Environmental Screening and CEQA Determination for Sacramento City Unified School Di • – ” ‹ . 2012 • Proposal to Close Freeport Elementary School and Transfer Students to John Still K-8 School and Related Actions

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to determine the status of the proposed school closures and transfers under the California Environmental Quality Actor CEQA. The CEQA Statutes are included in the California Public Resources Code, Division 13, Environmental Quality. In addition to the CEQA statutes, this review also relies on the guidance of the adopted State CEQA Guidelines which are included in Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations.

The purpose of CEQA is to identify, disclose and to the extent feasible mitigate any significant physical environmental effects of a proposed project. CEQA focuses on physical environmental effects and does not generally review social or economic effects unless such effects result in a physical environmental impact. Section 21060.5 of the CEQA Statutes defines "Environment" as the to school howe not be considered a significant environmental impact unless it would with reasona significant adverse change in noise, traffic or other physical environmental conditions.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

On November 4, 2010, the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) Board adopted criteria for school consolidation and closures. These review criteria include:

- Phase 1 Review Considerations: School capacity, condition and operating costs.
- Phase 2 Review Considerations: School site locational accessibility; enrollment data; facility costs; facility usage/efficiency; facility condition and site data and program data

Subsequently, the Board appointed a Facility Consolidation and Closure or 7-11 Committee to review data and recommend sites for consolidation and closure. This Committee is governed by Education Code sections 17387-17389 regarding Surplus Property and California Education Code Sections 17387-17391 regarding community involvement by attendance area at the district level regarding surplus space. This community involvement should facilitate making the best possible judgments about the use of excess school facilities in each individual situation. The process would allow community involvement before decisions are made about school closure or the use of surplus space, thus avoiding community conflict and assuring building use that is compatible with the community's needs and desires.

The 7-11 Committee met during the spring and summer of 2011 and had their final meeting on August 29, 2011. The Committee completed the following efforts: (a) Reviewed the school enrollment and other data

The 7-11 Committee recommendations were brought to the Board on October 6, 2011. The Board directed the Superintendent to bring a staff analysis of the 7-11 Committee recommendations and his own recommendations with analysis to the Board for consideration. On November 3, 2011, the Board received – Š ‡ ò … Š ‘ ‘ Ž Ž ‘ • — ” ‡ ƒ • † ‘ • • ‘ Ž ‹ † ƒ – ‹ ‘ • ‡ … ‘ • • ‡ • † ƒ – ‹ ‘ • • report which ƒ • † ’ ’ ‘ ” - outlined both the 7- s s ‘ • • ‹ – – ‡ ‡ ï • ” ‡ … ‘ • • ‡ • † ƒ – ‹ ‘ • • ƒ • † – Š ‡ — ’ ‡ ” ‹ • – ‡ • At that ï • ” ‡ … ‘ • • meeting the Board considered several proposed options, among them was the proposal to close Freeport Elementary School and transfer students to the John Still Elementary School located approximately 0.5 miles to the south of the Freeport site.

FIGURE 1: Location of Freeport Elementary and John Still Middle School in the Meadowview Area of the City of Sacramento

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING CHECKLIST (INITIAL STUDY)

Attachment 1 is the Environmental Screening Checklist and narrative. This checklist is based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines as amended. For this review, the Standards of Significance are derived from the

exempts closing of any public school in which kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12 is maintained or the transfer of students from that public school to another school if the only physical changes involved are categorically exempt under Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 15000) of Division 6 of Title 14 of the California Administrative ' † ‡ ä No physical changes to the affected schools are required to accommodate re-assigned students. No additions to the existing schools to receive transfer students will be require which would increase the enrollment at that school beyond the original capacity of the school and no new classrooms or portables are required to accommodate the transfer of students.

Attachment 1:

CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING CHECKLIST

I.	AESTHETICS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X
b)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			

II. AGRICUL

II b) Agricultural Zoning and the Williamson Act

There are no Williamson Act contracts located in the vicinity of the affected school sites. Additionally, none of the affected sites are designated by zoning or the General Plan of the City of Sacramento for agriculture. Therefore, the project will have no impact related to conversion of lands designated under the Williamson Act or zoned for agriculture.

II c) Conflict with Farmland or Forestry Zoning

None of the school sites are located on or adjacent to active farmlands or any lands designated for agriculture on the General Plan or by zoning. The proposed actions will not convert any existing cultivated farmlands to other uses. Therefore, the project has no impact and will not cause the conversion of farmlands.

II d) Result in Conversion of Forest Lands to Other Uses

None of the affected school sites are located on or adjacent to forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)). Therefore, the project will not result in the conversion of forest lands to other uses.

II e) Other Environmental Impacts to Agricultural Lands or Forestry Lands

The proposed project is not located in the vicinity of either farmlands or forestry lands and as such no other impacts to such lands are expected from the project.

CONCLUSION: The action would not impact agricultural resources or forestry lands.

III.	AIR QUALITY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

TABLE 4 Air Quality Operational Screening Assessment for Affected Schoo l Sites			
School To Receive Re Assigned Students	Estimated Maximum Enrollment (Students) **	Applicable SMAQMD Operational Screening Threshold	Exceed SMAQMD Screening Criteria?
John Still Elementary	792	Elementary school with less than 2,320 students	No
John Still Middle School	1144	Junior high school with less than 2,120 students	No
Total Enrollment as a K-8 at Capacity	*1936*	Elementary school with less than 2,320 students or Junior high school with less than 2,120 students.	No
** Based on enrollment at school capacity which is an enrollment larger than anticipated by the proposed project			

No construction is proposed as part of this project, therefore, no construction period emissions are anticipated.

III. c) Cumulative Air i41 n 0 72j 047lar0.48 rdif* 53365((vf* 5j 04789)Tj 13r)5(0.48 rid5(s)-3(tr)5uf 2.ao)-1l161l117-4(-2

IV.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than S

V.	CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §150645?			X
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §150645?			X
c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X

would be found, it is possible a small resource such as a temporary campsite or special use site could exist.

Historic Resources and Landmarks

Recognized historic resources are those listed on the Federal Register or identified by State or local registers. None of the school sites are located within a state, federal or locally identified historic district. Additionally, none of the affected school sites are designated on a local, state or the federal register as a historically significant site.

Thresholds of Significance

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Appendix G identifies examples of a significant effect on historic or cultural resources and states that a project will normally have a significant effect if it will:

- x Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5.
- x Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5.
- x Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.
- x

VI.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or deathinvolving:			
	i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist- Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Map issued by the state Gedogist for the area or basedon other			

Earthquake Faults and Seismicity .

There are no known faults within the greater Sacramento region. Faults located closest to the urbanized area of Sacramento are the Bear Mountain and New Melones faults to the east, and the Midland

become mobile during ground-shaking caused by a seismic event. When these soils move, the foundations of structures move as well which can cause structural damage. Liquefaction generally occurs below the water table, but can move upward through soils after it has developed.

ASSESSMENT AND FINDINGS

VI a) Seismic Risks. None of the affected school sites is located on or near a fault. Seismic risks to the affected school site would be similar to the seismic risks of ground-shaking experienced by the general Sacramento area.

VI b) Soil Erosion VI c) and d) Unstable Soils or Geological Conditions and Expansive Soils. None of the affected school sites are located in areas of unstable soils. All buildings located on the affected school sites were developed under the State Building Code which requires the preparation of a soils engineering study. The proposed project will not require the physical expansion of any of the school sites.

VI e) Septic Tank Risks. All affected school sites are served by the public sewers and therefore, there is no risk of septic tank failure.

CONCLUSION: No

[redacted]

[redacted]

Summarized below are some of the most significant federal, state and local regulations governing hazardous materials handling.

Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) CERCLA, commonly referred to as Superfund, was enacted on December 11, 1980. The purpose of CERCLA was to provide authorities the ability to

known other than those discussed in this document.

CONCLUSION: The proposed action does not pose any new, unusual or significant public hazards.

IX.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has primary responsibility for protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters within the City. The ï • efforts are generally focused on preventing either the introduction of new pollutants or an increase in the discharge of existing pollutants into bodies of water that fall under its jurisdiction. The proximity of the Sacramento and American rivers to the urbanized area of Sacramento and the existence of both a shallow water table and deep aquifer beneath the area keep the RWQCB interested in activities in the area.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Water Quality. For purposes of this environmental document, an impact is considered significant if the proposed project would substantially degrade water quality and violate any water quality objectives set by the State Water Resources Control Board, due to increased sediments and other contaminants generated by consumption and/or operation activities.

Flooding. Substantially increase exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood.

ASSESSMENT AND FINDINGS

VIII-a Water Quality and Waste Water

Water quality could be impacted if a proposed project caused a discharge into a waterway or ground water basin. The proposed project does not involve any direct physical changes to the environment which would create new discharges. The project involves transfer of students from some existing schools to other existing schools.

XI.	MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact

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XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC Would the project:	Potentially Significant Imp

assigned students would take residential streets to John Still Drive and there would be no major street crossings necessary. There are cross walks at all intersections on John Still Drive between 19th and 24th Streets. This school has a drop off lane in the parking lot. Figures 4 and 5 show the current cross walks and drop off areas on or near John Still School.

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Level of Service (LOS) is a standard frequently used to determine if traffic or congestion is unacceptable. In the City of Sacramento, LOS D is generally considered acceptable and in some cases the City may consider LOS E or F acceptable. The reason the City accepts a lower level of service is to encourage transit — • ‡ ƒ • † ƒ – – ƒ ‹ • ‘ – Š ‡ ” ƒ † ' ' – ‡ † ‰ ' ƒ Ž • ä Plan Mobility Element, Level of Service Policy • – ƒ – ‡ • ò Š ‡ ‹ – › • Š ƒ Ž Ž ƒ Ž Ž ' ™ ^ ' ” ^ Ž ‡ š ‹ „ Ž ‡ ‡ ˜ ‡ Ž ' ^ ‡ ” ˜ ‹ … ‡ • – ƒ • † ƒ densities and mix of uses to increase transit ridership, biking, and walking, which decreases auto travel, – Š ‡ ” ‡ „ › ” ‡ † — … ‹ • ‰ ƒ ‹ ” ' ' Ž Ž — – ‹ ' • á ‡ • ‡ ”, p • P `@ •Ž 0 ƒ • ” ƒ – ° ƒ

Figure 4: John Still Elementary School Drop Off Locations and Locations of Cross Walks on John Still Drive Immediately Adjacent to the School Site

Figure 5: Location of Cross Walks along John Still Drive

XV. RECREATION Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact

Wouldthe pro

XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality o the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop bel self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or an community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples the major periods of California history or prehistory?			X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" mea that the incremental effects of a project are considerable whe viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the eff of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?			X
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cau substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly o indirectly?			X

XVI-2) Substantial effects to habitat, fish, wildlife, plant species or eliminate important examples of

site. This school site is comprised of a co-located elementary and middle school. With consolidation

schools are located in existing urban and developed areas. None of the sites are located on soils considered Prime or of Statewide or Local importance on the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring maps. None of the sites are located in forest lands or timber woods.

Air Quality. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) publishes screening criteria to determine if a proposed land use is likely to result in significant air quality effects

applies to areas which are generally protected by levees. Students, who will be transferred to new sites in the South Area of Sacramento, would continue to go to schools with the same flood designation, and thus no cumulative risk of exposing more students to a higher risk of flood is expected. Similarly, students in the Rosemont/Rancho Cordova area will be transferred to schools with the same flood designation. C.P. Huntington to be closed and Woodbine and Hollywood Park Elementary Schools, which are proposed to receive transfer students, are all located within the Community Land Use Plan (CLUP) area of Executive ‹ ” ' ' ” – ä Ž Ž ƒ ” ‡ Ž ' … ƒ – ‡ † ™ ‹ – Š ‹ • – Š ‡ ò ' ˜ ‡ ” ˆ Ž ‹ ‰ Š – ó • ƒ ˆ ‡ – › œ ' • ‡ ä Š ‹ • œ compatible uses. C.P. Huntington is the closest school to Executive Airport, thus, if Huntington students area transferred to Woodbine and Hollywood Elementary Schools, they would continue to attend schools ‹ • – Š ‡ ò ' ˜ ‡ ” ˆ Ž ‹ ‰ Š – ó œ ' • ‡ „ — – – ä ‡ ‡ ‡

capacity. Relative to total vehicle trips, while school sites to receive transfer students may experience increased vehicle trips these trips, there would be a similar reduction in vehicle trips to school sites to be closed. All school sites to receive transfer students are located within 1 to 2 miles of the school site to be closed. On a cumulative and regional basis, the proposed projects are not expected to result in cumulatively considerable impacts.

Utilities and Service Systems. All affected school sites are located in existing developed areas with existing utility services extended to the sites based on the capacity of the school site. Since the transfer of students will not exceed the capacity of the schools, no individual or cumulative effects to utilities and service systems are anticipated.

Conclusion Regarding Cumulative Effects. Based on the above discussion, the proposed project in conjunction with related projects will not have any cumulatively considerable effects.

XVII b) Substantial Adverse Effects on Human Beings, either directly or indirectly? The proposed projects are not located on or near a hazardous material sites. All schools which are located within and ‹ ” ’ ‘ ” – ‘ • • — • ‹ – › Ž ƒ • • ‹ • ‰ ” ‡ ƒ ƒ ” ‡ Ž ‘ … ƒ – ‡ † ‹ • ƒ • ò ‘ ˜ ‡ ” ˆ Ž ‹ ‰ Š – ó • ƒ ˆ ‡ – › œ ‘ schools to be a compatible use. No students would be transferred from one school site to another which has an increased airport safety risk or an increased flood zone risk based on the safety zones of the adopted Airport Community Land Use Plan covering the sites, and FEMA flood designations. All school sites are located in areas in which the noise environment is less than 65 CNEL. In this respect, the proposed project (s) will not increase major hazardous risks which could affect human beings. As a result of the proposed project, the home to school commute patterns of some students and families will change. For some, the commute pattern will be shorter or approximate to the current commute for others the commute may be longer. The average commute for most students from their existing school to the proposed new school would be less than 1– ‘ t • ‹ Ž ‡ • † ‡ ’ ‡ • † ‹ • ‰ ‘ • – Š ‡ Ž ‘ … ƒ – ‹ ‘ • ‘ ˆ ˆ – Š ‡ • – — † Some students if they walk to school will need to learn new routes where safe intersections with signals and crosswalks exist. While these effects may in some cases cause inconvenience, they do not cause a substantial adverse effect on human beings.

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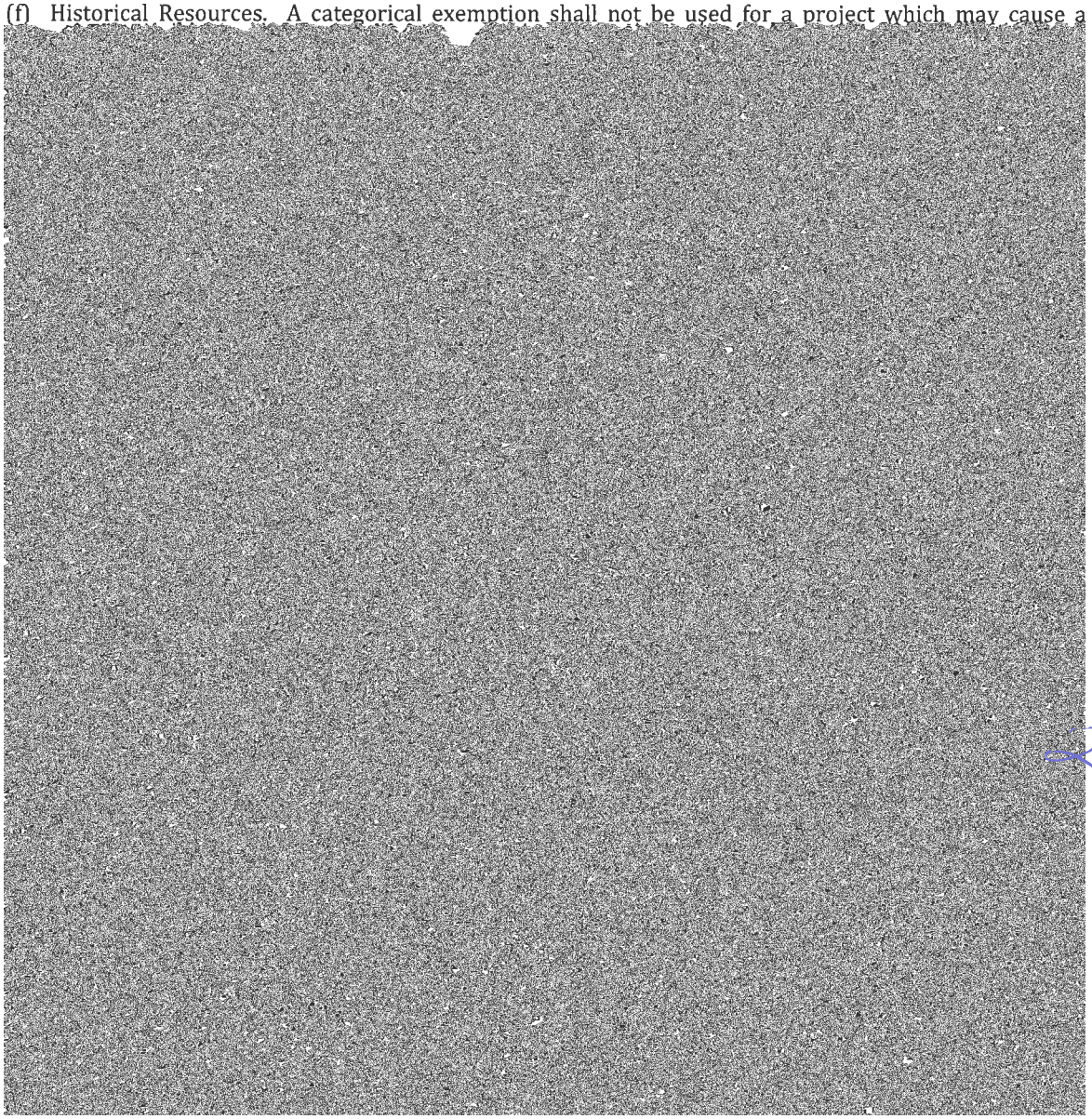
(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a