



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

**Yana Garcia**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
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<https://dtsc.ca.gov/>

**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

February 25, 2026

**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Mr. Michael Dunning  
Director, Facilities, M&O, and Transportation  
Pasadena Unified School District  
District Service Center  
740 West Woodbury Road  
Altadena, California 91001  
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### PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FIRE-RELATED INVESTIGATION FINDINGS

Dear Mr. Dunning:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reviewed the February 17, 2026 Fire-Related Investigation Findings Summary Letter (Summary Letter) prepared by Verdantas on behalf of the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD). The Summary Letter requested concurrence on PUSD approach to addressing impacted soil at eleven (11) PUSD properties (Blair High School, Education Center, Field Elementary School, Jefferson Children's and Teen's Center, John Muir High School, Longfellow Elementary School, Octavia E. Butler Magnet School, Washington Elementary STEM Magnet School, San Rafael Elementary School, Cleveland Elementary School, and Franklin Elementary School).

Based on DTSC's review of the investigation findings, DTSC concurs that: impacted soil present an imminent and substantial threat to school property users; removal and replacement of the impacted soil is necessary to ensure continued safe use of the properties; affected infrastructure, trees, and vegetation must also be removed and replaced as part of protective actions; and failure to remove impacted soil would trigger the need for long term institutional controls, inspections, maintenance, activity

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restrictions, worker training, soil management procedures, and continued DTSC oversight in perpetuity.

DTSC affirms that timely action to remove all impacted soil constitutes the most protective and effective approach on the school properties.

If you have any questions, please contact, Ms. Zhilan (Kate) Zhang, Project Manager, at (657) 777-9827 or at [Zhilan.Zhang@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Zhilan.Zhang@dtsc.ca.gov), or contact me at (714) 484-5368 or by e-mail at [Shahir.Haddad@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Shahir.Haddad@dtsc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Shahir Haddad, P.E.  
Branch Chief  
Brownfields Restoration and Schools Evaluation Branch  
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program

cc: (via e-mail)

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