



Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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

December 16, 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

DEC 16 2019

Mr. Chuck Kinney
Kings County
1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Bld. 6
Hanford, California 93230

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 19-07
FOR THE HANFORD BIOGAS CLUSTER PROJECT – DATED DECEMBER 6, 2019
(STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2019129014)

Dear Mr. Kinney:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for Conditional Use Permit No. 19-07 for the Hanford Biogas Cluster Project.

The proposed project will involve construction on approximately 9 acres in an unincorporated area of Kings County, California, approximately eight miles south of the City of Hanford, California. The project will involve the construction and operation of a 7.3-mile biogas pipeline and biogas upgrading facility.

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

1. The MND should acknowledge the potential for project site activities to result in the release of hazardous wastes/substances. In instances in which releases 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. The MND 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 MND. 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 MND for the Conditional Use Permit No. 19-07 for the Hanford Biogas Cluster Project. 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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