Department of Toxic Substances Control

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 13, 2025

Juan Lara
Planner III
City of Fresno
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RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. T-6432 / P23-02268 / P23- 02269 / P23-03234 DATED AUGUST 8, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # 2025080377

Dear Juan Lara,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for Environmental Assessment No. T-6432 / P23-02268 / P23-02269 / P23-03234 (Project). The Project is an application proposing to detach the property from the Kings River Conservation District and Fresno County Fire Protection District and annexation to the City of Fresno. Pre-zone Application No. P23-02269 proposes to pre-zone approximately 4.18 acres of property from the Fresno County Single Family Residential Agricultural zone to the City of Fresno Single-Family Residential, Medium Density zone and approximately 4.80 acres of the property from the Fresno County Limited Agricultural zone district to the City of Fresno Single-Family Residential, Medium Density/Annexed Rural Residential Overly zone districts. Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 6432 proposes to subdivide approximately 3.97 acres of property into a 44-lot single-family residential development. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. When agricultural crops and/or land uses are proposed or rezoned for residential use, several contaminants of concern (COCs) can be present. The Lead Agency shall identify the amounts of Pesticides and Organochlorine Pesticides (OCPs) historically used on the property. If present, OCPs requiring further analysis are dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane, toxaphene, and dieldrin. Additionally, any level of arsenic present would require further analysis and sampling and must meet approved local area baselines or thresholds. If they do not, remedial action must take place to mitigate them below those thresholds. Additional COCs may be found in mixing/loading/storage areas, drainage ditches, farmhouses, or any other outbuildings and should be sampled and analyzed. If smudge pots had been routinely utilized, additional sampling for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and/or Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons may be required. These recommendations should be adhered to and become part of the environmental document. Please refer to the DTSC's Human and Ecological Risk Office (HERO) webpage for the most recent guidance and screening levels.
2. DTSC recommends that all imported soil/fill material should be tested to assess any COCs meet screening levels as outlined in DTSC's Preliminary Endangerment Assessment 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/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 are suitable for the intended land use. The soil sampling should include analysis based on the source of the soil/fill and knowledge of prior land use.

DTSC would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the MND for Environmental Assessment No. T-6432 / P23-02268 / P23- 02269 / P23-03234 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 our CEQA Review email for additional guidance.

Sincerely,

Dave Kereazis

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cc: (via email)

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