



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

March 30, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 30 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Ms. Jenny Hannah
Executive Director of Facilities
Kern High School District
5801 Sundale Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93309

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL SOUTHWEST PROJECT, WIBLE ROAD AND ENGLE ROAD, BAKERSFIELD, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Ms. Hannah:

The Northern California Schools Unit of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received the Notice of Completion (NOC) for a draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the New Comprehensive High School - Southwest Project proposed by the Kern High School District (District). The due date to submit comments is March 30, 2020.

As reported in the draft IS/MND, the District has proposed to construct and operate a new Comprehensive High School (Project) within the unincorporated area of central Kern County at the southern end of San Joaquin Valley, California. The high school campus will occupy approximately 60-acres of the 80-acre Project site. The additional acreage may be kept by KHSD or sold as surplus land. The enrollment capacity will be 2,000 students with the ability to expand to 2,500 students. There will be multiple buildings with an approximate area totaling 200,000 to 250,000 square feet. These buildings will include classrooms, administrative and multi-purpose rooms, athletic and play fields. A portion of the site could serve as a Career Technical classroom area, athletic facilities, or any other educational function or expansion to the campus. A photovoltaic solar array will also be installed. School facilities typically include single- and multi-story, permanent building structures and some portable units on temporary or permanent foundations with room for future expansion capabilities. The project site would be primarily accessed from Wible Road and Engle Road.

The District entered into an Environmental Oversight Agreement with DTSC on July 26, 2018 (HSA-FY18/19-009), and made a commitment to work with DTSC to

conduct a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) to complete the investigation of environmental impacts at the Site. Based on the results of the PEA, DTSC issued a determination that further action (supplemental site investigation) was required to confirm that no residual contamination remains in place at the Site.

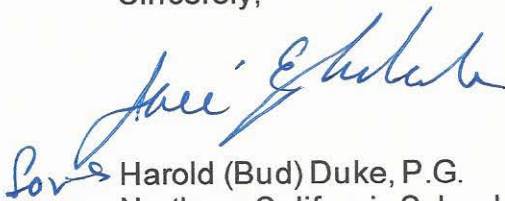
Based on a review of the NOC and draft IS/MND, DTSC would like to provide the following comment:

1. The environmental investigation, and mitigation and/or removal if deemed necessary, should continue to be conducted under DTSC oversight. The Initial Study (IS) requires an analysis of the potential public health and environmental impacts associated with the proposed response action, if necessary, 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 IS/MND for the Project. If necessary, a discussion of the mitigation and/or removal actions, and associated cumulative impacts to the Site and the surrounding environment, should be included in the IS/MND. If sufficient information to discuss the proposed mitigation and/or removal actions, and their associated impacts to the Site and the surrounding environment, are not available for inclusion in the IS/MND, then an Addendum 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,



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

cc: (next page)

cc: (via email)

State Clearinghouse (State.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov)
Office of Planning and Research

Mr. Fred Yeager (FYeager@cde.ca.gov)
Department of Education – Sacramento, CA

Mr. Rob Corley (RCorley@cde.ca.gov)
Department of Education – Sacramento, CA

Mr. José Salcedo, PE, Chief (Jose.Salcedo@dtsc.ca.gov)
DTSC Schools Unit – Sacramento, CA

Mr. Johnson Abraham (Johnson.Abraham@dtsc.ca.gov)
DTSC Schools Unit – Cypress, CA

Mr. David Kereazis
Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov
DTSC CEQA Unit – Sacramento, CA