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Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

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700 Heinz Avenue
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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

June 26, 2008

Mr. Victor Carniglia
City of Antioch
P.O. Box 5007
Antioch, California 94531



Dear Mr. Carniglia:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Hillcrest Station Area Specific Plan (SCH# 2008052128). As you may be aware, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) oversees the cleanup of sites where hazardous substances have been released pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.8. As a Responsible Agency, DTSC is submitting comments to ensure that the environmental documentation prepared for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) adequately addresses any remediation activities pertaining to releases of hazardous substances.

According to the NOP, the Project would involve the preparation of a Specific Plan for the area surrounding the future Hillcrest eBART rail station in Antioch. The Project area is located adjacent to State Route 4 and Highway 160. The NOP states that there may be environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Specific Plan, which will serve as the land use regulatory document for the development of the Hillcrest Station Area.

DTSC recommends that an assessment of past land uses be conducted for the area covered by the Project to determine if there may have been prior uses and storage of hazardous substances that may impact human health or the environment. Currently, the Project area is mostly vacant, but there are areas of wetland, storm water detention basins, and industrial uses including a car towing and storage yard and metal smelting. The surrounding area contains agricultural, residential, cemetery, and office uses. Based on the assessment of past land uses, sampling should be conducted to determine whether there are issues that will need to be addressed in the CEQA compliance document.

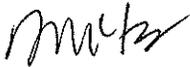
If hazardous substances have been released, they will need to be addressed as part of this project. For example, if remediation activities at the Site include the need for soil excavation, the CEQA compliance document should include: (1) an assessment of air impacts and health impacts associated with the excavation activities; (2) identification of

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any applicable local standards which may be exceeded by the excavation activities, including dust levels and noise; (3) transportation impacts from the removal or remedial activities; and (4) risk of public upset should be there an accident at the Site.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting, please contact Allan Fone of my staff at (510)540-3836. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



Denise M. Tsuji, Unit Chief
Northern California Coastal
Cleanup Operations Branch

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
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