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

January 12, 2026

Nicholas Arps
Director of Facilities
San Juan Unified School District
3738 Walnut Avenue
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RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE RIO AMERICANO HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT DATED JANUARY 6, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2026010094

Dear Nicholas Arps,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Rio Americano High School Stadium Improvements Project (Project). San Juan Unified School District (District) is proposing to improve the existing Raider Stadium within the existing Rio Americano High School Campus, by adding high mast light standards, additional bleacher seating, an upgraded public address (PA) system, and a new press box. New light standards would also be installed along the existing paved fire lane between the stadium and the main campus parking lot, to provide for pedestrian safety. Four permanent high mast LED light poles (approximately 80 feet tall) would be installed at the existing Raider Stadium. In addition, six new approximately 16-foot-tall light poles would be installed between the south end of the existing main parking lot (which is accessed at the campus entrance from American River Drive at Saverien Drive) and the stadium entrance, along the existing paved fire lane, which would serve as the proposed pedestrian travel route; this lighting would provide nighttime visibility for

pedestrian safety. The existing bleacher seating would be replaced with new bleacher seating on the north (visitor side) of the stadium and new bleacher seating on the south (home side) of the stadium accommodating a total capacity of approximately 2,500 people. A new press box would also be installed as part of the bleacher seating on the south (home side) of the stadium. The proposed project also includes removing the existing metal storage sheds on the northwest side of the stadium, and a small storage shed on the south side of the stadium. Two existing Sacramento Metropolitan Utility District (SMUD) wood light poles within the campus fire lane (which would be used for pedestrian ingress and egress) would also be removed after the installation of new lighting. Finally, the existing PA system would be upgraded. 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 §17268. If the District is not using CDE State funds for the Project, or is otherwise specifically exempt under §17268, DTSC recommends the District continue to investigate, clean up the Site under the oversight of Sacramento 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 NOP of a DEIR for the Rio Americano High School Stadium Improvements Project 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

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cc: (via email)

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