Department of Toxic Substances Control

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 23, 2026

Shraddha Navalli Patil
Senior Planner
The Regents of the University of California
1995 University Avenue, Room 530
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planning@berkeley.edu

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE CHANNING-BOWDITCH STUDENT HOUSING PROJECT DATED MARCH 18, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2020040078

Dear Shraddha Navalli Patil,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Channing-Bowditch Student Housing Project (Project). The proposed Project would involve demolition of three on-site buildings and construction of a student housing complex. The proposed student housing complex would include provide up to 2,000 beds as well as student amenities. The portion of the student housing complex along Channing Way would be up to 26 stories in height and the portion of the building along Bowditch Street would be up to 14 stories in height. The ground floor would contain a dining program for building residents and the adjacent campus community, a portion of which would be located in the historic Anna Head School Alumnae Hall; the building's interior would be repurposed for this use. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any Project sites included in the proposed Project, surveys should be conducted for the presence of lead-based paints or products, mercury, asbestos containing materials, and polychlorinated biphenyl caulk. Removal, demolition, and disposal of any of the above-mentioned chemicals should be conducted in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. In addition, sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) Guidance Manual.
2. DTSC recommends all imported soil/fill material be tested to ensure all COCs meet screening levels as outlined in DTSC's PEA Guidance Manual. Furthermore, DTSC advises referencing the DTSC Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material Fact Sheet if importing soil/fill is necessary. To minimize the possibility of introducing contaminated soil/fill material, there should be documentation of the origins of the soil/fill material and, if applicable, sampling be conducted to ensure that the imported soil/fill material is suitable for the intended land use. The sampling should include analysis based on the source of the soil/fill and knowledge of prior land use.

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the NOP of a DEIR for the Channing-Bowditch Student Housing Project. Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances. If you have any questions or would like clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via the CEQA Review email for additional guidance.

Sincerely,

Tamara Purvis

Tamara Purvis
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HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
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cc: (via email)

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