



**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**

July 25, 2024

Herlindo Fernandez  
Director of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations  
Pajaro Valley Unified School District  
11 Spring Valley Road  
La Selva Beach, CA 95076  
[herlindo\\_fernandez@pvusd.net](mailto:herlindo_fernandez@pvusd.net)

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, DATED JULY 17, 2024  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # [2024070613](#)

Dear Herlindo Fernandez,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Renaissance High School Water System Improvements Project (Project). The proposed Project consists of consolidating Renaissance High School's existing water system with Soquel Creek Water District's water system. The proposed project includes a water main, distribution lines, and a booster pump station. The proposed project also includes demolition of the existing well. 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 Santa Cruz 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 Construction](#) 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. 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 Preliminary Endangerment Assessment \(PEA\) Guidance Manual](#).
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 Regional Screen 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 outlined in the [PEA Guidance Manual](#) 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 Renaissance High School Water System Improvements Project. If you would like to proceed with DTSC's

Herlindo Fernandez

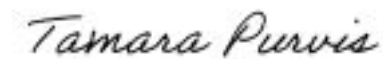
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school environmental review process, please visit [DTSC's Evaluating & Clean-up School 3-Step Process](#) to begin a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment.

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

Associate Environmental Planner

HWMP – Permitting Division - CEQA Unit

Department of Toxic Substances Control

[Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov)

Herlindo Fernandez

July 25, 2024

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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Planning and Research

State Clearinghouse

[State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov)

Troy Lawson

Assistant Planner

Denise Duffy & Associates

[tlawson@ddaplanning.com](mailto:tlawson@ddaplanning.com)

Dave Kereazis

Associate Environmental Planner

HWMP – Permitting Division - CEQA Unit

Department of Toxic Substances Control

[Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov)

Scott Wiley

Associate Governmental Program Analyst

HWMP – Permitting Division - CEQA Unit

Department of Toxic Substances Control

[Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov)