Department of Toxic Substances Control

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 16, 2026

Zulema Renteria
Environmental Planning Specialist
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 S Beaudry Avenue, 21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
zulema.renteria@lausd.net

RE: NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE 32ND ST./USC MAGNET SCHOOL MAJOR MODERNIZATION DATED JANUARY 14, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2026010388

Dear Zulema Renteria,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Negative Declaration (Neg Dec) for the 32nd St./USC Magnet School Major Modernization (Project). The proposed Project involves the modernization and enhancement of the existing 32nd Street Campus including the construction of approximately 23 general and specialty classrooms and associated support spaces; demolition of 23 classrooms and restrooms located within 13 buildings and one storage building; and minor modernization of existing administration, single-story and two-story classroom buildings, and the lunch shelter. Project improvements would include accessibility upgrades, utility infrastructure upgrades, exterior painting, greening landscape and hardscape enhancements. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments

1. If the Los Angeles Unified School District (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 Los Angeles 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. 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 Neg Dec for the 32nd St./USC Magnet School Major 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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cc: (via email)

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