



Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D.
Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Gavin Newsom
Governor

April 29, 2020

Mr. Jeremy Powell, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Hamilton Unified School District
P.O. Box 488
Hamilton City, California 95951

PRELIMINARY ENDANGERMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT – NO FURTHER ACTION DETERMINATION, HAMILTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, HAMILTON UNION HIGH SCHOOL EXPANSION, NORTH OF 620 CANAL STREET AND EAST OF SR 45/CANAL STREET, HAMILTON CITY, GLENN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (PROJECT CODE 104806)

Dear Dr. Powell:

On March 25, 2020, NV5, on behalf of the Hamilton Union School District (District), notified the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) that it had complied with all public review and comment requirements for the Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Report (PEA Report – NV5, April 27, 2020,) pursuant to Education Code section 17213.1(a)(6)(A). The District made the PEA Report available for public review and comment from February 17, 2020 through March 20, 2020, and a public hearing was held on February 26, 2020. No comments were received during the comment period.

Additionally, DTSC reviewed the PEA Report received electronically on April 27, 2020. The PEA Report presents investigation results and conclusions based on a screening level human health risk assessment for the proposed expansion of Hamilton Union High School located north of 620 Canal Street and east of SR 45/Canal Street in Hamilton City, Glenn County, California (Site). The proposed expansion will include phased construction of a gymnasium, a parking lot, new play fields, and modernization of utilities and infrastructure. The Site will be served by the Hamilton City Community Services District (CSD) which includes water provided by California Water Service – Chico District, storm drain connections provided by Glenn County Planning and Public Works Agency and sewer provided by the CSD.

The Site is identified as an approximately 45-acre portion of the parcel identified by the Glenn County Assessor's Parcel Number 032-230-015 (125 acres). The Site is

agricultural land and the Sacramento River; to the south by Hamilton Union High School, then 6th Street, followed by mixed commercial businesses and residences; and, to the west by Canal Road, then the Glenn-Colusa Canal followed by agricultural land.

According to the PEA Report, the Site has been used for agricultural purposes since at least 1937. A hay type crop was planted at the Site from at least 1937 through approximately 1983. The Site was used as an orchard from approximately 1983 through 2017. The Site has been planted with a hay type crop since 2017. One pole-mounted transformer and water supply well are present at the Site.

The PEA Workplan included activities to investigate the Site for potential impacts from the following environmental conditions that may pose a threat to human health or the environment:

- Organochlorine pesticides (OCPs), arsenic, and lead in soils from potential agricultural chemical use;
- Arsenic, lead, and OCPs in soil and groundwater associated with the supply well as a potential mixing area;
- Polychlorinated biphenyls in soils associated with the pole-mounted transformer; and,
- Total petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, and OCPs in soils associated with a drainage ditch that runs east to west along the southern edge of the Site.

DTSC conducted a Site visit on November 12, 2019 to observe PEA field activities. Arsenic concentrations at the Site range from 4.1 to 6.4 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) which are comparable to the Site-specific background range of 3.6 to 5.7 mg/kg. All other compounds were detected below their respective screening levels for the residential use scenario for surface soils. The PEA Report concludes that the Site is a candidate for a no further action determination.

Based on review of the PEA Report, neither a release of hazardous material nor the presence of a naturally occurring hazardous substance which would pose a threat to public health or the environment under unrestricted land use was indicated at the Site. Therefore, DTSC concurs with the conclusion of the PEA Report that further environmental investigation of the Site is not required and hereby approves the PEA Report.

Pursuant to Education Code section 17213.2, subdivision (e), if a previously unidentified release or threatened release of a hazardous material or the presence of a naturally occurring hazardous substance is discovered anytime during construction at the Site, the District shall cease all construction activities at the Site and notify DTSC. Additional assessment, investigation or cleanup may be required.

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If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Tisdale, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-6666 or via e-mail at Elizabeth.Tisdale@dtsc.ca.gov

Sincerely,



Richard Hume, P.E., Chief
Northern California Schools
Site Mitigation & Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (via e-mail)

Mr. Fred Yeager
School Facilities Planning Division
California Department of Education
FYeager@cde.ca.gov

Mr. Michael Cannon
Principal
EFPM, LLC
mscannon_efpm@msn.com

Mr. Bryan D. Boyd, EdD
School Facilities Planning Division
California Department of Education
BBoyd@cde.ca.gov

Mr. José Salcedo, PE, Chief
Northern California Schools Unit
DTSC – Sacramento Office
Jose.Salcedo@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Kristen Hamman
Chief Business Official
Hamilton Unified School District
khamman@hudschools.org

Ms. Elizabeth Tisdale
Project Manager
DTSC - Northern California Schools Unit
Elizabeth.Tisdale@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Heidi Cummings, PG
Senior Geologist
NV5
Heidi.Cummings@nv5.com

Ms. Valerie Hanley, PhD
Staff Toxicologist
DTSC – Human and Ecological Risk Office
Valerie.Hanley@dtsc.ca.gov

Mr. Craig W. Bourne, PG
Project Geologist
NV5
Craig.Bourne@nv5.com