



**Yana Garcia**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
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**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

December 12, 2025

Jaymie Brauer  
Principal Planner Consultant  
Kern Union High School District  
801 South Mt. Vernon Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93307  
[jaymie.brauer@qkinc.com](mailto:jaymie.brauer@qkinc.com)

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE VISTA CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL MODERNIZATION DATED DECEMBER 10, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2025120371](#)

Dear Jaymie Brauer,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Vista Continuation High School Modernization (Project). Kern Union High School District is proposing to update the existing Vista Continuation High School (VCHS) campus to enhance the learning experience and offer new and modern amenities for the student population and faculty, as well as improve the overall use of the existing property. The Project proposes to demolish the existing buildings, internal access roads, parking spaces and courtyard to construct new buildings, outdoor recreational spaces and relocate existing ballfields on the existing 15.5-acre Project site in Bakersfield, California. All proposed construction will occur on previously disturbed ground and developed campus grounds and primary access will remain on P Street. The district is proposing the construction of four conventionally framed buildings for a gymnasium, a multi-purpose and cafeteria building, an administration building and a two-story classroom building with a library. Additionally, the Project will include a prefabricated field house/concessions building of approximately 1,334 square feet. The

total combined building square footage is approximately 50,000 square feet. The Project also proposes a central outdoor courtyard, two outdoor basketball courts, adequate parking for staff, visitors, and students, drop off lanes, access and fire lanes, outdoor lighting and the relocation of three existing ballfields. 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 Kern 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. 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 Preliminary Endangerment Assessment \(PEA\) Guidance Manual](#).
3. All imported soil/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/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 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 MND for the Vista Continuation High School Modernization. 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.

Sincerely,



Tamara Purvis  
Associate Environmental Planner  
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
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Jaymie Brauer  
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cc: (via email)

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