



Department of Toxic Substances Control

SEP - 6 2001



LETTER AD

Edwin F. Lowry, Director  
8800 Cal Center Drive, Suite 350  
Sacramento, California 95826

Vinston H. Hickox  
Agency Secretary  
California Environmental  
Protection Agency

Gray Davis  
Governor

August 30, 2001

Mr. Robert Smith  
Planning Director  
University of California Development Office  
County of Merced  
3351 M Street, Suite 240  
Merced, California 95348

COUNTY OF MERCED UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLAN AND LONG RANGE  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SCH# 2001021056 and 2001021065)

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is in receipt of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Draft Environmental Impact Reports (DEIRs) for the above referenced projects. The DEIR titled "University Community Plan" states that a majority of the property proposed for development was historically used for agricultural purposes. Given this information, DTSC agrees with conducting a Phase I site assessment as outlined in Section 4.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) of the DEIR to determine the potential for on- and off-site hazardous substances prior to site preparation and construction activities. The Phase I should document the potential for historical pesticide use on the property. Although DTSC does not regulate legally applied pesticides, we strongly recommend that the subject property be tested for environmentally persistent organophosphate pesticides such as DDT and metals if pesticides have been used historically on the subject property.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the review of these important documents. If you have any questions related to DTSC's Site Mitigation Program as it relates to the proposed University of California Merced campus, please contact Mr. Steven Becker, Expedited Remedial Action Program Unit, at (916) 255-3586.

AD-1

AD-2

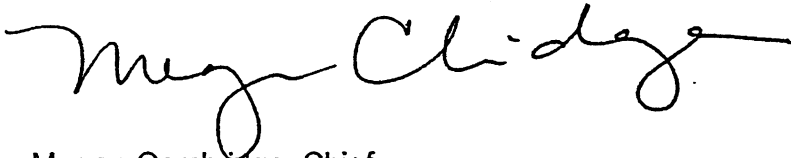
*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*

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Questions regarding DTSC's roles and responsibilities related to implementation of CEQA should be directed to Mr. Guenther W. Moskat, Chief, Planning & Environmental Analysis Section, at (916) 322-8955.

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AD-2

Sincerely,



Megan Cambridge, Chief  
Expedited Remedial Action Program Unit

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Edwin F. Lowry  
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Mr. Jim McRitchie, Chief  
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cc: Mr. James L. Tjosvold, P.E., Chief  
Northern California-Central Cleanup Operations Branch  
Site Mitigation Program  
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Mr. Steven Becker  
Hazardous Substances Scientist  
Northern California-Central Cleanup Operations Branch  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive, Suite 350  
Sacramento, California 95826

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**COMMENT LETTER AD: DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL**

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**Response to Comment AD-1:**

DTSC agrees with the conclusions of Section 4.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, of the UCP Draft EIR, regarding the preparation of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment to determine the potential for on- and off-site hazardous substances contamination, primarily of historical pesticide application, as well as metals. Impact 4.7-1 on page 4.7-15 of the UCP Draft EIR discusses the potential for site contamination and the need for a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. No additional response is necessary.

**Response to Comment AD-2:**

The comment provides a contact person if there are any questions associated with DTSC's Site Mitigation Program as it relates to the University campus. The commentor's information is hereby forwarded to the decision-makers.