



**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](http://dtsc.ca.gov)



**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

May 29, 2026

Shannon Soto, Ed.D.  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Compton Unified School District  
501 South Santa Fe Avenue  
Compton, CA 90221  
[ssoto@compton.k12.ca.us](mailto:ssoto@compton.k12.ca.us)

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL  
MODERNIZATION PROJECT DATED MAY 27, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
NUMBER [2026051084](#)

Dear Shannon Soto,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Centennial High School Modernization Project (Project). The Compton Unified School District proposes the Centennial High School Modernization Project at Centennial High School in the City of Compton. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to modernize and redevelop the existing campus to improve educational, athletic, and support facilities. The Proposed Project would involve demolition of existing permanent and portable school buildings, facilities, and athletic improvements and construction of new academic, administrative, athletic, and support facilities over an approximate four-year construction period. Proposed improvements would include a new administration building, academic building, performing arts center, gymnasium, aquatic center, dining and career technical education building, field house, replacement athletic facilities, parking lots, and associated landscape, circulation, utility, accessibility,

and stormwater improvements. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. If the Compton Unified 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 Project or is otherwise specifically exempt under [§17268](#), DTSC recommends the District continue to investigate, clean up the Site under the oversight of Los Angeles 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 PEA 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 Centennial High School Modernization Project. Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances.

Shannon Soto, Ed.D.

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If you would like to proceed with DTSC's school environmental review process, please visit [DTSC's Evaluating & Clean-up School 3-Step Process to begin a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment](#). 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,



Dave Kereazis

Associate Environmental Planner

HWMP-Permitting Division – CEQA Unit

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

State Clearinghouse

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