



**Yana Garcia**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

March 6, 2024

Edward Paek

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**Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

**March 07 2024**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

RE: NEGATIVE DECLARATION (NEG DEC) FOR THE CANOGA PARK HIGH SCHOOL MAJOR MODERNIZATION, DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2024 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # [2024020612](#)

Dear Edward Paek,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Neg Dec for the Canoga Park High School Major Modernization project (Project). The proposed Project is designed to address the most critical physical concerns of the buildings and grounds at the campus through building replacement, renovation, modernization, and reconfiguration on the campus to provide facilities that are safe, secure, and better aligned with the current instructional program. The proposed Project will include the demolition and removal of the cafeteria building, weight room, seven classroom buildings (containing a total of 12 classrooms), two storage buildings, three restroom/multipurpose buildings, and one ticket booth. The Project will construct one student union building containing a new cafeteria, 12 classrooms, a weight room, a

coach's office, special education support spaces, a Wellness Center for students, and one athletic field support building containing event ticketing, home concessions, and restrooms. The proposed Project includes new exterior paint for all remaining existing buildings, new sod and track surfacing for the primary athletic field, new hardscaping and landscaping for the central promenade and the existing student quads, around the new student union building to create outdoor learning spaces, resurfacing or replacement of other existing hardscape, and new irrigation systems for landscaping and the athletic field. Based on our review, DTSC requests consideration of the following comments.

1. If the district plans to use California Department of Education (CDE) State funds for the project, then the district shall comply with the requirements of Education Code (EDC), [§17210](#), [§17213.1](#), and [§17213.2](#), unless otherwise specifically exempted under section [§17268](#). If the district is not using CDE State funds for the project, or is otherwise specifically exempt under section [§17268](#), DTSC recommends the district continue to investigate, clean up the Site under the oversight of Los Angeles County and in concurrence with all applicable DTSC guidance documents, if necessary. For more information on the CDE State funding, please visit the [Office of Public-School Consultation](#) webpage.

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. The Initial Study/Negative Declaration states, "A total of 12 classrooms would be demolished as part of the Project and this same number would be constructed, leaving the number of classrooms unchanged at 78." If planned activities include building modifications/demolitions, 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, evaluate whether polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) containing materials is present in onsite buildings and address as necessary to protect human health and the environment and sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's [Update to June 2006 Phase I Addendum Guidance](#).

3. If there are any recognized environmental conditions in the project area, then proper investigation, sampling and remedial actions overseen by the appropriate regulatory agencies should be conducted prior to the new development or any construction.
4. DTSC recommends that all imported soil and fill material should be tested to ensure any contaminants of concern are within approved screening levels for the intended land use. To minimize the possibility of introducing contaminated soil and fill material there should be documentation of the origins of the soil or fill material and, if applicable, sampling be conducted to ensure that the imported soil and fill material meets screening levels for the intended land use. The soil sampling should include analysis based on the source of the fill and knowledge of the prior land use. If during construction/demolition of the project, soil and/or groundwater contamination is suspected, construction/demolition in the area should cease and appropriate health and safety procedures should be implemented. If it is determined that contaminated soil and/or groundwater exist, future environmental documents should identify how any required investigation and/or remediation will be conducted, and the appropriate government agency to provide regulatory oversight.

Edward Paek  
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DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Neg Dec for the Canoga Park High School Major Modernization 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tamara Purvis".

Tamara Purvis  
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