



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 2, 2026

Vince Madsen
Senior Director of Facilities, M&O and Transportation
Fullerton Joint Union High School District
1027 South Leslie Street
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RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SONORA HIGH SCHOOL
MATH & SCIENCE CLASSROOM BUILDING MODERNIZATION AND FIELD
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT DATED MARCH 30, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
NUMBER [2026031266](#)

Dear Vince Madsen,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Sonora High School Math & Science Classroom Building Modernization and Field Improvements Project (Project). The proposed Project includes modernization of the northern half of the existing Math and Science Classroom Building and improvements to the track and field facilities. The building modernization would include interior and exterior renovations, replacement of building systems and finishes, installation of new laboratory equipment and casework, and reconfiguration of classrooms to create two biology and two chemistry classrooms while maintaining the existing building footprint. Track and field improvements would involve demolition of existing features and construction of upgraded facilities including a new 2,615-square foot restroom building, synthetic track surface, synthetic turf field, permanent bleachers with increased seating, lighting, and a scoreboard. The Project would also convert part

of the existing animal grazing area into an auxiliary athletic field and add new walkways, landscaping, a bioretention area, fencing, and irrigation improvements. Installation of field lighting would allow evening practices between 3:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. for certain sports and activities without increasing the number of events, participants, spectators, or school hours. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. If Fullerton Joint Union High School 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 Orange 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](#).

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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 Sonora High School Math & Science Classroom Building Modernization and Field Improvements Project. 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,



Dave Kereazis

Associate Environmental Planner

HWMP-Permitting Division – CEQA Unit

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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cc: (via email)

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