



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 30, 2025

Courtney Yellen
Planning Assistant
City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
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RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR 16600-16602 WEST VANOWEN STREET & 16601 W. ARCHWOOD STREET (ENV-2024-575-MND) DATED APRIL 23, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2025041165](#)

Dear Courtney Yellen,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the 16600-16602 West Vanowen Street & 16601 W. Archwood Street (ENV-2024-575-MND) Project (Project). The proposed Project is the construction, use and maintenance of a new two-story, 33 feet in height, 56,366 square foot public charter school with a maximum enrollment of 564 students (grades 6-12) on two vacant, adjoining lots totaling approximately 2.5 acres. The proposed Project includes 27 classrooms, administrative office space, a 1,753 square foot Multipurpose Room, a 16,738 square foot gymnasium, and a 14,363 square foot play yard area. 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](#).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the MND for 16600-16602 West Vanowen Street & 16601 W. Archwood Street (ENV-2024-575-MND) 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.

Courtney Yellen

April 30, 2025

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Sincerely,

Tamara Purvis

Tamara Purvis

Associate Environmental Planner

HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

State Clearinghouse

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