



**Yana Garcia**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Director  
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**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

### SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 22, 2024

Jaspreet Kaur

Associate Planner

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Apr 22 2024**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR THE USE PERMIT 22-03:  
SIKH TEMPLE (PROJECT), DATED APRIL 4, 2024 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
NUMBER [2024040197](#)

Dear Jaspreet Kaur,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a MND for the project which encompasses a use permit for a religious facility that includes the following: a 4,000 square foot assembly hall with a seating area of approximately 1,600 square feet, a 971 square foot community kitchen, and 46 paved parking spaces with lighting and landscaping. The existing 2,450 square foot home will be converted to a priest residence. After reviewing the project, DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. When agricultural crops and land uses become planned development, a number of contaminants of concern can be present. The Lead Agency shall identify the amounts of Pesticides and Organochlorine Pesticides (OCPs) historically used on the property. If present, OCPs requiring further analysis

are as follows: Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), toxaphene, and dieldrin. Additionally, any level of arsenic present would require further analysis and sampling and must meet approved thresholds outlined in the [PEA Guidance Manual](#). If they are not, remedial action must take place to mitigate them below those thresholds.

2. Additional chemicals of concern may be found in mixing/loading/storage area, drainage ditches, farmhouses, or any other outbuildings and should be sampled and analyzed. If smudge pots had been routinely utilized, additional sampling for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and/or Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPHs) may be required.

3. 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 Use Permit 22-03 Sikh Temple 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 would like any clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via [email](#) for additional guidance.

Jaspreet Kaur  
April 22, 2024  
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Sincerely,



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