



## Department of Toxic Substances Control



Gavin Newsom Governor

Meredith Williams, Ph.D.
Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
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## **SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

December 22, 2022

Mr. Edgar Maravilla
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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR TERRA BELLA PUBLIC STORAGE & ALTA HOUSING PROJECT – DATED NOVEMBER 2022 (STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2022110590)

Dear Mr. Maravilla:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Terra Bella Public Storage & ALTA Housing Project (Project). The Lead Agency is receiving this notice from DTSC because the Project includes one or more of the following: groundbreaking activities, work in close proximity to a roadway, importation of backfill soil, and/or work on or in close proximity to an agricultural or former agricultural site.

The MND references the listing compiled in accordance with California Government Code Section 65962.5, commonly known as the Cortese List. Not all sites impacted by hazardous waste or hazardous materials will be found on the Cortese List. DTSC recommends that the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section of the MND address actions to be taken for any sites impacted by hazardous waste or hazardous materials within the Project area, not just those found on the Cortese List. DTSC recommends consulting with other agencies that may provide oversight to hazardous waste facilities and sites in order to determine a comprehensive listing of all sites impacted by hazardous waste or hazardous materials within the Project area. DTSC hazardous waste facilities and sites with known or suspected contamination issues can be found on DTSC's EnviroStor data management system. The EnviroStor Map feature can be used to locate hazardous waste facilities and sites for a county, city, or a specific

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address. A search within EnviroStor indicates that numerous hazardous waste facilities and sites are present within the Project's region.

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

- A State of California environmental regulatory agency such as DTSC, a
  Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), or a local agency that meets
  the requirements of <u>Health and Safety Code section 101480</u> should provide
  regulatory concurrence that project site is safe for construction and the proposed
  use.
- 2. The MND acknowledges the potential for historic or future activities on or near the Project site to result in the release of hazardous wastes/substances on the Project site. In instances in which releases have occurred or 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.
- 3. Refiners in the United States started adding lead compounds to gasoline in the 1920s in order to boost octane levels and improve engine performance. This practice did not officially end until 1992 when lead was banned as a fuel additive in California. Tailpipe emissions from automobiles using leaded gasoline contained lead and resulted in aerially deposited lead (ADL) being deposited in and along roadways throughout the state. ADL-contaminated soils still exist along roadsides and medians and can also be found underneath some existing road surfaces due to past construction activities. Due to the potential for ADL-contaminated soil, DTSC recommends collecting soil samples for lead analysis prior to performing any intrusive activities for the Project described in the MND.
- 4. 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 <u>Information</u> <u>Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material</u>.
- 5. 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

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recommends the current and former agricultural lands be evaluated in accordance with DTSC's 2008 <u>Interim Guidance for Sampling Agricultural Properties (Third Revision)</u>.

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the MND. Should you choose DTSC to provide oversight for any environmental investigations, please visit DTSC's <u>Site</u> <u>Mitigation and Restoration Program</u> page to apply for lead agency oversight. Additional information regarding voluntary agreements with DTSC can be found at <u>DTSC's</u> <u>Brownfield website</u>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 255-3710 or via email at Gavin.McCreary@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Gavin McCreary, M.S.

**Project Manager** 

Site Evaluation and Remediation Unit

Jamin Malanny

Site Mitigation and Restoration Program

Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (via email)

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