Department of Toxic Substances Control

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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Gavin Newsom
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SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

November 21, 2025

Adrian Moreno
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City of Coachella
53990 Enterprise Way
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RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CALHOUN STREET HOUSING DEVELOPMENT DATED NOVEMBER 19, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2025110786

Dear Adrian Moreno,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Calhoun Street Housing Development (Project). The proposed Project is a Tentative Tract Map, Environmental Assessment, Conditional Use Permit and Planned Unit Development for a single-family residential project. The Project is located on the southwest corner of Calhoun Street and Avenue 49 in the City of Coachella, California. The site encompasses 39.98 acres and is identified as Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 612-260-010. The applicant proposes to subdivide the Project site for a future build out of a private, gated residential community containing 257 single-family homes and a public park with a total area of 3.53 acres. 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 all imported soil/fill material be tested to ensure all COCs meet screening levels as outlined in DTSC's Preliminary Endangerment Assessment 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. The City of Coachella should consider soil testing as mentioned in comment #1. If, in the event any COC results are above DTSC residential screening levels, DTSC recommends the City of Coachella address the contaminations within the Project area through an Environmental Site Assessment and/or receive oversight from a self-certified local agency, DTSC or Regional Water Quality Control Board. If entering into one of DTSC's voluntary agreements, please note that DTSC uses a single standard Request for Lead Agency Oversight Application for all agreement types. Please apply for DTSC oversight using this link: Request for Agency Oversight Application. Submittal of the online application includes an agreement to pay costs incurred during agreement preparation. If you have any

questions about the application portal, please contact the relevant Regional Brownfield Coordinator for your Project.

DTSC would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the MND for the Calhoun Street Housing Development. 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

Dave Kereazis
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cc: (via email)

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