



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
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Sacramento, California 95826-3200
dtsc.ca.gov



Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 29, 2025

Sandra Robles
Senior Planner
City of Rialto
150 South Palm Avenue
Rialto, CA 92376
srobles@rialtoca.gov

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CITY OF RIALTO 6TH CYCLE HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE (2021-2029) DATED OCTOBER 24, 2024, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2025101224](#)

Dear Sandra Robles,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the City of Rialto 6th Cycle Housing Element Update (2021-2029) (Project). The proposed Project involves implementation of the City's 6th Cycle Housing Element, which includes amending the General Plan and Zoning Code. The Project involves 258 candidate housing sites for rezoning within the City's boundaries. The proposed Project estimates a total potential housing capacity of 16,197 dwelling units, including accessory dwelling units, entitled Specific Plans, and rezones. The Project is programmatic in nature and does not approve or entitle any site-specific development. Future housing projects would occur incrementally over time and may be subject to ministerial or discretionary review depending on applicable State housing laws.

DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. The proposed project encompasses multiple active and nonactive mitigation and clean-up sites where DTSC has conducted oversight that may be impacted as a

result of this project. This may restrict what construction activities are permissible in the proposed project areas in order to avoid any impacts to human health and the environment.

2. All imported soil/fill material should be tested to assess any contaminants of concern 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 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 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. Additional information can be found by visiting [DTSC's Human and Ecological Risk Office \(HERO\) webpage](#).
3. 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 PEA Guidance Manual](#).

DTSC believes the City of Rialto must address these comments to determine if any significant impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will occur and, if necessary, avoid significant impacts under CEQA. DTSC recommends the department connect with our unit if any hazardous waste projects managed or overseen by DTSC are discovered. Please refer to the [City of Rialto EnviroStor Map](#) for additional information about the areas of potential contamination. If further concerns or impacts surface in light of the any forthcoming environmental documents, DTSC reserves the right to provide applicable comments at that time.

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DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the MND for the City of Rialto 6th Cycle Housing Element Update (2021-2029). 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 [email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,



Dave Kereazis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP-Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
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cc: (via email)

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