



**Yana Garcia**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

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



**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

March 18, 2026

Tova K. Corman  
Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Development  
San Marcos Unified School District  
255 Pico Avenue, Suite 100  
San Marcos, CA 92069  
[tova.corman@smusd.org](mailto:tova.corman@smusd.org)

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SAN MARCOS HIGH SCHOOL  
SITEWIDE ATHLETIC IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT DATED MARCH 16, 2026, STATE  
CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2026030673](#)

Dear Tova K. Corman,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the San Marcos High School Sitewide Athletic Improvements Project (Project). San Marcos Unified School District proposes to replace the existing synthetic turf, track, shot put areas, pole vault and long jump runways at the San Marcos High School football stadium with new, comparable synthetic surfaces (e.g., synthetic turf and rubberized track/surfaces). In addition, the existing natural turf soccer field along the southern boundary of San Marcos High School is proposed to be replaced with a synthetic turf field and shot-put area that would also feature four permanent, non-directional light field light poles. The proposed Project would also include removing the existing shot-put area on the rubberized surface area to the immediate south of the existing track and replacing it with three sand volleyball courts. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. If the 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 Diego 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 San Marcos High School Sitewide Athletic Improvements Project. Thank you for your

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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*

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