



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Barbara A. Lee, Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

May 19, 2016

Mr. John Fogarty, Assistant Superintendent
Business Services
Irvine Unified School District
2015 Roosevelt
Irvine, California 92620

**APPROVAL OF FINAL CHARACTERIZATION REPORT, PORTOLA HIGH SCHOOL,
1001 CADENCE, IRVINE, ORANGE COUNTY (SITE CODE: 404800)**

Dear Mr. Fogarty:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Final Characterization Report (Report) for the Irvine Unified School District's (IUSD) Portola High School (Site) prepared by PlaceWorks, dated May 2016. The Report summarizes additional investigation activities conducted at the Site in response to a letter from DTSC Director Barbara Lee letter dated March 2, 2016.

In our letter of March 2, 2016, DTSC determined that further subsurface sampling was necessary to assess the Site for potential presence of contaminants given prior use of the Site by the military; occurrence of contamination at the storm drain located at the northern corner of the property; and past sampling that found low levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). Accordingly, a Confirmation Sampling Workplan (Workplan) was developed and discussed with the public and interested stakeholders at the District's Board of Education special meeting held on March 22, 2016. The Workplan was revised based on input received from the public and board members.

The report presents the results of additional soil and soil gas sampling undertaken at the High School, as well as a comprehensive summary of all subsurface data collected to date. Seventeen soil borings were advanced at DTSC selected locations within the Site. Soil gas samples were collected from 5 and 15 feet below ground surface and analyzed for VOCs; each location was sampled twice for a total of 72 samples. In addition, 37 soil samples were collected and analyzed for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs). VOCs were detected at low levels in some of the soil gas samples consistent with concentrations detected in previous Site investigations.

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Based on the results of the investigation, the Report concludes that the likely source of the low levels of VOCs detected in soil gas at the Site is recycled irrigation water, and that further assessment is not needed at the Site. DTSC concurs with the conclusion and hereby approves the Report. Detected concentrations of VOCs at the Site are well below human health risk based levels and are not expected to increase. VOCs at these concentrations do not pose a threat to the health of individuals who attend classes, who work at the school, or who might otherwise use the school's property.

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

If you have any questions related to this project, please contact Yolanda Garza, Unit Chief at yolanda.garza@dtsc.ca.gov or at (714) 816-1978, or Rana Georges, Project Manager at (714) 484-5320 by e-mail at rana.georges@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Dot Lofstrom, Division Chief
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control

dl/yg/srs/dg/rg

cc: (via e-mail)

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