



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



Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

July 31, 2026

Andrew Perez
Planning Manager
City of Arroyo Grande
300 East Branch Street
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
aperez@arroyogrande.org

RE: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE ARROYO GRANDE
GENERAL PLAN DATED JULY 23, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER
[2026030959](https://clearinghouse.ca.gov/2026030959)

Dear Andrew Perez,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Arroyo Grande General Plan (Project). As part of a comprehensive planning process, the City of Arroyo Grande (City) proposes adopting an updated Arroyo Grande General Plan. The General Plan Update would include revisions to policies, narratives, data, and figures to reflect the new buildout period through 2050. The General Plan Update would also identify specific areas--referred to as Focus Areas, including the East Grand Corridor, North Fair Oaks, Frederick--as having the potential to accommodate growth and development through 2050. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. If the Project site was historically used for agricultural purposes, and when agricultural crops and/or land uses are proposed or rezoned for residential use,

several Contaminants of Concern (COCs) can be present. The Lead Agency shall identify the amounts of Pesticides and Organochlorine Pesticides (OCPs) historically used on the property. If present, OCPs requiring further analysis are dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane, toxaphene, and dieldrin. Additionally, any level of arsenic present would require further analysis and sampling and must meet approved local area baselines or thresholds. If they do not, remedial action must take place to mitigate them below those thresholds. Additional COCs may be found in mixing, loading, and storage areas, drainage ditches, farmhouses, or any other outbuildings and should be sampled and analyzed. If smudge pots had been routinely utilized, additional sampling for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and/or Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons may be required. These recommendations should be adhered to and become part of the environmental document. Please refer to the [DTSC's Human and Ecological Risk Office \(HERO\) webpage](#) for the most recent guidance and screening levels.

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 soil/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 is suitable for the intended land use. The sampling should include analysis based on the source of the soil/fill and knowledge of prior land use.
3. The City should consider soil testing as mentioned in comment #1. If, in the event any COC results are above DTSC residential screening levels, DTSC recommends the City ensure that any potential contamination be fully characterized and then remediated under the oversight of a [self-certified local agency](#), DTSC, or Regional Water Quality Control Board. If entering into one of DTSC's voluntary agreements, please note that 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 the relevant [Regional Brownfield Coordinator](#) for your Project.

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DEIR for the Arroyo Grande General 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 the [CEQA Review email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tamara Purvis".

Tamara Purvis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP-Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov

Andrew Perez

July 31, 2026

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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

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