



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

October 8, 2026

John Calise
Assistant Superintendent
Berkeley Unified School District
2515 Ninth Street
Berkeley, CA 94710
johncalise@berkeley.net

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR ATHLETIC INFRASTRUCTURE ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
DATED OCTOBER 5, 2026, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER [2026100142](#)

Dear John Calise,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Athletic Infrastructure Additions and Improvements Project (Project). The proposed Project would involve the construction of five new tennis courts and a new restroom/changing room building, and the relocation of the existing basketball court. The proposed Project would also replace the existing grass field covering at the baseball field with synthetic turf. In addition, the proposed Project would install new facility and sports lighting, fencing, outfield netting, gates, and improved drainage facilities throughout Moellering Field. While the proposed athletic facilities would be primarily used by the Berkeley High School (BHS) athletics program, the Berkeley Technology Academy and Berkeley Independent Study programs would also utilize the baseball field and basketball court. Public use of the tennis courts and basketball court would also be permitted outside of BHS's scheduled activities. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

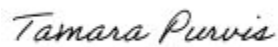
1. If the Berkeley Unified School District (District) plans to use California Department of Education (CDE) State funds for the Project, then the District shall comply with the requirements of Education Code (EDC), [§17210](#), [§17213.1](#), and [§17213.2](#), unless otherwise specifically exempted 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 Alameda 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. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any Project sites included in the proposed Project, 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 \(PEA\) Guidance Manual](#).
3. 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 NOP of a DEIR for the Athletic Infrastructure Additions and Improvements Project. 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](#).

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

John Calise
October 8, 2026
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cc: (via email)

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