



**Yana Garcia**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826-3200  
[dtsc.ca.gov](http://dtsc.ca.gov)



**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

May 15, 2025

Christy Wong  
CEQA Project Manager  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
333 S Beaudry Avenue, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
[cp-christy.wong@lausd.net](mailto:cp-christy.wong@lausd.net)

RE: NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL MAJOR  
MODERNIZATION PROJECT DATED MAY 8, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
NUMBER [2025050380](#)

Dear Christy Wong,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Negative Declaration (ND) for Fairfax High School Major Modernization Project (Project). The proposed Project includes demolition of the existing Shop Building, Gymnasium, Utility Building, Ticket Office, and Relocatable Sanitary Building, and the construction of a new gymnasium, specialty classrooms, outdoor physical education courts, maintenance and operations facilities, and an Art Gallery Building. The proposed Project also includes exterior painting of existing buildings; various landscape and hardscape improvements; parking improvements; infrastructure upgrades including, but not limited to, sanitary sewer, water, storm water, and electrical utilities; and accessibility upgrades as required. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. If the district plans to use California Department of Education (CDE) State funds for the project, then the district shall comply with the requirements of Education Code (EDC), [§17210](#), [§17213.1](#), and [§17213.2](#), unless otherwise

specifically exempted under section [§17268](#). If the district is not using CDE State funds for the project, or is otherwise specifically exempt under section [§17268](#), DTSC recommends the district continue to investigate, clean up the Site under the oversight of Los Angeles County and in concurrence with all applicable DTSC guidance documents, if necessary. For more information on the CDE State funding, please visit the [Office of Public-School Construction](#) webpage.

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. DTSC recommends that all imported soil and fill material should be tested to assess any contaminants of concern meet screening levels as outlined in [DTSC's PEA Guidance Manual](#). Additionally, DTSC advises referencing the [DTSC Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material Fact Sheet](#) if importing fill is necessary. To minimize the possibility of introducing contaminated soil and fill material there should be documentation of the origins of the soil or fill material and, if applicable, sampling be conducted to ensure that the imported soil and fill material are suitable for the intended land use. The soil sampling should include analysis based on the source of the fill and knowledge of prior land use. Additional information can be found by visiting [DTSC's Human and Ecological Risk Office \(HERO\) webpage](#).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Neg Dec for Fairfax High School Major Modernization Project. If you would like to proceed with DTSC's school environmental review process, please visit [DTSC's Evaluating & Clean-up School 3-Step Process to begin a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment](#). If you have any questions or would like clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via our [CEQA Review email](#) for additional guidance.

Christy Wong  
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Sincerely,

*Tamara Purvis*

Tamara Purvis  
Associate Environmental Planner  
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
[Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov)

cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
State Clearinghouse  
[State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov)

Grace Bridges  
Project Manager  
Meridian Consultants / Consulting Firm  
[gbridges@meridianconsultantsllc.com](mailto:gbridges@meridianconsultantsllc.com)

Dave Kereazis  
Associate Environmental Planner  
HWMP-Permitting Division – CEQA Unit  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
[Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov)

Scott Wiley  
Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
[Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov)