



Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Gavin Newsom
Governor

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

February 10, 2020

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Mr. Chris Surratt
Director of Facilities, Maintenance & Operations
Lemoore Union Elementary School District
1200 W. Cinnamon Drive
Lemoore, California 93245-3418

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE LEMOORE UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT, N. 19TH AVENUE AND CINNAMON DRIVE, LEMOORE, KINGS COUNTY (SCH #2020019001)

Dear Mr. Surratt:

The Northern California Schools Unit of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received the Notice of Completion (NOC) for a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the New Elementary School Project proposed by the Lemoore Union Elementary School District (District). The due date to submit comments is February 11, 2020.

As reported in the NOC, the District has proposed a project that would include the construction of a New Elementary School at the northwest corner of the intersection of 19th Avenue and Cinnamon Drive in the City of Lemoore, Kings County, California (Site). The proposed project would include the construction of six single-story, wood frame, slab on grade structures. The new school would accommodate 550 K-6 students.

Based on a review of the MND, DTSC would like to provide the following comments:

1. If the District plans to use State funds for the project, then the District shall comply with the requirements of California Education Code (CDE), sections 17210, 17213.1 and 17213.2, unless otherwise specifically exempted under section 17268. If the District is not using State funds for the project, or is otherwise specifically exempted under section 17268, DTSC recommends the District continue to investigate and clean up the Site, if necessary, under the oversight of Kings County and in concurrence with all applicable DTSC guidance documents.

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.

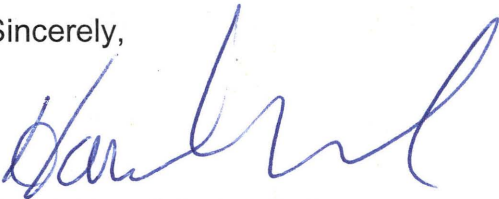
2. Because the project is school site related, DTSC recommends that an environmental review, such as a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and/or Preliminary Environmental Assessment, be conducted to determine whether there has been or may have been a release or threatened release of a hazardous material, or whether a naturally occurring hazardous material is present based on reasonably available information about the property and the areas in its vicinity. Such an environmental review should generally be conducted as part of the California Environmental Quality Act process. If the District elects to proceed and conduct an environmental assessment at the Site under DTSC oversight, it should enter into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC to oversee the preparation of the environmental assessment.
3. The presence of existing, older or former structures at the Site may result in potential environmental concerns due to lead from lead-based paint and/or organochlorine pesticides from termiticide applications and polychlorinated biphenyls from electrical transformers, light ballast, window caulking or glazing. DTSC recommends that these environmental concerns be investigated and possibly mitigated, in accordance with DTSC's *Interim Guidance, Evaluation of School Sites with Potential Soil Contamination as a Result of Lead from Lead-Based Paint, Organochlorine Pesticides from Termiticides, and Polychlorinated Biphenyls from Electrical Transformers*, dated June 9, 2006, and in accordance with the recommendations provided in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website "Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Building Materials" (<https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs-building-materials>).
4. If the Site is, or was previously, used for agricultural purposes, pesticides (such as Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane [DDT], Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene [DDE], and toxaphene) and fertilizers (usually containing heavy metals) commonly used as part of agricultural operations are likely to be present. These agricultural chemicals are persistent and bio-accumulative toxic substances. DTSC recommends that these environmental concerns be investigated and possibly mitigated, in accordance with the *Interim Guidance for Sampling Agricultural Soils (Third Revision)*, dated August 2008. This guidance should be followed to sample agricultural properties where development is anticipated.
5. If fill material exists on the Site, DTSC recommends these areas be investigated and possibly mitigated in accordance with DTSC's *Information Advisory, Clean Imported Fill*, dated October 2001.

6. If a response action is required based on the results of the above investigations, and/or other information, the MND will require an analysis of the potential public health and environmental impacts associated with any proposed response action, pursuant to requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA - Pub. Resources Code, Division 13, section 21000 et seq.), and its implementing Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15000 et seq.), prior to approval or adoption of the MND for the Project. A discussion of the mitigation and/or removal actions, if necessary, and associated cumulative impacts to the Project properties and the surrounding environment, should be included in the MND. If sufficient information to discuss the proposed mitigation and/or removal actions, and their associated impacts to the Project properties and the surrounding environment, are not available for inclusion in the MND, then an Addendum or Supplement to the final MND may be required.

DTSC is also administering the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program which provides revolving loans to investigate and clean up hazardous materials at properties where redevelopment is likely to have a beneficial impact to a community. These loans are available to developers, businesses, schools, and local governments.

For additional information on DTSC's Schools process or RLF Program, please visit DTSC's web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (916) 255-3695, or via email at Bud.Duke@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bud Duke", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Harold (Bud) Duke, P.G.
Northern California Schools Unit
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program

cc: (see next page)

cc: (via email)

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