



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
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dtsc.ca.gov



Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 5, 2026

Narayan Naidu
Chief Facilities Officer
Sequoia Union High School District
480 James Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94063
nnaidu@seq.org

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SEQUOIA HIGH SCHOOL FACILITIES MASTER PLAN DATED MAY 1, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2026050040](#)

Dear Narayan Naidu,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Sequoia High School Facilities Master Plan (Plan). The proposed Plan includes construction of a new approximately 14,000-square-foot, two-story classroom building with eight classrooms near the athletic field, student support services, restrooms, outdoor seating, and related site improvements, as well as expansion of the existing arboretum to create an outdoor classroom. The Plan also proposes substantial renovations and modernization of existing campus facilities, including seismic retrofitting and interior and systems upgrades to the historic Main Building, improvements to the multi-use room to enhance indoor-outdoor connectivity, modernization of the boys' and girls' locker rooms, and replacement of stadium lighting. Additional upgrades include improvements to Carrington Hall, the student activity building, stadium support spaces, installation of photovoltaic panels, roof resurfacing, restroom renovations, exterior repainting, artificial turf and drainage improvements at

athletic fields, and lighting upgrades.

DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. If the Sequoia Union High School District (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 Plan or is otherwise specifically exempt under [§17268](#), DTSC recommends the District continue to investigate, clean up the Site under the oversight of San Mateo 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. 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.

DTSC would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the MND for the Sequoia High School Facilities 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 our [CEQA Review email](#) for additional guidance.

Narayan Naidu

May 5, 2026

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Sincerely,

Tamara Purvis

Tamara Purvis

Associate Environmental Planner

HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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cc: (via email)

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