



**Yana Garcia**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

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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**

April 14, 2026

Narayan Naidu  
Chief Facilities Officer  
Sequoia Union High School District  
1090 Mills Way  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
[nnaidu@seq.org](mailto:nnaidu@seq.org)

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL FACILITIES MASTER PLAN DATED MARCH 16, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2026030618](#)

Dear Narayan Naidu,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Menlo-Atherton High School Facilities Master Plan (Plan). The proposed Plan for Menlo-Atherton High School is intended to modernize existing campus facilities, improve overall functionality, and extend the useful life of aging infrastructure, without increasing student enrollment capacity. Key components include demolition of classroom buildings and construction of a new three-story, 30,000-square-foot classroom and student services building, along with associated site improvements, landscaping, and temporary swing space to support ongoing instruction during construction. Additional proposed improvements include construction of a new approximately 8,500-square-foot weight room and physical education facility, as well as upgrades to stadium support facilities, including replacement of existing bleachers, construction of a new press box, and implementation of Americans with Disabilities Act improvements. The proposed Plan also includes renovation of one existing classroom

building and the current weight and training room. Campus-wide improvements would incorporate sustainability and infrastructure upgrades, such as installation of photovoltaic panels, double-glazed windows, energy-efficient LED lighting, roofing upgrades, drainage improvements, and plumbing upgrades to existing restrooms. Future modernization efforts evaluated at a programmatic level include library renovations, modernization of science classrooms, installation of artificial turf on athletic fields, pedestrian safety enhancements, and development of new secure bicycle parking facilities. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. If the Sequoia Union High 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 San Mateo 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. 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 MND for the Menlo-Atherton High School Facilities Master Plan. Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances. 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,



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)

Narayan Naidu

April 14, 2026

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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

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