



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

May 29, 2026

Jacilyn Snyder
Regional Environmental Protection Specialist
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way Suite W-2820
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jacilyn.Snyder@BIA.gov

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR WORTHAM PROPERTY FEE-TO-TRUST
ACQUISITION DATED MAY 19, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER
[2026050747](#)

Dear Jacilyn Snyder,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Wortham Property Fee-To-Trust Acquisition (Project). The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is the lead federal agency, and an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to support the Colusa Indian Community Council's (CCIC or Tribe) application for acquiring a parcel of land into federal trust status in Colusa County (County). This parcel is contiguous to existing Tribal trust lands and is referred to as the Proposed Action. The Project site is known as Wortham property. It consists of approximately 519.31 acres, which the Tribe currently owns in fee simple status and is intended for future economic development. The Proposed Action includes up to 40 single-family residences, a 215-space recreational vehicle (RV) park, a 100,000 square foot commercial center facing State Route 45, continuing agricultural use through cultivation of row crops and nut tree orchards, and a vehicle repair facility for Tribal use. Approximately 56.6 acres would be allotted for the housing development. The RV Park

would use about 69.69 acres, and 62.6 acres would be set aside for commercial development. The remaining 330.42 acres would continue to be used for agriculture. 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 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.

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DTSC would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EA for Wortham Property Fee-To-Trust Acquisition. 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,

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

Jacilyn Snyder

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cc: (via email)

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