



**Yana Garcia**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826-3200  
[dtsc.ca.gov](http://dtsc.ca.gov)



**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

March 17, 2026

Janell Ramirez  
Senior Analyst  
The Judicial Council of California  
2860 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95833-3509  
[Janell.Ramirez-t@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Janell.Ramirez-t@jud.ca.gov)

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
FOR THE NEW NEVADA CITY COURTHOUSE DATED MARCH 11, 2026, STATE  
CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2026030497](#)

Dear Janell Ramirez,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the New Nevada City Courthouse (Project). The Proposed Project would be constructed on an approximately 4.22-acre parcel located just northwest of the State Route 49 and Coyote Street intersection at the northern edge of Nevada City. The Project site is currently developed with an approximately 39,000-square-foot, wood-framed United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service office building (constructed in 1964) and an ancillary outbuilding; both would be demolished. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. 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](#).

2. DTSC recommends all imported soil/fill material be tested to ensure all COCs meet screening levels as outlined in [DTSC's PEA 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 NOP of a DEIR for the New Nevada City Courthouse. 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  
Associate Environmental Planner  
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
[Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov)

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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
State Clearinghouse  
[state.clearinghouse@lci.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@lci.ca.gov)

Crystahl Taylor  
Principal Environmental Planner  
Stantec / Consulting Firm  
[Crystahl.Taylor@stantec.com](mailto:Crystahl.Taylor@stantec.com)

Hilda Iorga  
Facilities Supervisor  
Judicial Council of California  
[Hilda.Iorga@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Hilda.Iorga@jud.ca.gov)

Dave Kereazis  
Associate Environmental Planner  
HWMP-Permitting Division – CEQA Unit  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
[Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov)

Scott Wiley  
Analyst II  
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
[Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov)