara Purvis

Tamara Purvis

Associate Environmental Planner

HWMP-Permitting Division – CEQA Unit

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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cc: (via email)

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