



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 13, 2026

Marcus Lubich
Project Manager
County of San Diego General Services
5560 Overland Avenue, STE 410
San Diego, CA 92123
marcus.lubich@sdcounty.ca.gov

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE VISTA DETENTION AND RE-ENTRY FACILITY MASTER PLAN DATED
DECEMBER 9, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2025120367](#)

Dear Marcus Lubich,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Vista Detention and Re-Entry Facility Master Plan (Project). The Project proposes replacement of the existing Vista Detention Facility and ancillary facilities to provide housing and services to meet current and future facility demand. Existing structures to be demolished include the Vista Detention Facility and support facilities, County of San Diego Sheriff's Vista substation, Law Library, DGS Facility Operations shops and Fleet fueling station, central plant, photovoltaic panels, and parking areas. The Project would replace the demolished facilities with a new Vista Sheriff Station, two parking structures, central utility plant, tunnel to south court, Facility Operations shops, Fleet fueling station, outdoor courtyard, and jail that will include replacement and future housing, intake/release, food services, medical, re-entry, rehabilitation and recreational facilities, and other ancillary structures. The Project would require new utility connections to existing utility lines in La Tortuga Drive, including water and sewer service, which would

continue to be provided by the Vista Irrigation District and the City's municipal sewer system. Water connections could potentially require connection to existing water line in South Melrose Drive. Onsite stormwater improvements would include biofiltration best management practices. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. It is documented that an indoor firing range exists within the project boundary. While the firing range is not explicitly described as a structure to be demolished in the NOP of a DEIR, in the event that the firing range, buildings near the firing range, or buildings of which underground conduits/piping known to carry effluent from the firing range are to be demolished, it is advised that soils should be analyzed for CAM 17 metals, but at minimum lead and copper.
2. If contaminated soils are to be removed and disposed of during demolition and earth-moving activities, DTSC recommends the County of San Diego General Services seek guidance from the appropriate local or state regulatory authority, and if necessary, conduct work with regulatory oversight. DTSC also recommends all imported soil/fill material be tested to ensure all COCs meet screening levels as outlined in [DTSC's Preliminary Endangerment Assessment \(PEA\) Guidance Manual](#). Furthermore, 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
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 reserves the right to comment on any future circulated documents related to this Project based on our review or proposed or incorporated changes, measures, or project features. DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the NOP of a DEIR for the Vista Detention and Re-Entry Facility Master Plan 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,

Tamara Purvis

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cc: (via email)

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