



Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 1, 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Sep 01 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Mr. Sean Moss
City of El Cerrito
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530
SMoss@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
SAN PABLO AVENUE SPECIFIC PLAN UPDATE, CALIFORNIA – DATED JULY 2022
(STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2014042025)

Dear Mr. Moss:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update (Project). The Lead Agency is receiving this notice from DTSC because the Project includes one or more of the following: groundbreaking activities, work in close proximity to a roadway, and/or presence of site buildings that may require demolition or modifications, importation of backfill soil.

DTSC recommends that the following issues be evaluated in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section of the Supplemental EIR:

1. The EIR lists one DTSC and four Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) hazardous materials sites in the specific plan area. The Project should be coordinated with respective DTSC and RWQCB project managers to ensure that Project activities remain protective of human health and the environment. In addition to the documented DTSC and RWQCB sites, the EIR should acknowledge the potential for other historic activities on or near the project site to have resulted in the release of hazardous wastes/substances on the project site. In instances in which releases have occurred or may occur, further studies should be carried out to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination, and the potential threat to public health and/or the environment

should be evaluated. Per comment 1, the EIR should also identify the mechanism(s) to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation and the government agency who will be responsible for providing appropriate regulatory oversight.

2. A regulatory agency such as DTSC or RWQCB, or a qualified local agency that meets the requirements of Assembly Bill 304 (AB304) should provide regulatory concurrence that the Project sites are safe for construction and the proposed use.
3. Refiners in the United States started adding lead compounds to gasoline in the 1920s in order to boost octane levels and improve engine performance. This practice did not officially end until 1992 when lead was banned as a fuel additive in California. Tailpipe emissions from automobiles using leaded gasoline contained lead and resulted in aerially deposited lead (ADL) being deposited in and along roadways throughout the state. ADL-contaminated soils still exist along roadsides and medians and can also be found underneath some existing road surfaces due to past construction activities. Due to the potential for ADL-contaminated soil DTSC, recommends collecting soil samples for lead analysis prior to performing any intrusive activities for the project described in the EIR.
4. 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 2006 Interim Guidance Evaluation of School Sites with Potential Contamination from Lead Based Paint, Termiticides, and Electrical Transformers](#).
5. If any projects initiated as part of the proposed project require the importation of soil to backfill any excavated areas, proper sampling should be conducted to ensure that the imported soil is free of contamination. DTSC recommends the imported materials be characterized according to [DTSC's 2001 Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material](#).
6. If any sites included as part of the proposed project have been used for agricultural, weed abatement or related activities, proper investigation for organochlorinated pesticides should be discussed in the EIR. DTSC recommends the current and former agricultural lands be evaluated in

accordance with DTSC's 2008 [Interim Guidance for Sampling Agricultural Properties \(Third Revision\)](#).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the EIR. Should you choose DTSC to provide oversight for any environmental investigations, please visit DTSC's [Site Mitigation and Restoration Program](#) page to apply for lead agency oversight. Additional information regarding voluntary agreements with DTSC can be found at [DTSC's Brownfield website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 255-3710 or via email at Gavin.McCreary@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gavin McCreary". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gavin McCreary
Project Manager
Site Evaluation and Remediation Unit
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
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Mr. Dave Kereazis
Office of Planning & Environmental Analysis
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