



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 10, 2025

Bryan Ramos Fernandez
CEQA Project Manager
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 S Beaudry Avenue, 21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
cp-bryan.fernandez@lausd.net

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR SYLMAR CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL MAJOR MODERNIZATION PROJECT
DATED APRIL 9, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2025040524](#)

Dear Bryan Ramos Fernandez,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Sylmar Charter High School Major Modernization Project (Project). The Project would demolish up to four permanent buildings (Multipurpose Building/Food Services including Lunch Pavilion and shelter, Student Store, and two Classroom Buildings) and six portable classroom buildings and would construct one permanent building to replace the core facilities demolished. The Project's space program proposes to accommodate building spaces for performing arts, library/media center, career center, special education, and 10 new classrooms. The Project also includes utility upgrades, parking reconfiguration, accessibility upgrades, painting of exterior buildings, landscaping, and hardscaping including outdoor learning areas. The Project would also include the installation of interim facilities to allow the school to remain operational during construction. The Project would not increase student enrollment or capacity, and the total number of

standard-sized classrooms would decrease by approximately two. 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 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](#).

Bryan Ramos Fernandez

April 10, 2025

Page 3

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Sylmar Charter High School Major Modernization 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](#). If you have any questions or would like clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via our [CEQA Review email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,

Tamara Purvis

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

cc: (via email)

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

Sarah Anderson
CEQA Project Manager
WSP USA, Inc.
sarah.anderson2@wsp.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