Department of Toxic Substances Control

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200
dtsc.ca.gov

Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

June 24, 2026

Derek Newland
Planner II
San Bernardino County Land Use Services - Planning Division
385 N Arrowhead Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92415
derek.newland@lus.sbcounty.gov

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR PROJ-2024-00123 SKANSKA ESSEX SAND & GRAVEL MINE DATED JUNE 5, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2026060236

Dear Derek Newland,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the PROJ-2024-00123 Skanska Essex Sand & Gravel Mine (Project). The Project includes a conditional use permit and reclamation plan revision for the existing Skanska Essex sand & gravel mine site previously permitted on 50 acres under mine reclamation plan no. 94m-01. Skanska proposes to re-permit the site for 50 years to provide aggregates for regional road projects. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. The proposed project is located in close proximity to Camp Essex (also found under Camp Clipper), a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS), which included 14 firing ranges for medium and large caliber ordnance, grenades, and small arms between 1943 and 1944. According to a site investigation conducted in 2007, no munitions of explosive concern (MEC) were found, but evidence of munitions debris (MD) in and around training areas was encountered. During construction, it is prudent to be aware of the potential for MEC or MD. Please

investigate and be aware of the historical uses of the FUDS to evaluate for potential for MEC and/or MD that may be encountered during proposed construction activities. Additionally, if MEC or MD is encountered during construction, please practice the 3Rs of explosive safety:

a. **Recognize** that munitions are dangerous;
b. **Retreat** do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area; and,
c. **Report** immediately what you saw and where you saw it to local law enforcement — call 911.

2. DTSC recommends being aware of signs of contaminated soil, residual staining, or odors during the construction process and advises collecting appropriate samples for waste characterization and contacting DTSC if further assessment is necessary. DTSC recommends compliance with all applicable or relevant and appropriate environmental laws. If imported soil is needed, DTSC recommends that all imported soil/fill material should be tested to assess any contaminants of concern meet screening levels as outlined in DTSC's Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Guidance Manual. Additionally, 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 fill and knowledge of prior land use. Additional information can be found by visiting DTSC's Human and Ecological Risk Office (HERO) webpage.

DTSC would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the MND for the PROJ-2024-00123 Skanska Essex Sand & Gravel Mine project. Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances.

To request information on FUDS please email FOIA-SPL@usace.army.mil to submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact us via our CEQA Review email.

Sincerely,

Dave Kereazis

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

cc: (via email)

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

Eileen Mananian
Environmental Program Manager I (Supervisor)
SMRP – Cleanup - Cypress
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Eileen.Mananian@dtsc.ca.gov

William Martinez
Senior Engineering Geologist
SMRP – Santa Susana - Sacramento
Department of Toxic Substances Control
William.Martinez@dtsc.ca.gov

Abraham Serrato
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
SMRP – Santa Susana - Sacramento
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Abraham.Serrato@dtsc.ca.gov

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