



Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D.
Acting Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

November 18, 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

NOV 21 2019

Ms. Jamie Bax
Madera County
200 W. 4th Street
Madera, California 93637

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR
RIO MESA BLVD PROJECT – DATED OCTOBER 23, 2019
(STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2017101048)

Dear Ms. Bax:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Rio Mesa Boulevard Project.

The proposed project would construct a 2.6-mile segment of new road providing a connection between Avenue 12 in the south to a planned segment of Rio Mesa Boulevard within the Tesoro Viejo community to the north. The proposed roadway would include two northbound and two southbound asphalt concrete lanes with six-foot-wide asphalt concrete bike lanes, curbs and gutters, landscaping, and separated sidewalks. The project would also install storm drainage collection and conveyance facilities, water and wastewater conveyance infrastructure, and conduit and pipeline for dry utilities that include electric, telephone, cable, fiber, and/or natural gas.

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

1. The forthcoming EIR should acknowledge the potential for project site activities to have resulted in the release of hazardous wastes/substances. In instances in which releases have occurred, 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. 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. 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* (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wpcontent/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/Guidance_Lead_Contamination_050118.pdf).
3. 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* (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/SMP_FS_Cleanfill-Schools.pdf).
4. 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)* (<https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/Ag-Guidance-Rev-3-August-7-2008-2.pdf>).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to review the NOP. Should you need any assistance with an environmental investigation, please submit a request for Lead Agency Oversight Application, which can be found at: https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/VCP_App-1460.doc. Additional information regarding voluntary agreements with DTSC can be found at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/brownfields/>.

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

Sincerely,



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

cc: (via email)

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