



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

July 15, 2024

Rich Payne

Interim Assistant Director of Public Works

City of Walnut Creek

1666 North Main Street

Walnut Creek, CA 94596

payne@walnut-creek.org

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE NEW AQUATIC AND COMMUNITY CENTER AT HEATHER FARM PARK PROJECT DATED JUNE 28, 2024, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2024061316](#)

Dear Rich Payne,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the New Aquatic and Community Center at Heather Farm Park Project (Project). The Project proposes to demolish the existing Heather Farm Community Center, construct a new Aquatic/Community Center and implement other associated parking and site improvements (e.g., landscaping, pathways, modifications to the existing concrete pond). Following construction of the new Aquatic/Community Center, the City would demolish the existing Clarke Memorial Swim Center. The proposed Aquatic/Community Center would be 27,023 square feet in size and single-story (approximately 30 feet) in height with event and multipurpose spaces, classrooms, locker rooms, offices, a conference room, and a kitchen. Two pools would be located between North San Carlos Drive and the proposed building: a 50-meter lap pool and a

recreational pool. A pool mechanical building and a park storage building would also be constructed near the southeast corner of the Project site. The proposed Project would also include outdoor improvements to the Project site, including a new entry courtyard and staff patio on the eastern side and an event terrace, event garden, and multiple lawns on the western side between the proposed building and the Concrete Pond. Lawns would also be provided surrounding the new pools. New accessible pedestrian paths would be installed throughout the Project site, and the existing bicycle path that runs along North San Carlos Drive would be retained. After reviewing the Project, DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. 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](#).
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 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](#).

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DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the MND for the New Aquatic and Community Center at Heather Farm Park 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,

Tamara Purvis

Tamara Purvis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
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cc: (via email)

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