



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

April 12, 2024

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Robert Craven
Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Saddleback Valley Unified School District
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Apr 12 2024
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR THE OXFORD
PREPARATORY ACADEMY EXPANSION PROJECT, DATED MARCH 19, 2024
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # [2024030685](#)

Dear Robert Craven,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a MND for the Oxford Preparatory Academy Expansion Project (Project). The Saddleback Valley Unified School District plans to add 18 new relocatable classrooms at the Oxford Preparatory Academy site consisting of nine classrooms for 7th-grade students and nine for 8th-grade students. A restroom will be added adjacent to the 7th-grade classrooms to serve the 16 new classrooms. Two paved courtyards will be between each building section—the east courtyard used as the 7th-grade court and the west courtyard used as the 8th grade court. The 18 new relocatable classrooms will be added to the southern part of the project site and south of the current buildings on a 0.60-acre disturbed area. 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 Orange 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. DTSC recommends that all imported soil and fill material should be tested to ensure any contaminants of concern are within DTSC's and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Regional Screen Levels (RSLs) 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 outlined in the [PEA](#) 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. Additional information can be found by visiting [DTSC's Human and Ecological Risk Office \(HERO\) webpage](#).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the MND for the Oxford Preparatory Academy Expansion 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.


Robert Craven

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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,



Tamara Purvis

Associate Environmental Planner

HWMP – Permitting Division - CEQA Unit

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Planning and Research

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