



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1651 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
SANTA MONICA, CA 90404

310-450-8338  
www.smmusd.org

## **Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration**

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**To:** Reviewing Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**From:** Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District  
1651 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Monica, California 90404  
Contact: Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer, (310) 450-8338

**Subject:** Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Franklin Elementary School Campus Plan Project

**Lead Agency:** Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

**Environmental Information:** Notice is hereby given that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (District), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Proposed Project (described below) in accordance with CEQA. The District is providing public notice in compliance with Title 14, Chapter 3, Sections 15072 and 15073 of the California Code of Regulations, as amended. The MND was undertaken for the purpose of determining whether the Proposed Project may have a significant effect on the environment. The District has concluded that the Proposed Project would not have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of certain mitigation measures. The MND reflects the independent judgement of the District.

**Project Location:** All proposed physical improvements would be constructed at Franklin Elementary School (and satellite facility), located at 2400 Montana Avenue in the City of Santa Monica, in western Los Angeles County. The existing Franklin Elementary School campus is approximately 5.6 acres in size and is bordered by Montana Avenue to the northwest; 23<sup>rd</sup> Place to the southwest; 24<sup>th</sup> Place to the northeast; and Idaho Avenue to the southeast. The school includes a satellite facility adjacent to the main campus on the northeast side of 24<sup>th</sup> Place, along Montana Avenue. The Project site is located approximately 1.3 miles north of Interstate 10; 2 miles southwest of Interstate 405; and 1.8 miles northeast of Santa Monica State Beach and the Pacific Coast Highway.

**Project Description:** The proposed Franklin Elementary Campus Plan Project (Proposed Project) planned improvements consist of removing and demolishing eight existing portable, two modular, and one permanent buildings on-site; constructing three new buildings; and renovating two buildings and outdoor areas on the existing school campus. The District intends to proceed with design and engineering of the first phase of funded activities. Later phases of the Proposed Project would occur at the District's discretion as funding is received. Implementation of the Campus Plan would not increase the capacity of Franklin Elementary School, nor would the attendance boundaries change. Improvements would occur in five phases as follows:

**Phase 1** would include the removal of six portable buildings and construction of a new one-story Maker-Space building and outdoor Maker Yard, Maker Patio, and presentation platform; construction of playfield improvements; and reorienting the outdoor space to accommodate three full basketball courts. Phase 1 would also include construction of a fire truck turn lane; installation of a new water line; and installation of replacement fencing near the Maker-Space area.

**Phase 2** would involve demolition of Classroom Building F and removal of a portable shade structure located along the northeastern boundary of the campus (which has a total of seven classrooms), and construction of a replacement two-story, L-shaped classroom building with larger-sized classrooms consisting of six regular classrooms; two special education classrooms; one kindergarten and one transitional-kindergarten classroom with dedicated restrooms; and custodial space. Phase 2 would entail demolition of two classrooms and one restroom at the southern portion of the existing building and construction of the southern portion of the new two-story building. The northern portion of the existing building would remain in use during Phase 2.

**Phase 3** would include interior renovation of the existing main building to upgrade the administrative and teacher support spaces and restrooms. Two existing modular buildings would be removed to create an outdoor learning space, and the satellite campus would be remodeled to de-partition the transitional-kindergarten classroom and make minor upgrades to the associated outdoor facilities.

**Phase 4** would involve demolition of the remaining portion of Building F and completion of construction of a new two-story building. The new building would extend further south (as compared to the existing building), and the eastern extent would include the existing outdoor patio area of the existing building.

**Phase 5** would include demolition of the existing cafeteria and construction of a new cafeteria, culinary education building, and outdoor dining area. The area would also include a new kitchen garden.

The Franklin Elementary School campus is not included on any list under Government Code section 65962.5.

**Public Review and Comments:** The District invites you to comment on the proposed MND. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15073, responsible and trustee agencies and other interested parties, including members of the public, must submit any comments in response to this notice no later than **5:00 p.m. on December 14, 2022**. This Notice of Intent and accompanying MND are available for a 30-day public review period beginning **November 14, 2022** and ending **December 14, 2022**.

**Notice of Public Meeting:** SMMUSD will hold a public meeting to hear public comments on the MND at Franklin Elementary School Library on December 14, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Copies of the MND and supporting documents are available for public review at the District's Office at 1651 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404; at Franklin Elementary School, 2400 Montana Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90403; and on the District's website at <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/5591>. The District's Office and Franklin Elementary School are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

The District will only accept written comments during the aforementioned public review period—please include your name, address, and contact information in your correspondence. Written comments must be directed to Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer, and received in the offices of the District, or submitted via by e-mail at [cupton@smmusd.org](mailto:cupton@smmusd.org). For any questions or to obtain further information about the project please contact Carey Upton at the District via the aforementioned email or by phone at (310) 450-8338.

**Board of Education Meeting:** Following the end of the public review period, a public meeting to consider the IS/MND and Proposed Project will be held at 5:30 p.m. on January 19, 2023, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Offices at 1651 16<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Monica, CA 90404.