



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 20, 2026

Narayan Naidu
Chief Facilities Officer
Sequoia Union High School District
1090 Mills Way
Redwood City, CA 94062
nnaidu@seq.org

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL FACILITIES MASTER PLAN DATED MARCH 23, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2026030944](#)

Dear Narayan Naidu,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Carlmont High School Facilities Master Plan (Plan). The Plan proposes a comprehensive modernization of the campus to replace outdated facilities, enhance learning environments, upgrade athletic fields, and extend the campus's operational lifespan without expanding student enrollment capacity. The Plan includes three new buildings: a larger, modern classroom building with improved outdoor spaces and temporary portable classrooms during construction; a new building for student support services featuring an accessible rooftop terrace; and a new administration and student support building to strengthen campus security and entry. Renovations would modernize the baseball field with synthetic turf and multipurpose athletic striping, upgrade the Main and Practice Gymnasiums, and refresh the library with flexible furnishings and updated technology infrastructure. Additional campus-wide improvements include light-emitting diode lighting, solar panels, roof resurfacing, energy-efficient windows, restroom upgrades, new paint, and exterior enhancements,

as well as Americans with Disabilities Act -accessible improvements to the stadium entrance and tennis court facilities.

DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. If 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. 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 Carlmont 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 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.

Narayan Naidu

April 20, 2026

Page 3

Sincerely,

Tamara Purvis

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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