



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 5, 2026

Cristhian Barajas
Development Services Director
City of Brawley
205 South Imperial Avenue
Brawley, CA 92227
cristhian.barajas@brawley-ca.gov

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR BRAWLEY GATEWAY MIXED USE
MASTER PLAN DATED MAY 1, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER
[2026050041](#)

Dear Cristhian Barajas,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Brawley Gateway Mixed Use Master Plan (Project). The Project proposes a Zone Change, a Site Plan, a Tentative Tract Map, and amendments to the Brawley General Plan and Gateway Specific Plan to allow development of a mixed-use Project on an approximately 66-acre site currently used for agricultural purposes. The eastern portion of the site (approximately 29 acres) would allow development of up to 408 multi-family residential units, including on-site amenities such as open space, recreation areas, and parking facilities. The western portion of the site (approximately 37 acres) would be subdivided into 11 commercial lots intended to accommodate a range of commercial uses, including retail and a hotel with approximately 100 rooms. The eastern portion of the site would consist of three (3) multi-family residential lots. The project requires approval of a Gateway Specific Plan Amendment, a Zone Change, a General Plan Amendment, a Site Plan, and a Tentative Tract Map. 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 City of Brawley 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 of Brawley address the contaminations

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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 Brawley Gateway Mixed Use Master 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 [CEQA Review email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,

Tamara Purvis

Tamara Purvis
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HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

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