



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200
dtsc.ca.gov



Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 07, 2025

Chris Ochs
Director of Facilities, Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation
Calistoga Joint Unified School District
1520 Lake Street
Calistoga, CA 94515
cochs@calistogajusd.org

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CALISTOGA JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FIELD AND LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT DATED FEBRUARY 05, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [20250201200](#)

Dear Chris Ochs,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Calistoga Junior and Senior High School Field and Lighting Improvements Project (Project). The Project proposes to install new permanent stadium lights around the existing football field, permanent bleachers along the northern boundary of the field, a new field house, and a new concession stand. The proposed Project would also include the replacement of the existing track with an all-weather track, replacement of the existing grass turf with synthetic grass, and installation of a new permanent public address system and a new scoreboard. The existing basketball courts would also be relocated. Landscaping, bio retention areas, and concrete walkways would be installed, and new chain-link fencing with gates would be installed around the perimeter of the track and field. An asphalt driveway would be constructed northeast of the track and field to provide access to the campus via Grant Street.

Asphalt would also be installed northeast and south of the track and field to accommodate the bleachers, concession stand, field house, basketball courts, and tree wells. 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 Napa 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](#).

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DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the MND for the Calistoga Junior and Senior High School Field and Lighting Improvements 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
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov

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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

State Clearinghouse

State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Alen Estrada-Rodas

Senior Associate

PlaceWorks, Inc. / Consulting Firm

Aestradarodas@placeworks.com

Dave Kereazis

Associate Environmental Planner

HWMP-Permitting Division – CEQA Unit

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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