Department of Toxic Substances Control

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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Gavin Newsom
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SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

June 19, 2026

Dawn E. Marple
City Planner
City of Fowler
128 South Fifth Street
Fowler, CA 93625
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RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE TENTATIVE SUBDIVISION MAP NO. 6519 DATED JUNE 17, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2026060823

Dear Dawn E. Marple,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Tentative Subdivision Map No. 6519 (Project). Yamabe & Horn Engineering, on behalf of Joseph Crown and Crown Homes, has proposed a Tentative Subdivision Map on a parcel of approximately 39.93 acres in size. The Project site is designated as Low Density Residential by the City's General Plan and is zoned Exclusive Agriculture by the County of Fresno. As a part of the Project, the applicant has proposed a General Plan Amendment to amend the site's General Plan land use designation to Medium Low Density Residential. The Project would subdivide the Project Site into 183 single family residential lots and construct an approximately 85,867 square foot park. According to property records, structures on the Project site were built in 1925. The Project area was historically used for agricultural use. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished anywhere on the Project site, surveys should be conducted for the presence of lead-based paints or products, mercury, asbestos containing materials, and polychlorinated biphenyl caulk. Removal, demolition, and disposal of any of the above-mentioned chemicals should be conducted in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. In addition, sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Guidance Manual.

2. 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, and 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.

3. 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.

4. The City of Fowler 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 Fowler ensure that any potential contamination be fully characterized and then remediated under the oversight of 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 Tentative Subdivision Map No. 6519. 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,

Dave Kereazis

Dave Kereazis
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cc: (via email)

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