



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

January 26, 2026

Tom Rizzuti
Director, Facilities and Planning
Tustin Unified School District
300 S. C Street
Tustin, CA 92780
trizuti@tustin.k12.ca.us

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE TUSTIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATION CENTER PROJECT DATED JANUARY 16, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2026010531](#)

Dear Tom Rizzuti,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Tustin Unified School District Education Center Project (Project). The proposed Project would include developing a new Education Center and outdoor event space on the northeast portion of an 8.51-acre site, using approximately 5.25 acres, while the remaining 3.26 acres on the southwest side would remain vacant with no planned development. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. The Tustin Unified School District adhere to the recommendations stated in section 5.1 Conclusion and Recommendation -Closing of the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment conducted by Padre in January 2026. DTSC also recommends Tustin Unified School District address the contaminations within and around the Project area through an oversight from a [self-certified local agency](#), DTSC or the Regional Water Quality Control Board. If entering into one of DTSC's voluntary agreements, please note 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 your [Regional Brownfield Coordinator](#).

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.

DTSC would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the MND for the Tustin Unified School District Education Center Project. 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,

Tamara Purvis

Tamara Purvis
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HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
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cc: (via email)

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