



**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

September 26, 2024

Norma Macias

Director of Facilities, Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation

El Monte Union High School District

3537 Johnson Avenue

El Monte, CA 91731

[norma.macias@emuhsd.org](mailto:norma.macias@emuhsd.org)

RE: NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE ROSEMEAD ADULT EDUCATION AND TRANSITION CENTER DATED SEPTEMBER 12, 2024, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2024090467

Dear Norma Macias,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Negative Declaration (Neg Dec) for the Rosemead Adult Education and Transition Center (project). The El Monte Union High School District is proposing to modernize and expand the existing adult education facilities at the Rosemead Adult Education and Transition Center to provide additional educational opportunities, including approximately 20,000 square feet of additional education space, as well as modernize and update the existing 2-story facility to current safety standards (including ADA and fire codes) and to meet current programming needs. After reviewing the Project, DTSC recommends and 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 Los Angeles 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. DTSC recommends that all imported soil and fill material should be tested to assess any contaminants of concern meet screening levels as outlined in [DTSC's Preliminary Endangerment Assessment \(PEA\) 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. Additional information can be found by visiting [DTSC's Human and Ecological Risk Office \(HERO\) webpage](#).
3. 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,

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sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with [DTSC's PEA Guidance Manual](#).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Neg Dec for the Rosemead Adult Education and Transition Center 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 clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via [email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,

*Tamara Purvis*

Tamara Purvis  
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HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit  
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