



Department of Toxic Substances Control



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Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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Gavin Newsom
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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Lonnie Bell
County of Kern
Planning and Natural Resources Department
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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

COLLEGE HEIGHTS COTTAGES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – DATED
JANUARY 2020 (STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2020019036)

Dear Mr. Bell:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the College Height Cottages.

The proposed project consists of the design, engineering, and construction of a new 32-unit affordable housing development.

DTSC recommends that the following issues be evaluated in the EA:

1. The EA 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 EA 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 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).
3. 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 EA. 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 EA. 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/>. 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)

Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
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