



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

April 4, 2025

Tova Kay Corman
Executive Director
San Marcos Unified School District
255 Pico Avenue, Suite 250
San Marcos, CA 92069
tova.corman@smusd.org

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE MISSION HILLS HIGH SCHOOL SITEWIDE ATHLETIC IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT DATED APRIL 1, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2025040061](#)

Dear Tova Kay Corman,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Mission Hills High School Sitewide Athletic Improvements Project (Project). The proposed Project would include replacing the natural turf with synthetic turf and installing permanent lighting to replace the temporary lighting at the existing multi-purpose field. The proposed Project would also include resurfacing the existing stadium and tennis courts and replace two tennis courts with three volleyball courts. 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 San Diego 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 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 Mission Hills High School Sitewide Athletic 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,



Dave Kereazis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP-Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov

Tova Kay Corman
April 3, 2025
Page 3

cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Malia Durand
Associate Principal
PlaceWorks, Inc. / Consulting Firm
mdurand@placeworks.com

Tamara Purvis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov

Scott Wiley
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov