



Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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

April 17, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 17 2020

Mr. Ryan Kilby
Chief Operations Officer
Sanger Unified School District
1905 Seventh Street
Sanger, California 93675

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY COMMENT FOR THE SANGER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW SOUTHEAST FRESNO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT, SOUTH TEMPERENCE AND EAST CHURCH AVENUES, FRESNO, FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (SCH#2020049007)

Dear Mr. Kilby:

The Northern California Schools Unit of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has received the Request for Preliminary Comment (RPC) for the New Southeast Fresno Elementary School Project proposed by the Sanger Unified School District (District). The due date to submit comments is May 1, 2020.

As reported in the RPC, the proposed elementary school will be designed to provide capacity for approximately 700 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. This campus will have approximately 45 employees (including administrators, faculty, and support staff). Facilities planned as part of the project include administrative offices, classrooms, a multi-purpose building, sport fields, physical education facilities, and parking areas. Instructional activities at the elementary school will be in regular session on weekdays from late August to early June, with additional special events and classes during evenings, on weekends, and during the summer recess. The project includes the annexation of the site to the City of Fresno. Construction of the project will likely begin within the next five years to coincide with planned residential development in the area and funding availability.

Based on a review of the RPC, 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 Fresno 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 (CEQA) process. If the District elects to proceed and conduct an environmental assessment at the Site under DTSC oversight, it should enter into an Environmental Oversight 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 (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/Guidance_Lead_Contamination_050118.pdf), 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)* (<https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/Ag-Guidance-Rev-3-August-7-2008-2.pdf>) 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* (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/SMP_FS_Cleanfill-Schools.pdf), dated October 2001.
6. If a response action is required based on the results of the above investigations, and/or other information, the Initial Study (IS) and subsequent CEQA document will require an analysis of the potential public health and environmental impacts associated with any proposed response action, pursuant to requirements of CEQA (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 a CEQA determination 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 IS and appropriate CEQA document. If enough 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 final IS and CEQA document, then an Addendum or Supplement 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: (see next page)

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cc: (via email)

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Reviewed by: SW / _____ / _____ / _____
 OA/OT Peer PM UC