



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

July 11, 2024

Brian Newburg

Engineer

San Joaquin County

1810 East Hazelton Avenue

Stockton, CA 92505

bnewburg@sigov.org

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE MESSICK BRIDGE
REPLACEMENT PROJECT DATED JULY 8, 2024, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
NUMBER [2024070265](#)

Dear Brian Newburg,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Messick Bridge Replacement Project (Project). The Project would include the demolition of the existing Messick Road Bridge and construction of a new bridge over Mosher Creek. The replacement bridge structure would be 55 feet and 4 inches long and 29 feet and 6 inches wide, including 10-foot lanes and three-foot shoulders in each direction. The number of spans associated with the bridge would be reduced from the current three-span configuration to a single span. The proposed structure would be supported by abutments at each bank of the creek founded on Cast in Steel Shell or Cast in Drilled Hole piles. Wing walls would be constructed adjacent to the abutments and rock slope protection would be placed along the exterior of each wing wall.

DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. In Section 6.1.1.3 of the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment titled **ACMs (Bridge Structure)**, it states, "Asbestos is a strong, incombustible, and corrosion resistant material, which was used in many commercial products since prior to the 1940s and up until the early 1970s. If inhaled, asbestos fibers can result in serious health problems. Asbestos containing-materials (ACMs) are building materials containing more than one percent (1%) asbestos (some state and regional regulators impose a one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) threshold). Due to the type of bridge structure and the age (1931), it is unlikely that ACMs are associated with the existing on-site bridge structure. It is the opinion of Michael Baker that no REC has resulted in this regard." This section contradicts and should be clarified or edited.
2. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any areas 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 Preliminary Endangerment Assessment \(PEA\) Guidance Manual](#).
3. If soil and fill material will be imported, DTSC recommends it should be tested to assess any contaminants of concern meet screening levels as outlined in the [PEA Guidance Manual](#). Additionally, DTSC advises referencing the [DTSC Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material Fact Sheet](#) if importing fill is necessary. 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 are suitable 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.

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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 Messick Bridge Replacement 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Kereazis".

Dave Kereazis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP-Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov

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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Planning and
Research State Clearinghouse
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Tamara Purvis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov

Scott Wiley
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov