

Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Persons

From: Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD)

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report. SMMUSD is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Proposed Project. SMMUSD has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Proposed Project identified below:

Project Title: **Santa Monica High School Science and Technology Building and Site Improvements Project (Proposed Project)**

Project Location: The Proposed Project is located on a portion of the Santa Monica High School campus at 601 Pico Boulevard, City of Santa Monica in the County of Los Angeles and is bordered by Olympic Boulevard and 5th Street on the northwest, 7th Court Alley and 7th Street on the northeast, Michigan Avenue and Pico Boulevard on the southeast, and 4th Street and a hotel on the southwest. The Proposed Project site specifically occupies the northern 5.2 acres of the campus bordered by Olympic Boulevard on the northwest, 6th Street on the southwest, the remainder of the Santa Monica High School campus on the south, and 7th Court Alley on the northeast. Additional minor improvements to existing facilities would occur throughout the entire campus. The Proposed Project site is listed pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5(c)(1) as an underground storage tank for which an unauthorized release report was filed in 1988.

Project Description: The Proposed Project includes the demolition of the existing 88,000-square-foot two-story Science and Technology Buildings, a 253-space parking lot, and softball field and construction of a new 84,000-square-foot, three-story Science and Technology Building, replacement parking lot, and softball field in a reconfigured site layout. A formal perimeter would be created along 7th Court Alley and Olympic Boulevard. The Proposed Project would re-route all access to the Proposed Project site via a ramp off of the 6th Street access road to the proposed new parking lot. An enhanced pedestrian entrance would be provided along Michigan Avenue. A drop-off and pick-up area would be provided along Olympic Boulevard. Depending on funding, campus-wide updates to the fire alarm and electrical systems would be included, the existing football field would be resurfaced with synthetic turf, the South Gymnasium ceiling would be improved, ventilation for the North and South gymnasiums and swimming pool locker rooms would also be improved, and photovoltaic electrical systems, solar panels, and an electrical transformer (if needed) would be installed.

Summary of Impacts: The Proposed Project would result in no impacts to agricultural resources, biological resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and utilities and service systems. The Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts related to aesthetics, operational air quality, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, land use and planning, construction and operational noise, recreation and parks, construction traffic, and operational parking. The Proposed Project would result in significant unavoidable adverse impacts related to construction air quality and construction parking.

Community Presentation: SMMUSD will conduct a community presentation on the Proposed Project and the Draft EIR at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at the Santa Monica High School Cafeteria located at 601 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, California 90405. Agencies, organizations, and interested persons are welcome to attend.

Document Availability: The Draft EIR and Appendices are available for review at the following locations:

- Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday through Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday)
- Online at the SMMUSD website (<http://www.smmusd.org/measureBB/index.html>, under "Campus Improvement").

Comment Period: The Draft EIR is made available for review and comment commencing April 30, 2010 and ending June 14, 2010. The Draft EIR and all documents referenced therein are available for review at 1651 Sixteenth Street, Santa Monica, California 90404 by contacting Janece L. Maez at (310) 450-8338 ext. 268 from the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please address all comments in writing to Ms. Janece L. Maez, Assistant Superintendent, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, 1651 Sixteenth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404, by fax to (310) 581-6720, or by e-mail to measurebb@smmusd.org (please include the Project name in the heading). SMMUSD will only accept written comments during the comment period. After close of the public comment period, SMMUSD will prepare responses to timely written comments and the Final EIR. SMMUSD's Board of Education will consider certifying the Final EIR, adopt findings, a statement of overriding considerations, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program at its regularly scheduled Board meeting on June 18, 2010. No public hearing is required or will be held.