



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

April 14, 2026

Eric Tolle
Senior Planner
County of San Luis Obispo
976 Osos Street RM 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
etolle@co.slo.ca.us

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE BARRETT GRADING
VARIANCE N-DRC2024-00050 ED25-0253 DATED APRIL 9, 2026, STATE
CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2026040459](#)

Dear Eric Tolle,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Barrett Grading Variance N-DRC2024-00050 ED25-0253 (Project). The Project is a request by Chase Barrett for a Variance to allow grading on slopes that exceed 30 percent for the purpose of improving an existing driveway to Cal Fire standards and the construction of a new 4,349 square foot single-family residence, a 1,200 square foot accessory dwelling unit, and a 2,369 square foot detached garage/workshop. The Project will result in an area of disturbance of about 1.77 acres including 2,354 cubic yards of cut and fill. The Project will result in the removal of a small storage shed along with sixteen almond trees that are either dead or in poor health. The Project site is located within the agriculture land use category and is subject to the Camp Roberts Influence Area land use designation. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. 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/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 County of San Luis Obispo 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 County of San Luis Obispo address the contaminations within the Project area through an Environmental Site Assessment and/or receive oversight from 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 MND for the Barrett Grading Variance N-DRC2024-00050 ED25-0253 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 [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

Eric Tolle
April 14, 2026
Page 4

cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
state.clearinghouse@lci.ca.gov

Nelson Bernal
Authorized Agent / NRB Drafting Service
Project Applicant / Consulting Firm
nelson@nrbdrafting.biz

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

Scott Wiley
Analyst II
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov