Department of Toxic Substances Control

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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

Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 20, 2026

Mehran Mohtasham
Director, Capital Planning, Facilities Planning and Development
Riverside Community College District
3801 Market Street, 3rd Floor
Riverside, CA 92501
Mehran.Mohtasham@rccd.edu

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR NORCO COLLEGE LIBRARY LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER AND STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING DATED DECEMBER 22, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2025121025

Dear Mehran Mohtasham,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for Norco College Library Learning Resource Center and Student Services Building (Project). The Riverside Community College District is proposing construction of a Library Learning Resource Center (LLRC) and Student Services building at Norco College. The proposed Project will expand library and learning resource spaces to meet student needs, and consolidate programs currently housed in the Library, Student Services building, and College Resource Center. The proposed Project is planned to encompass 77,430 Gross Square Feet and consists of 48,827 assignable square feet. The existing Student Services building, College Resource Center, and Portables A and B will be demolished as secondary effects of the proposed Project.

DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. DTSC appreciates the College administration's proactive communication and coordination regarding the new library construction project thus far. We kindly

request that the College continue to comply with Land Use Covenant 2016-0142151 and provide timely notification of any facility improvement activities during the early planning stages to facilitate DTSC's review.

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 abovementioned 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 2006 *Interim Guidance Evaluation of School Sites with Potential Contamination from Lead Based Paint, Termiticides, and Electrical Transformers*.

3. The Riverside Community College District adhere to the recommendations of the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and address the contaminations within the Project area through 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 Norco College Library Learning Resource Center and Student Services Building. 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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