



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 30, 2025

Joe Lodigiani
Superintendent/Principal
Manzanita Elementary School District
627 E. Evans Reimer Road
Gridley, CA 95948
jlodigiani@mesd.net

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE MANZANITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WELL REPLACEMENT PROJECT DATED JANUARY 27, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2025010817](#)

Dear Joe Lodigiani,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Manzanita Elementary School Well Replacement Project (Project). The Project proposes to construct a new 550-foot-deep well to supply 200 gallons per minute of potable and non-potable water to the school. The Project also includes the demolition of the existing onsite well per Butte County standards, the installation of 900 feet of C-900 polyvinyl chloride (PVC) piping and PVC underground electrical conduit from the new well location to the existing well location, a new 50 kW 240V 3-Phase diesel generator with automatic transfer switch on a concrete slab next to the new well, a 6-foot-high chain link fence with privacy slats installed around the well and generator, and a 15,000 square foot access road. 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 Butte 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 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


Joe Lodigiani
January 30, 2025
Page 3

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](#).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the MND for the Manzanita Elementary School Well Replacement Project. If you would like to proceed with DTSC's 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 clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via [CEQA Review email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,



Tamara Purvis
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Joe Lodigiani
January 30, 2025
Page 4

cc: (via email)

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