

VALLEY REGION BELLINGHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION

Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations (State Clearinghouse No. 2008021101)

Prepared for:

**Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of Environmental Health and Safety
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- A. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Organization of CEQA Findings of Fact

The content and format of this California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Findings of Fact is designed to meet the current requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition project (proposed project) identified significant environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed project. However, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education finds that the inclusion of certain mitigation measures, as part of project approval, would reduce most of the significant impacts to a less than significant level. Impacts that are not reduced to a less than significant level are identified and may be overridden due to specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other feasibility considerations. As required by CEQA, the Board, in adopting these Findings of Fact (findings) and Statement of Overriding Considerations also adopts a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) for the proposed project. The Board finds that the MMRP, which is incorporated by reference and made a part of these findings, meets the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 by providing for the implementation and monitoring of measures intended to mitigate significant effects of the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, the Board adopts these findings as part of the certification of the Final EIR for the proposed project. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21082.1(c)(3), the Board also finds that the Final EIR reflects the Board's independent judgment as the lead agency for the proposed project.

The Findings of Fact is organized into the following sections:

- **Chapter 1, Introduction**, outlines the organization of this document and identifies the location and custodian of the record of proceedings.
- **Chapter 2, Environmental Setting and Project Description**, describes the location and characteristics of the proposed project site, project overview, project design standards, project objectives and benefits, and the required permits and approvals for the proposed project.
- **Chapter 3, CEQA Review and Public Participation**, describes the steps LAUSD has undertaken to comply with the CEQA Guidelines as they relate to public input, review, and participation during the preparation of the Draft and Final EIRs.

- **Chapter 4, No Environmental Impacts**, provides a summary of those environmental issue areas where no impacts would occur.
- **Chapter 5, Less Than Significant Environmental Impacts**, provides a summary of less than significant impacts and findings for the proposed project.
- **Chapter 6, Less Than Significant Environmental Impacts With Mitigation Incorporated**, provides a summary of potentially significant environmental effects for which implementation of identified mitigation measures would avoid or substantially reduce the environmental effects to less than significant levels.
- **Chapter 7, Significant and Unavoidable Environmental Impacts**, provides a summary of potentially significant environmental effects for which no mitigation measures are identified, for which implementation of feasible mitigation measures would not avoid or substantially reduce the environmental effects to less than significant levels, or would have the potential to cause greater environmental impacts than the proposed project.
- **Chapter 8, Findings Regarding Project Alternatives**, provides a summary of the alternatives considered for the proposed project.
- **Chapter 9, Findings on Changes to the Draft EIR and Recirculation**, provides a brief overview of reasons for changes to the Draft EIR and describes why it is not necessary to re-circulate the Draft EIR.
- **Chapter 10, Findings on Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan**, provides a brief discussion of the proposed project's compliance with the CEQA Guidelines as it regards to the adoption of a plan for reporting and monitoring mitigation measures.
- **Chapter 11, Statement of Overriding Considerations**, provides a statement of the proposed project benefits that outweigh the significant and unavoidable proposed project impacts.

1.2 Statutory Requirements

CEQA, and particularly the CEQA Guidelines, require that:

“(a) No public agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been certified which identifies one or more significant environmental effects of the project unless the public agency makes one or more written findings for each of those significant effects, accompanied by a brief explanation of the rationale for each finding. The possible findings are:

- 1) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into the project, which avoids or substantially lessens the significant environmental effect as identified in the Final EIR.
- 2) Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency.
- 3) Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the Final EIR.”

In short, CEQA requires that the lead agency adopt mitigation measures or alternatives, where feasible, to avoid or mitigate significant environmental impacts that would otherwise occur with implementation of the proposed project. Project mitigation or alternatives are not required, however, where they are infeasible or where the responsibility for modifying the proposed project lies with another agency.

For those significant effects that cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level, the public agency is required to find that specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the proposed project outweigh the significant effects on the environment [see Public Resources Code, Section 21081(b)]. The CEQA Guidelines state in Section 15093 that:

“If the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of a proposed project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered ‘acceptable.’”

1.3 Location and Custodian of Record of Proceedings

The documents and other materials that constitute the record of proceedings upon which the LAUSD project approval is based are located at 1055 West 7th Street, 9th Floor, Los Angeles, California, 90017. The LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety is the custodian of such documents and other materials that constitute the record of proceedings. The record of proceedings is provided in compliance with Public Resources Code, Section 21081.6(a)(2) and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091(e).

CHAPTER 2

Environmental Setting and Project Description

2.1 Environmental Setting

2.1.1 Location

The proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition project (proposed project) site is located within the City of Los Angeles, in the community of North Hollywood. The proposed project site consists of the existing Bellingham Primary Center campus (6728 North Bellingham Avenue, North Hollywood, California, 91606, County of Los Angeles), nine residential parcels, and a portion of Vantage Avenue that would be vacated. The proposed project site is located approximately 2.5 miles southwest of the Interstate 5 in California and 0.25 mile east of California State Route 170.

2.1.2 Existing Land Uses

The proposed project site is currently occupied by nine single-story residential structures on nine parcels (1.19 acres), a portion of Vantage Avenue (0.62 acre), and the existing Bellingham Primary Center campus (2.79 acres) for a total of 4.6 acres. The existing Bellingham Primary Center consists of a playground area, a classroom/multipurpose building, and subterranean parking. A segment of north-south trending Vantage Avenue, which bisects the proposed project site would be vacated. The vacation of this segment of Vantage Avenue would be necessary in order to accommodate the proposed project.

2.1.3 Surrounding Land Uses

The proposed project site is urbanized, and characterized by a mixture of single- and multi-family residential units and commercial properties. Specifically, land uses north of the proposed project site include single-family residences, a dry cleaning establishment, a photo processor, and a tavern. Land uses east of the site consist of multi-family residences. Land uses south of the site, across Archwood Street, consist of single-family residences and a retail establishment with parking, and single-family residences are located west of the site across Bellingham Avenue.

2.2 Project Overview

The proposed project would consist of approximately two buildings that would be one to two stories in height and encompass approximately 38,820 square feet of building area. The proposed project would include a 20-foot-high multipurpose building as well as a proposed classroom building, located north of Archwood Street. The proposed project would also include the

expansion of the existing playground, a proposed lunch shelter, teachers lounge addition, and approximately 50 subterranean parking spaces for faculty and staff. Expansion and renovations to the existing Bellingham Primary Center would include reconfiguring the existing library and multipurpose room.

Student drop off and pick up, as well as loading and unloading for passenger cars and buses, for the proposed elementary school would remain along Bellingham Avenue. An existing curb-cut on Bellingham Avenue permits drop off for vehicles and buses away from the traffic lanes. This curb-cut would be extended to the maximum distance allowed in order to ensure that this access is appropriate for the anticipated increase in use.

Approximately 50 additional subterranean parking spaces would be provided for faculty and staff of the elementary school; these spaces would be accessed off a ramp that would be located on Archwood Street. During school operating hours, the subterranean parking garage would be available for faculty and staff use; visitors would be required to park off site. The parking area may be available for after-school, district-sponsored events, but may not be available for community events.

The proposed project would implement all Collaborative for High Performance Schools Criteria, LAUSD design standards (which are included as part of the New School Construction Program Design), and Best Management Practices (BMPs) into its construction, operation, and maintenance. Implementation of these measures would address project-related concerns (from both construction and operation of the proposed project) and would significantly reduce the impact of the proposed project on the environment and surrounding community.

2.3 Project Design Features

Collaborative for High Performance Schools Criteria

LAUSD is the first school district in the United States to adopt and implement the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) Criteria. The LAUSD Board of Education adopted a Resolution on High Performance School Facilities requiring Phase II and future phase schools to be certified according to CHPS. These measures are considered beneficial to improving the environmental quality of school sites by preventing or mitigating impacts. LAUSD has incorporated these into the project design and operation of the New School Construction Program (Program) projects, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations, as well as standard LAUSD practices. These measures are assumed to be part of LAUSD's projects and are not included as mitigation measures.

The proposed project would include a minimum of 32 CHPS criteria points, which is the minimum required to be considered CHPS certified. CHPS recommends flexible standards to promote energy efficiency, water efficiency, site planning, materials, and indoor environmental quality. Certain CHPS points are mandatory and are identified below as part of certain LAUSD Design Standards.

LAUSD Design Standards

Some of the following design standards are included as part of the BMPs as they may be applied to this specific proposed project.

Noise/Acoustics. An analysis of the acoustical environment of the proposed project site (such as traffic) and characterization of planned building components (such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) shall be conducted to achieve a classroom acoustical performance with 45 A-weighted decibels (dBA) at the equivalent sound level (Leq) for a background noise level (unoccupied) or better. Where excessive noise from operation of the new or expanded school site could disturb adjacent residential uses, the proposed project might incorporate buffers, such as masonry walls, between playgrounds and adjacent residential uses.

Geological Hazards. A Seismic Hazard Evaluation shall be completed for each new school construction project, where appropriate, to satisfy certain state requirements.

Light and Glare. All luminaries or lighting sources in connection with school construction projects shall be installed in such a manner as to minimize glare for pedestrians and drivers and to minimize light spilling onto adjacent properties.

Water Supply. LAUSD shall require its construction contractor to coordinate with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power or other appropriate jurisdiction and departments prior to the relocation or upgrade of any water facilities to reduce the potential for disruptions in service.

With respect to outdoor systems, CHPS requires the landscape and ornamental water-use budget to conform to any applicable local Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. If no local ordinance is applicable, then the water-use budget must conform to the landscape and ornamental budget outlined by the California Department of Water Resources.

Fire Protection. LAUSD shall reduce impacts to fire protection services in connection with new construction projects by requiring local fire jurisdictions to review and approve site plans.

Energy Efficiency. Under CHPS, new school designs must exceed the California energy-efficiency standards by 10 percent or energy-efficient lighting with occupancy controls and/or economizers on the package equipment must be included in the design.

Waste Reduction and Efficient Material Use. Under CHPS, the proposed project must meet local ordinance requirements for recycling space and provide an easily accessible area serving the entire school that is dedicated to the separation, collection, and storage of materials for recycling including, at a minimum, paper (white ledger, mixed, and cardboard), glass, plastics, metals, and landscaping waste.

Indoor Air Quality. Under CHPS, the proposed project must meet the performance requirements of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration Minimum Ventilation Standard, which requires the design of building ventilation systems to: a) ensure that the continuous

delivery of outside air is no less than the governing design standard, and b) occur at all times rooms are occupied. The design must ensure that the supply operates in continuous mode and is not readily defeated (i.e., blocked registers or windows) during occupancy periods.

Thermal Comfort. Under CHPS, the proposed project must comply with the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard for thermal comfort standards, including humidity control within established ranges per climate zone. Indoor design temperature and humidity conditions for general comfort applications shall be determined in accordance with appropriate American National Standards Institute or ASHRAE standards.

LAUSD Construction Best Management Practices

The LAUSD construction contractor shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations in carrying out the construction of the proposed project. The proposed project shall also comply with LAUSD construction BMPs, which are established and refined as part of LAUSD's current building efforts.

Relocation. LAUSD shall provide relocation assistance to eligible residents and businesses in accordance with its Relocation Assistance Advisory Program and Commercial Assistance Advisory Program. LAUSD shall comply with all items identified in Paragraph 6040 of Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations.

Water Quality and Hydrology. LAUSD shall require its construction contractor to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board with requirements for discharge, BMPs, and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program.

Construction Traffic. LAUSD shall require its construction contractors to submit a Construction Work Site Traffic Control Plan to the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation for review prior to construction. The plan shall show the location of any haul routes, hours of operation, protective devices, warning signs, and access to abutting properties.

Construction Air Emissions. LAUSD shall require its construction contractors to comply with all applicable South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) rules and regulations in carrying out its Program. To reduce the potential for significant hazardous emissions during a removal action, LAUSD or its construction contractor shall maintain slow speeds with all vehicles, load impacted soil directly into transportation trucks, minimize soil drop height during dumping activities, cover or further enclose soils on haul trucks, and/or shield exposed soil piles from prevailing winds and rain.

Construction Noise. LAUSD shall require the construction contractor to keep properly functioning mufflers on all internal combustion and vehicle engines used in construction. LAUSD shall require its construction contractor to provide advance notice of the start of construction to all noise-sensitive receptors, businesses, and residences adjacent to the project area and include specifically where and when construction activities shall occur and provide contact information

for filing noise complaints. During construction activities, the construction contractor shall locate portable equipment and shall store and maintain equipment as far as possible from the adjacent residents as feasible. LAUSD shall require its construction contractors to comply with all applicable noise ordinances of the affected jurisdiction. LAUSD shall include the City of Los Angeles Noise Ordinance in all construction contracts.

Hazardous Materials. LAUSD shall assess and remediate hazardous materials at the proposed project site under the supervision of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). LAUSD shall require its construction contractor to comply with the following: 1) SCAQMD Rule 1166 [Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) Emissions from Decontamination of Soil] for the removal of VOC-contaminated soils, 2) the DTSC Interim Guidance for Evaluating Lead-based Paint and Asbestos-containing Materials at Proposed School Sites, and 3) SCAQMD Rule 1403 (Asbestos Removal) for the removal of asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint materials prior to demolition. If the contractor would be using any hazardous materials, such as paints, solvents, adhesives, degreasers, removers, aerosols, gases (e.g., propane, oxygen, acetylene), LAUSD should also require the construction contractor to properly secure, mark, and store the hazardous materials used on site and appropriately manage any amounts of hazardous wastes generated.

Sewer Services. LAUSD or its construction contractor shall coordinate with the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation, and Bureau of Engineering, or other appropriate jurisdictions and departments prior to the relocation or upgrade of any sewer facilities to reduce the potential for disruptions in service.

Waste Management. To ensure optimal diversion of solid resources generated by a project, LAUSD shall require its construction contractors to reuse, recycle, salvage, or dispose of non-hazardous waste materials generated during demolition and/or new construction, as appropriate and feasible, to foster material recovery and reuse and to minimize disposal in landfills.

2.4 Project Objectives and Benefits

The New School Construction Program objectives are implemented through the Strategic Execution Plan (SEP), which provides goals for the current phase (Phase IV) of the New School Construction Program. LAUSD's SEP sets forth long-term goals for school facilities, including providing new school facilities throughout its boundaries to accommodate students in all grade levels.

With the passage of the local Measures K, R, and Y and Proposition 1A, 47, 55, and 1D State Bond measures, funding was provided for the implementation of Phase II, Phase III, and Phase IV of the Program. The goals of the current Phase IV Program are to:

- Eliminate involuntary busing and return students to their neighborhood school.
- Eliminate Concept-6 elementary schools while maintaining current two-semester elementary schools on their current calendars.

- Return all schools to a traditional two-semester calendar.
- Implement full-day kindergarten district-wide.

The proposed project would serve students in grade levels Kindergarten through 5th and would provide 550 new two-semester seats in 22 classrooms. Implementation of the proposed elementary school is intended to fulfill the following Program objectives:¹

- Provide a neighborhood elementary school for grades Kindergarten through 5th on a single-track, two-semester calendar to relieve overcrowding and restore pre-2002 classroom size norms at existing schools within the Valley Region Planning Area, specifically at Bellingham Primary Center, Fair Elementary School, and Maurice Sendak Elementary School, as soon as possible.
- Eliminate involuntary busing of students, as soon as possible.
- Reduce reliance on portable classrooms, as soon as possible.
- Maximize the use of limited bond funds to provide the needed classroom facilities.
- Create schools that are centers of community engagement, both during and outside of normal operating hours.
- Avoid, to the extent possible, the displacement of existing residences and businesses where feasible.
- Maintain traditional classroom instruction hours for elementary school students from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Maintain existing opportunities for after-school extracurricular activities.
- Build and maintain schools that reflect the wise and efficient use of limited land and public resources.

2.5 Required Permits and Approvals

As required by the CEQA Guidelines,² this section provides, to the extent the information is known to LAUSD, a list of the agencies that are expected to use the EIR in their decision making, and a list of permits and other approvals required to implement the project.

¹ Los Angeles Unified School District, Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Board Certified 8 June 2004. *New School Construction Program, Final Program Environmental Impact Report*. Available at: <http://www.laschools.org/peir/>

² *California Code of Regulations*. Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15124(d).

2.5.1 Lead Agency Approval

The Final EIR must be certified by the LAUSD Board of Education as to its adequacy in complying with the requirements of CEQA before action can be taken on the proposed project. The Board of Education shall consider the information contained in the EIR in making a decision to approve or deny the proposed project. The analysis in the EIR is intended to provide environmental review for the whole of the proposed project, including the planning of the proposed project, site acquisition, demolition (if necessary), site clearance, excavation and grading of the site, construction of school buildings and appurtenant facilities, and ongoing operation of the school and associated school programs in accordance with CEQA requirements. This EIR is intended to provide environmental review for the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of CEQA.

2.5.2 Discretionary Actions

Board of Los Angeles Unified School District

- Certify the Final EIR
- Adopt the Statement of Overriding Considerations
- Approve or deny the proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition Project

State of California

- Department of Toxic Substances Control (Determination of “No Further Action”)
- California State Allocation Board (Approval of Funding)
- California Department of Education
 - School Facilities Planning Division (Approval of Final Site and Final Plans)
- California Department of General Services
 - Office of Public School Construction (Approval of Funding)
 - Division of State Architect (Approval of Construction Drawings)

Regional Agencies

- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (NPDES permit; issuance of waste discharge requirement; construction stormwater run-off permits)

Local Agencies

City of Los Angeles

- Department of Public Works (Approval of B-permit Plans and Work)
- Department of Transportation (Approval of Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Study)
- Fire Department (Plan Approval for Emergency Access)

CHAPTER 3

CEQA Review and Public Participation

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has demonstrated compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines during the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition project (proposed project). The Draft EIR, dated May 30, 2008, was prepared following input from the public, responsible and trustee agencies, and affected agencies through the EIR scoping process. The scoping period of the EIR was conducted and utilized several of the tools available under CEQA. In accordance with Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Notice of Preparation and Initial Study (NOP/IS) were prepared and distributed to the State Clearinghouse, responsible and trustee agencies, and affected agencies, and other interested parties on February 21, 2008. The NOP was posted in the Los Angeles County Clerk's office for 30 days, and the public review period for the NOP/IS was from February 22, 2008 to March 22, 2008. A public scoping meeting was held during the 30-day NOP/IS comment period on March 12, 2008, at the Bellingham Primary Center, located at 6728 North Bellingham Avenue, North Hollywood, California, to gather input from the local community regarding the scope of the Draft EIR. Information requested and input provided during the 30-day NOP comment period regarding the scope of the EIR are included in the Draft EIR.

Upon completion of the Draft EIR, the document was distributed directly to various agencies, organizations, and interested groups and persons for comment during the formal review period for the Draft EIR. The review period was from May 30, 2008 to July 16, 2008. A public meeting was held at the Bellingham Primary Center auditorium at 6:30 p.m. on June 11, 2008. During the public review period, the Draft EIR was made available for review at the following locations:

- LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety, 1055 West 7th Street, 9th Floor, Los Angeles, California, 90017
- LAUSD Local District 2 Office, 5200 Lankershim Boulevard, North Hollywood, California, 91601
- Bellingham Primary Center, 6728 North Bellingham Avenue, North Hollywood, California, 91601
- Maurice Sendak Elementary School, 11414 West Tiara Street, North Hollywood, California, 91601
- Fair Elementary, 6501 Fair Avenue, North Hollywood, California, 91601

- Valley Plaza Branch Library, 12311 Vanowen Street, North Hollywood, California, 91605

The Draft EIR was also available online at the LAUSD Facilities Services Division Web site (www.laschools.org/find-a-school).

Notices informing the community of the public review periods, and public meetings for the NOP/IS and Draft EIR were distributed using three methods: a NOP and Notice of Availability (NOA) to local organizations, interested parties, and adjacent property owners within 500 feet of the proposed project site in both Spanish and English; newspaper postings; and postings at the proposed project site to ensure maximum visibility of the NOP and encourage public participation. The NOP and NOA were printed in English and Spanish and included information on where to view the NOP and Draft EIR, how to comment on the NOP and Draft EIR, and information regarding the proposed project and the time, date, and location of the public meetings. Distribution of the notices included, but was not limited to, the following methods:

3.1 Notice of Preparation

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, an NOP/IS was prepared. The public outreach for the NOP/IS included distribution of the NOP using the following methods:

Newspaper Publications:

- Published legal announcement of the NOP in *The Los Angeles Daily News*
- Published legal announcement of the NOP in *La Opinion*

NOP Sent by U.S. Postal Mail:

- Property owners and occupants within 500 feet of the proposed project
- Commenting agencies, 27 NOPs

Other Means of Promoting Scoping Meetings:

- Advertised on the LAUSD Facilities Services Division Web site (www.laschools.org/find-a-school)

3.2 Notice of Availability for Draft Environmental Impact Report

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(a), an NOA of the Draft EIR was prepared. Public outreach for the Draft EIR included distribution of the NOA and notice of the June 11, 2008 Community Meeting, using the following methods:

Newspaper Publications:

- Published legal announcement of the NOA in *The Los Angeles Daily News*
- Published legal announcement of the NOA in *La Opinion*

Notices Sent by U.S. Postal Mail:

- Property owners and occupants within 500 feet of the proposed project
- Commenting agencies, 27 NOAs

LAUSD prepared an informational flier in English and Spanish that included details on the public review period as well as the time and location of the community meeting. Distribution of the flier included the following:

- Notices Sent by U.S. Postal Mail:
 - Past meeting attendees, 187 fliers

Notices Sent Home With Students at the Following Schools:

- Bellingham Primary Center, 500 fliers
- Maurice Sendak Elementary School, 1,000 fliers
- Maurice Sendak Parent Center, 50 fliers
- Fair Elementary School, 1,100 fliers
- Fair Parent Center, 50 fliers

Notices Walked Door to Door (Within a 0.5-mile Radius) of the Following Locations:

- Corner of Vanowen Boulevard and Bellingham Avenue, 2,500 fliers
- Bellingham Primary Center, 300 fliers

Notices Delivered at Key Community Locations:

- North Hollywood / Poly Adult School Office, 100 fliers
- North Hollywood Park, 200 fliers
- Valley Plaza Recreational Center, 200 fliers
- North Hollywood YMCA, 100 fliers
- North Hollywood Community Center, 100 fliers
- North Hollywood Regional Library, 200 fliers
- Valley Plaza Regional Library, 200 fliers
- Volunteers of America Head Start, 50 fliers
- St. Patrick Catholic Church, 300 fliers
- Jewish Family Service Center of the Valley, 50 fliers
- The Center at North Hollywood Ministries, 25 fliers
- Ministerio Pentecostes, 50 fliers

Notices Delivered Through E-mail, Fax, and Electronically:**E-mailed:**

- Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council
- North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council
- Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council
- Board Member Tamar Galatzen, District 3
- Board Member Julie Korenstein, District 6
- Superintendent Jim Morris, LD2
- Maxine Matlen, LD 2 ES Director

Faxed:

- LAUSD Board Member Tamar Galatzen, District 3

- Superintendent Alma Pena-Sanchez, LD2
- Los Angeles City Council Member Wendy Gruel, 2nd District
- Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, 3rd District
- California State Assembly Member Felipe Fuentes, 39th District
- California State Senator Alex Padilla, 20th District
- U.S. Congress Member Howard Berman, 28th District
- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
- U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer

CHAPTER 4

No Environmental Impacts

Based on the Initial Study and the Record of Proceedings, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education finds that the proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition project (proposed project) would have no impacts associated with agriculture resources, land use and planning, mineral resources, and population and housing. In addition, the specific no impact determinations from each of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) issue areas as discussed and analyzed in the Initial Study are summarized below. Because the determinations of no impact were made in the Initial Study, these environmental issue areas were not carried forward for analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The issue areas throughout Chapters 4 and 5 are demarcated by an abbreviated title based upon their respective subjects, as well as by the letters used in the Initial Study in order to identify each perspective impact. The issue areas where all potential impacts were subject to the same finding of no impact are noted by the title of the issue area alone (i.e. Agriculture Resources).

- Aesthetics [Scenic Vista (a) and Scenic Resources (b)]
- Agriculture Resources
- Biological Resources [Candidate, Sensitive, or Special Status Species; Riparian Habitat or Other Sensitive Natural Community; Wetlands; Native or Migratory Fish or Wildlife Species Movement; Local Policies or Ordinances; Plans and Policies (b–g)]
- Cultural Resources [Historical Resources (a)]
- Geology and Soils [Landslides (a.-iv) and Septic Tanks or Alternative Wastewater Disposal Systems (e)]
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials [Private Airstrip (f); Exposure to Wildland Fire Loss, Injury, or Death (h); Hazardous Site (i); One-fourth Mile from Hazardous Site (j); Power Line Easement (k); Railroad Track Easement (l); Reservoir, Water Storage Tank, or High-Pressure Water Lines (m); Propane Tanks (o); Proportionate Length to Width Ratio (p); Incompatible Properties (q); Within 2,000 of Hazardous Waste Disposal (r)]
- Hydrology and Water Quality [Water Quality Standards or Discharge Requirements (a); Groundwater Supplies or Groundwater Recharge (b); Water Quality (f); 100-year

Flood Area – Housing (g); 100-year Flood Area – Structures (h); Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow (j)]

- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise [Private Airstrip (f)]
- Population and Housing
- Public Services [Schools (c)]
- Recreation and Parks [Increased Use of Recreational Facilities (a)]
- Traffic/Transportation [Air Traffic Patterns (c)]

4.1 Aesthetics (Scenic Vistas and Scenic Resources)

Scenic Vistas

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. There are no observed or identified designated scenic vistas, highways, or resources within the proximity of the proposed project. The proposed school structures would be comparable in height, scale, and mass to those currently on the campus and within the surrounding area. The proposed project would have no impact on scenic vistas.

Scenic Resources

The proposed project cannot be viewed from existing state scenic highways due to the distance nor does the proposed project obstruct scenic views from the existing site to the highways near the proposed project site and as such would not damage or contribute to the degradation of scenic resources within a state designated as or eligible scenic roadways. The proposed project would not substantially damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not have an impact on aesthetics (scenic vistas or scenic resources).

4.2 Agriculture Resources

The proposed project is located in an urban setting and is currently developed with an existing school site and residential uses. The proposed project would not convert farmland to non-agricultural uses, as the current site is developed as non-agricultural uses. The proposed project would not conflict with agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act contract. The area immediately

surrounding the proposed project site includes a mix of single- and multi-family residential and commercial properties. Therefore, the proposed project would not convert farmland to non-agricultural uses, would not have an impact on agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contracts, and would result in no impact to farmland or other agricultural land.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not result in impacts to agriculture resources.

4.3 Biological Resources (Candidate, Sensitive, or Special Status Species; Riparian Habitat or Other Sensitive Natural Community; Wetlands; Native or Migratory Fish or Wildlife Species Movement; Local Policies or Ordinances; Plans and Policies)

The Initial Study and the EIR determined the following no environmental impacts as they relate to biological resources. While the Initial Study found no impact or less than significant impacts for biological resources related to this project, the biological resources section was carried forward into the EIR in response to a letter received from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) dated March 20, 2008, during the Initial Study review period. The EIR verified the earlier findings presented in the Initial Study analysis.

Candidate, Sensitive, or Special Status Species

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project would not impact, either directly, or indirectly, or through habitat modifications, any endangered, threatened, or rare species, candidate, sensitive, or special status species. The proposed project site has been previously disturbed and is located in an urban setting that does not contain any habitat of candidate, sensitive, or special status species listed in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFG or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Riparian Habitat or Other Sensitive Natural Community

As discussed in the Initial Study, there would be no impact to riparian or other sensitive natural communities. The proposed project site is currently developed, located in an urban environment, and does not contain riparian habitat or other natural habitats as designated by the CDFG and USFWS. In addition, no wetlands are present within the site that would support sensitive natural communities.

Wetlands

As previously discussed, the proposed project site is currently developed and located in an urban environment. The site does not contain any wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or the National Wetlands Inventory Map and therefore would not impact federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

Native or Migratory Fish or Wildlife Species Movement

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project would not interfere with the movement of any native resident, migratory fish, or wildlife species or established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. The proposed project site does not contain any watercourse or greenbelt for wildlife movement, as it is immediately adjacent to residential and commercial development, which do not provide appropriate habitat for plants or wildlife. The site contains a few non-native trees for landscaping, and no bird nests were observed in the trees.

Local Policies or Ordinances

The Initial Study concluded that the proposed project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. There are no known sensitive biological resources in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project. No protected biological resources are present on the site; therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with any local policies, ordinances, or adopted conservation plans protecting biological resources.

Plans and Policies

As discussed in the Initial Study, the proposed project is not located within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or similar plan. The proposed project site is not located within or proximate to any Significant Ecological Areas, Land Trust, or Conservation Plan and would result in no related impact.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not result in impacts related to biological resources (candidate, sensitive, or special status species; riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community; wetlands; native or migratory fish or wildlife species movement; local policies or ordinances; plans and policies).

4.4 Cultural Resources (Historical Resources)

A records search for properties within the proposed project site indicated that no properties within the proposed project site have been listed or designated as historical resources. The existing

Bellingham Primary Center has no historical relevance. Furthermore, no association with significant historical events or persons is known. Therefore, no properties meet the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources and thus do not qualify as historical resources as defined under CEQA regulations. The proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in no impacts related to cultural resources (Historical Resource).

4.5 Geology and Soils (Landslides and Septic Tanks or Alternative Wastewater Disposal Systems)

Landslides

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project would not expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. The proposed project site is not located within a landslide hazard zone. According to the California Geological Survey (1998), the area is not known for having seismic slope instability, as there are no known landslides located near the site nor is the site in the path of any known landslides. There would be no impacts related to landslides.

Septic Tanks or Alternative Wastewater Disposal Systems

The proposed project would not use septic tanks or alternative wastewater systems. Therefore, no impact with regard to the capacity of soils to adequately support the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems would result.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not result in impacts related to geology and soils (Landslides and Septic Tanks or Alternative Wastewater Disposal Systems).

4.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Private Airstrip; Exposure to Wildland Fire Loss, Injury, or Death; Hazardous Site; One-fourth Mile from Hazardous Site; Power Line Easement; Railroad Track Easement; Reservoir, Water Storage Tank, or High-Pressure Water Lines; Propane Tanks; Proportionate Length to Width Ratio; Incompatible Properties; Within 2,000 feet of Hazardous Waste Disposal)

Private Airstrip

The Initial Study determined, that the proposed project site is not located within 2 miles of a private airstrip and would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the proposed project area.

Exposure to Wildland Fire Loss, Injury, or Death

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project would not expose people or structures to a risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. The proposed project site is located in a developed urban portion of the City of Los Angeles and is not located within a wildfire hazard zone. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection confirmed that the proposed project site is not zoned within any fire hazard severity zones. In addition, the proposed project site is required to comply with local fire code requirements and Title 5 regulations and would result in no related impacts.

Hazardous Site

The proposed project is not a current or former hazardous waste disposal site, solid waste disposal site, or a hazardous substance release site identified by the State Department of Health Services. The proposed project site is not within 0.25 mile of an any hazardous waste disposal sites or in the vicinity of a significant disposal of hazardous waste. There are no hazardous material bearing pipelines running though the site, and therefore no related impacts would result.

One-fourth Mile from Hazardous Site

As discussed in the Initial Study, the proposed project site is not within 0.25 mile of any facilities, which might be reasonably anticipated to emit hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste. A review of the databases of regulatory agencies for hazardous sites within the proposed project vicinity found that there are no recognized environmental concerns within 0.25 miles of the proposed project site.

Power Line Easement

The proposed project site is not located within 100 feet of a 50-133 kilovolt (kV) line, 150 feet of a 220-230 kV line, or 350 feet of a 500-550 kV line. Power lines within 500 feet of the proposed project site do not exceed 50 kV. As such, no related impacts would result.

Railroad Track Easement

The proposed project site is not located within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement. The nearest railway is a main line used for Metrolink trains, located approximately 0.5 mile of the proposed project site. There would be not impacts related to the proposed project being within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement.

Reservoir, Water Storage Tank, or High-Pressure Water Lines

The proposed project site is not located within the vicinity of a reservoir, water storage tanks, or high-pressure water lines. The proposed project site is not located within the vicinity of the easement of an above ground or underground water pipeline, reservoir, or water storage tank. There would be no impacts related to the proposed project located near a reservoir, water storage tanks, or high-pressure water lines.

Propane Tanks

As discussed in the Initial Study, the proposed project site does not contain propane tanks, and no propane tanks were observed on, or near the proposed project site. As such, no impacts would result to a site that contains, or is near, propane tanks that can pose a safety hazard.

Proportionate Length to Width Ratio

The Initial Study found that the proposed project site has a proportionate length-to-width ratio to accommodate the building layout, parking, and playfields to allow for safe supervision. The proposed project has been designed in accordance with the California Department of Education standards and would not result in impacts related to an inadequate length-to-width ratio.

Incompatible Properties

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project is not located in an area where the existing or proposed zoning of the surrounding properties could be incompatible with schools and may pose a health or safety risk to students. Under the City of Los Angeles General Plan, the proposed project site consists of nine residences which are zoned for residential land uses (R1-1) and the existing Bellingham Primary Center, which is zoned Public Facilities ([Q]PF-1XL), which allows for public school use. Schools are conditionally permitted in residential and commercial zones, and thus the zoning of the surrounding residential and commercial properties would be compatible and would not create an impact related to in compatible zoning/uses.

Within 2,000 feet of Hazardous Waste Disposal

The proposed project site is not located within 2,000 feet of a significant disposal of hazardous waste. The nearest landfill is approximately 14.9 miles east of the proposed project site. No impact from significant disposal of hazardous wastes would occur.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study, and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not result in impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials (private airstrip; exposure to wildland fire loss, injury, or death; hazardous site; one-fourth mile from hazardous site; power line easement; railroad track easement; reservoir, water storage tank, or high-pressure water lines; propane tanks; proportionate length to width ratio; incompatible properties; within 2,000 of hazardous waste disposal).

4.7 Hydrology and Water Quality (Water Quality Standards or Discharge Requirements; Groundwater Supplies or Groundwater Recharge; Water Quality; 100-year Flood Area – Housing; 100-year Flood Area – Structures; Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow)

Water Quality Standards or Discharge Requirements

The Initial Study found that the proposed project would not violate water quality standards and waste discharge requirements. The proposed project would be located on a developed area that is currently producing non-point-source pollutants. During construction, any wastewater produced would be disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations. In accordance with existing regulations for the proposed school site, the LAUSD construction contractor shall prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for construction of the proposed project. Compliance with existing regulations would result in no impacts.

Groundwater Supplies or Groundwater Recharge

Implementation of the proposed project would not deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. The proposed project would not create a significant increase in the demand for groundwater as it is intended to accommodate population growth rather than induce growth. The proposed project site would be developed to occupied existing paved areas and would continue to include grass playfields, which would provide for the percolation of rainwater to groundwater. Therefore, there would be no related impacts, as the proposed project would not deplete groundwater levels or interfere with groundwater recharge.

Water Quality

Implementation of the proposed project would not substantially degrade water quality. As discussed in the Initial Study, the LAUSD construction contractor would comply with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System regulations and prepare a SWPPP, which would avoid significant water quality impacts from construction runoff. In addition, operation of the proposed project would not produce or discharge industrial wastes to surface water or groundwater and would result in no related impacts.

100-year Flood Area – Housing

The Initial Study found that the proposed project would not place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other Flood Hazard Delineation Map. Although, the proposed project site is located within the Hansen Dam, and Big Tujunga Dam inundation zones, housing is not a component of the proposed project, and therefore, would not result in any impacts.

100-year Flood Area – Structures

The proposed project would not be placed within a 100-year flood hazard area, whereby structures would impede or redirect flood flows. As a result, no related impacts would occur.

Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow

The Initial Study determined that due to the distance of the site from the coastline and from water retaining structures, the proposed project site is not at risk for inundation by seiche or tsunami. According to the California Geological Survey, the proposed project site is not located in an area having the potential for landslide activity; the site, and surrounding vicinity is gently sloped and therefore, the site is not at risk for mudflow. No impacts related to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow would occur.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not result in impacts related to hydrology and water quality (water quality standards or discharge requirements; groundwater supplies or groundwater recharge; water quality; 100-year flood area – housing; 100-year flood area – structures; seiche, tsunami, or mudflow).

4.8 Land Use and Planning

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project would not physically divide an established community. The purpose of the proposed project is to develop a neighborhood school that would allow students in neighboring residential areas to attend schools near their home and relieve overcrowding at Bellingham Primary Center, Fair Elementary School, and Maurice Sendak Elementary School. The proposed project would not conflict with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project. As previously discussed, the proposed project is consistent with zoning designations and with the Los Angeles General Plan land use designations. In addition, on October 11, 2005, the LAUSD Board of Education adopted a resolution based on Code of Regulations Section 53094, exempting zoning designations for the proposed project. Finally, the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plans, as there are no such plans that are applicable to the site. The proposed project would not result in impacts related to land use and planning.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in no impacts related to land use and planning.

4.9 Mineral Resources

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project is not located in an area known as a Mineral Resource Zone-2 (MRZ-2), or an area where significant mineral deposits are present. The proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of a mineral resource. There are no known mineral resources of statewide or regional importance, or any locally important mineral resources that have been delineated in the City of Los Angeles General Plan located within the proposed project site. Therefore, no impacts related to mineral resources would occur.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not result in impacts to mineral resources.

4.10 Noise (Private Airstrip)

As discussed in the Initial Study, the proposed project site is not located within 2 miles of a private airstrip. The nearest private airstrips are Whiteman Airpark, located approximately 5 miles north of the proposed project site, and the Van Nuys Airport, located 5.9 miles to the west. The proposed project would not expose people residing or working in the proposed project area to excessive noise levels from private airstrips. The proposed project would result in no related impacts.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not result in impacts related to noise (private airstrip).

4.11 Population and Housing

The Initial Study found that the proposed project would not directly, or indirectly induce substantial population growth in the area. The proposed project is intended to accommodate the existing and future population growth. The proposed project does not include the development of housing or infrastructure or the extension of existing infrastructure that would result in population or household growth that would exceed Southern California Association of Governments Year 2020 projections. While a portion of the existing proposed project site is occupied by nine residences, as discussed in the Initial Study, and the LAUSD Program EIR, LAUSD has established and implemented the Relocation Assistance Advisory Program for eligible tenants and landowners. All residential displacement would conform to the guidelines presented in the LAUSD Relocation Assistance Advisory Program, which complies to with Paragraph 6040 of Title 25 of the California Department of Education Code. Finally, the proposed project is not expected to require the

construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The current housing supply can accommodate the dislocated residents. No impact to population and housing would occur.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not result in impacts to population and housing.

4.12 Public Services (Schools)

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project would not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered school campuses. The proposed project would not generate a need for new school seats; rather, it would provide a new public school facility and help relieve overcrowding at nearby elementary schools.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not result in impacts related to public services (schools).

4.13 Recreation and Parks (Increased Use of Recreational Facilities)

The proposed school would not increase the use of existing neighborhood, and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The proposed project includes its own recreational area, and would not induce population growth that would result in an increase in the use of the existing local recreational facilities.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not result in impacts to recreation and parks (increased use of recreational facilities).

4.14 Transportation/Traffic (Air Traffic Patterns)

The Initial Study determined that implementation of the proposed project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns. Although the proposed project site is located within 2 miles of the nearest public airport's runway, the proposed structures are consistent in height with nearby existing buildings. Construction and operation activities would not result in impacts related to a change in air patterns.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not result in impacts to transportation/traffic (air traffic patterns).

CHAPTER 5

Less Than Significant Environmental Impacts

Based on the Initial Study and the Record of Proceedings, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education finds that the proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition project (proposed project) would have less than significant environmental effects associated with following environmental issues:

- Aesthetics [Visual Character or Quality (c), Light or Glare (d)]
- Air Quality [Air Quality Attainment Plan (a), Air Quality Standards (b), Cumulatively Considerable Increase of Criteria Pollutants (c), Contribute to “Hotspot” (d), Sensitive Receptors (e), Objectionable Odors (f)]
- Biological Resources [Endangered Threatened or Rare Species (a)]
- Cultural Resources [Archeological Resource (b), Paleontological Resource or Site or Unique Geologic Feature (c), Human Remains (d)]
- Geology and Soils [Earthquake Fault (a-i), Ground Shaking (a-ii), Ground Failure (a-iii), Soil Erosion or Topsoil Loss (b), Unstable Geologic Unit or Soil (c), Expansive Soil (d)]
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials [Hazardous Materials (a), Accidental Release (b), Hazardous Emissions (c), Hazardous Materials Site (d), Airport (e), Emergency Response or Emergency Evacuation Plan (g)]
- Hydrology and Water Quality [Alter Drainage Pattern – Erosion or Siltation (c), Alter Drainage Pattern – Runoff (d), Contribute Runoff Water (e), Flooding (i)]
- Noise [Exceed Applicable Standards or Ordinances (a), Groundbourne Vibration or Noise (b), Airport (e)]
- Pedestrian Safety [Incompatible Design Feature or Uses (a), Unsafe Routes (b), Major Arterial Roadway or Freeway (c)]
- Public Services [Fire (a); Police (b); Other Public Facilities (d)]
- Recreation and Parks [Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities (b)]

- Transportation and Traffic [Level of Service (b); Emergency Access (d); Parking Capacity (e); Alternative Transportation Plans, Policies, or Programs (f)]
- Utilities and Service Systems

5.1 Aesthetics (Visual Character or Quality; Light or Glare)

Visual Character or Quality

The proposed project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The proposed height, scale, and mass of the school buildings would be similar to existing structures on and immediately surrounding the proposed project site. The surrounding properties northeast of the proposed project site and their commercial uses would not be considered shadow-sensitive and thus would not be significantly affected by shadows cast by the proposed structures. Further, the incorporation of LAUSD Best Management Practices (BMPs) during site selection, design, construction, and operation would minimize the degradation of the existing visual quality of the site and its surroundings. The proposed project would be expected to result in less than significant impacts related to visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

Light or Glare

The proposed project would not significantly affect daytime or nighttime views in the area through the addition of new sources of light or glare. As discussed in the Initial Study, external and internal night and day illumination is already in place in the proposed project area and along many of the roadways surrounding the site. New sources of light as part of the proposed project would include security lighting, headlights from vehicles of guest visiting the new school addition, and classroom lighting, which would create a minimal amount of light or glare above the existing conditions. The proposed lighting system would be designed to be consistent and sensitive to surrounding uses and would be installed in such a manner as to minimize glare for pedestrians and drivers, and to minimize spillover light in accordance with LAUSD design standards. As such, the proposed project's impact on daytime or nighttime views would be less than significant.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to aesthetics (visual character or quality; light or glare).

5.2 Air Quality (Air Quality Attainment Plan; Air Quality Standards; Cumulatively Considerable Increase of Criteria Pollutants; Contribute to “Hotspot”; Sensitive Receptors; Objectionable Odors)

Air Quality Attainment Plan

The Initial Study concluded that the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on the applicable Air Quality Attainment Plan. The proposed project would be consistent with the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) as well as the requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and of the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which are all regulated by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). LAUSD would comply with all existing and new rules and regulations as they are implemented by the SCAQMD, CARB, and/or the EPA. In addition, the Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) determined that new school construction projects would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the SCAQMD AQMP. The proposed project would conform to all applicable standards and guidelines and would result in less than significant impacts related to the Air Quality Attainment Plan.

Air Quality Standards

The EIR determined that construction of the proposed project has the potential, through the use of heavy-duty construction equipment and from trips generated by construction workers commuting to and from the proposed project site, to impact air quality. Fugitive dust emissions would result from site preparation, excavation, and other construction activities. Mobile source emissions, primarily NO_x, would result from the use of construction equipment such as bulldozers, wheeled loaders, and cranes. During the finishing phase, paving operations and the application of architectural coatings, such as paints and other building materials, would release reactive organic compounds (ROC). The assessment of construction air quality impacts considers all of these potential sources. Construction emissions can substantially vary from day to day, depending on the level of activity, the specific type of operation and, for dust, the prevailing weather conditions. The analysis further found that operational impacts for the proposed project generated by generated by the consumption of natural gas and by the operation of on-road vehicles would violate air quality standards. LAUSD would comply with all applicable guidelines established by regulating agencies.

As discussed in the EIR, the analysis of air quality standards determined that maximum regional emissions would not exceed the SCAQMD daily significance thresholds for ROC, NO_x, CO, PM_{2.5}, or PM₁₀. Therefore, the regional construction and operation impacts would be less than significant.

Cumulatively Considerable Increase of Criteria Pollutants

The EIR found that construction of the proposed project would not result in a significant localized air pollution impact and, therefore, would not expose any nearby sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. LAUSD shall require its construction contractor to comply with the

SCAQMD Rule 403 regarding the control of fugitive dust and other specified dust control measures. Furthermore, operations of the proposed project would not significantly contribute to the formation of a CO hotspot, and proposed project operations would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Contribute to “Hotspot”

The EIR found that the proposed project is consistent with the air quality goals for California, which would reduce vehicle miles traveled, and the resultant greenhouse gases (GHGs) compared to existing levels. In addition, newer building materials and codes would improve the energy efficiency of LAUSD schools, as compared to existing facilities. Therefore, the proposed project is consistent with sustainable growth that is designed to promote development while protecting the environment, encouraging social and economic equity, and conserving energy and water resources and would help the state meet its goal of reducing emissions of GHGs.

Emitting GHGs into the atmosphere is not an adverse environmental effect. Rather, it is the increased accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere that may result in global climate change. The resultant consequences of that climate change can cause adverse environmental effects. Due to the complex physical, chemical, and atmospheric mechanisms involved in global climate change, it is not possible to predict the specific impact, if any, to global climate change from one project's relatively small incremental increase in emissions. However, it can be assumed that the proposed project supports the state mandates and city goals of GHG reduction. The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to GHG and hotspots.

Sensitive Receptors

As discussed above and were discussed in the EIR, the proposed project would be expected to result in less than significant impacts as they relate to sensitive receptors. Sensitive receptors within 0.25 mile (1,320 feet) of the proposed project site include the following:

- Bellingham Primary Center located adjacent to and west of the proposed project site
- Multi-family residences located approximately 25 feet east of the proposed project site
- Single-family residences located approximately 30 feet north of the proposed project site
- Single-family residences located approximately 60 feet south of the proposed project site
- Single-family residences located approximately 60 feet west of the proposed project site

LAUSD shall require its construction contractor to comply with the SCAQMD Rule 403 regarding the control of fugitive dust and other specified dust control measures. As such, construction impacts to off-site sensitive receptors would be less than significant.

Objectionable Odors

The Initial Study found that the proposed project would not result in significant objectionable odors. Emissions from temporary construction equipment, such as diesel exhaust and volatile organic compounds from architectural coatings and paving activities, may generate objectionable odors, which may be considered unpleasant to some people. In addition, the potential operational odor sources associated with proposed project would be from the kitchen or waste management activities. However, proper maintenance and the established LAUSD waste management practices would reduce the potential for objectionable odors during project operations to a less than significant level.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project result in less than significant impacts related to air quality (air quality attainment plan; air quality standards; cumulatively considerable increase of criteria pollutants; contribute to “hotspot”; sensitive receptors; objectionable odors) and cumulative impacts.

5.3 Biological Resources (Endangered Threatened or Rare Species)

Implementation of the proposed project would not significantly impact, either directly or indirectly or through habitat modifications, any endangered, threatened, or rare species as listed in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. The Initial Study found that 19 species have been known to historically occur in the proposed project vicinity. However, no sensitive plant or animal species have been documented on the proposed project site. Furthermore, many of species with the potential to historically occur within the vicinity have since been extirpated. The likelihood of species dispersal, whether plants or animals, from these areas to the proposed project site is extremely low. Therefore, biological impacts related to endangered, threatened, or rare species would be less than significant.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project result in less than significant impacts related to biological resources (endangered threatened or rare species).

5.4 Cultural Resources (Archaeological Resources; Paleontological Resources or Site or Unique Geologic Feature; Human Remains)

Archaeological Resources

The Initial Study determined that no archaeological resources have been recorded on or within a 1-mile radius of the proposed project site. While no formal archaeological surveys have been conducted within the proposed project site, six surveys have been previously conducted within a 1-mile radius and none of these surveys identified archaeological resources. The proposed project site was found to have low sensitivity for archaeological resources during a records search. LAUSD has developed procedures identified in the Program EIR for evaluating and appropriately treating any unknown archaeological resources that have the potential to be uncovered during earth-disturbing activities. With the implementation of these Program procedures, any impacts would be less than significant.

Paleontological Resources or Site or Unique Geologic Feature

As discussed in the Initial Study, a paleontological records search by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County identified the proposed project area as sensitive for paleontological resources at deeper earth levels. While it is possible that construction activities could unearth such resources, LAUSD has developed procedures in the Program EIR that are standard for all new school construction projects to address the potential discovery of undocumented paleontological resources during construction. These procedures, which may be implemented, would result in impacts that are less than significant.

Human Remains

The proposed project site is expected to have less than significant impacts with regard to the disturbance of human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. As documented in the Initial Study, the records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center and information from the Native American Heritage Commission indicate that there are no known Native American burial sites or historic period cemeteries in the proposed site or within a 1-mile radius of the proposed site. However, in the event of accidental discovery of human remains during ground-disturbing activities, LAUSD would comply with the California Health and Safety Code. With the implementation of this process, any impacts would be less than significant.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to cultural resources (archaeological resources; paleontological resources or site or unique geologic feature; human remains).

5.5 Geology and Soils (Earthquake Fault; Ground Shaking; Ground Failure; Soil Erosion or Topsoil Loss; Unstable Geologic Unit or Soil; Expansive Soil)

Earthquake Fault

The proposed project would have a less than significant potential to expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects involving the rupture of a known earthquake fault. The proposed project is not located within or near a California Earthquake Fault Zone, and there are no active faults mapped across the site. Therefore, related impact would be less than significant.

Ground Shaking

The Initial Study found that the proposed project would have a less than significant potential to expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects involving strong seismic ground shaking. While there is the potential for the proposed project site to experience strong ground shaking in the future from local and regional faults, the California Building Code and other regulations, plans, and standards set forth in the Program EIR will result in less than significant impacts for the proposed project.

Ground Failure

As discussed in the Initial Study, the potential for seismic-related ground failure and liquefaction from a ground-shaking event depends on the level of shaking, groundwater conditions, relative density of soils, and age of the underlying geologic units. Based upon the County of Los Angeles Seismic Safety element, the City of Los Angeles Seismic Safety element, and a review of the State of California Seismic Hazard Zone, Van Nuys Quadrangle Map, the proposed project site is not located within a liquefaction hazard zone. In addition, due to current basin management practices, it is unlikely that groundwater will ever reach the historic high levels of 50 feet below the ground surface. As such, related impacts would be less than significant.

Soil Erosion or Topsoil Loss

Construction of the proposed project would result in ground surface disruption during excavation, grading, and trenching that would create the potential for erosion to occur. The LAUSD contractor would comply with a SWPPP and obtain a NPDES permit. Compliance with these project-related regulations, plans, and standards as set forth in the Program EIR would reduce all impacts due to soil erosion or topsoil loss to a less than significant level.

Unstable Geologic Unit or Soil

The proposed project is not located on a geologic unit, or on soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the proposed project. As discussed in the Initial Study, due to the location of the proposed project site, the potential for future surface subsidence effects is very low. Based on geologic maps of the area, impacts associated with an unstable geological unit or

unstable solid have not historically occurred in the proposed project area, and therefore, would not be likely. The proposed project site exhibits geologic and soil conditions with a low potential for liquefaction during a seismic event. Finally, the LAUSD would comply with all regulations, plans, and standards set forth in the Program EIR; these components would result in a less than significant impact related to being located on an unstable geological unit or soil.

Expansive Soil

The Initial Study found that the proposed project site may be located on expansive soil. However, the geotechnical analysis performed for the proposed project site in April 2007 indicated that the potential for the proposed project site to be affected by such geologic events is considered low. All of the proposed buildings would be designed in accordance with Title 24 of the California Building Standards Code. Thus, any potential for damage as a result of expansive soils would be less than significant.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to geology and soils (earthquake fault; ground shaking; ground failure; soil erosion or topsoil loss; unstable geologic unit or soil; expansive soil).

5.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Hazardous Materials; Accidental Release; Hazardous Emissions; Hazardous Materials Site; Airport; Emergency Response or Emergency Evacuation Plan)

Hazardous Materials

As discussed in the Initial Study, implementation of the proposed project would not create a potentially significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. School operations involve the limited use of hazardous materials through janitorial, maintenance, and repair activities, including commercial cleansers, lubricants, and paints. These types of materials, however, are not considered acutely hazardous. Operation of the proposed project would involve very little transport, storage, use, or disposal of these materials. Construction-related transport of potentially hazardous materials would be short-term and would serve a single use. Furthermore, the LAUSD construction contractor's adherence to the guidelines set forth by regulating agencies would reduce the potential for hazardous materials impacts to less than significant levels.

Accidental Release

As previously stated, the proposed project would involve the limited use of hazardous materials through operation, maintenance, and construction. All potentially hazardous materials used at the site would be stored, handled, and disposed of in accordance with local, county, and state laws that protect public safety. All existing structures at the proposed project site must be inspected

prior to demolition for asbestos-containing materials (ACM) and lead-based paint (LBP) and all soil must be assessed for potential LBP residue. Compliance with existing regulations for the treatment/removal of ACM and LBP would result in no reasonably foreseeable upset or accident conditions that would create a significant hazard to the public due to the release of hazardous materials. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

Hazardous Emissions

The Initial Study determined that impacts related to the potential for the proposed project to emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school would be less than significant. All materials and substances at the proposed project site would be subject to applicable health and safety requirements.

In addition, a Preliminary Environmental Assessment was performed for the site, which recommended a Removal Action Workplan be implemented for any contaminated or impacted soil found at the proposed project site. Construction of the proposed project would not occur until a No Further Action determination is issued by the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

Hazardous Materials Site

The Initial Study determined that the proposed project site is not within 0.25 mile of a site containing recognized environmental concerns. However, one leaking underground storage tank was identified 0.5 mile northeast of the proposed project site. The contaminated soils were excavated and removed, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a letter of closure. Another site, the southern edge of the San Fernando Valley (Area 1) Superfund site, located 0.26 mile northeast of the proposed project site, is listed on the Federal National Priorities List database. Neither of these releases are considered to represent potential environmental concerns to the proposed project site due to their distances and direction from the site, and because the releases are to soil only where the estimated depth to groundwater is approximately 200 feet below ground surface. Project-related impacts arising from hazardous materials sites listed on regulatory agency databases would be less than significant.

Airport

As determined in the Initial Study, the proposed project would be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport. However, there is not a significant safety hazard for people residing or working in the proposed project area. The nearest existing public airport to the proposed project is the Bob Hope Airport, located about 1.6 miles west of the site. Although the proposed project site is located within 2 miles of a public airport, airport flight track maps indicate that the site is not located beneath any frequently used departure or landing paths for Bob Hope Airport. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

Emergency Response or Emergency Evacuation Plan

The Initial Study found that the proposed project does not include any uses or design features that would impair implementation of or interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. In addition, LAUSD BMPs require adequate emergency access and that each new facility complies with adopted emergency response and evacuation plans. Prior to the opening of the proposed project, a Safe School Plan would be prepared by LAUSD. The Safe School Plan would address emergency response and appropriate action, as well as evacuation plans. By conforming to these design guidelines, the proposed project would not cause any interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan and impacts would be less than significant.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials (hazardous materials; accidental release; hazardous emissions; hazardous materials site; airport; emergency response or emergency evacuation plan).

5.7 Hydrology and Water Quality (Alter Drainage Pattern – Erosion or Siltation; Alter Drainage Pattern – Runoff; Contribute Runoff Water; Flooding)

Alter Drainage Pattern – Erosion or Siltation

The proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the proposed project site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site. No streams or rivers are located in or near the proposed project boundary. Further, LAUSD would comply with applicable ordinances regulating drainage improvements and grading plans as they relate to construction of on-site improvements that affect off-site drainage, and would incorporate Collaborative for High Performance School (CHPS) standards and its BMPs to the extent feasible. Impacts regarding the alteration of existing drainage patterns that could result in siltation or erosion would be less than significant.

Alter Drainage Pattern – Runoff

The Initial Study found that the proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the proposed project site or area, through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or off site. LAUSD would comply with regional policies regulating drainage improvements and grading plans as they relate to construction of on-site improvements that affect drainage. LAUSD would incorporate CHPS standards and its BMPs to the extent feasible. Compliance with the preceding policies would ensure that the proposed project would

not adversely affect the local drainage system in a manner that would result in substantial flooding on or off site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Contribute Runoff Water

The Initial Study found that the proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. The proposed project site currently includes both pervious and impervious areas. The development of the proposed project is not anticipated to significantly increase the amount of impervious surfaces on site. In addition, the proposed project would not generate substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. LAUSD would incorporate CHPS standards to the extent feasible for this project. Stormwater quality would also be addressed through regulatory permit requirements and BMPs, and impacts would be less than significant.

Flooding

Implementation of the proposed project may expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. The proposed project site is located in the Hansen Reservoir and Big Tujunga Reservoir, located approximately 5 miles north and 13.8 miles northwest of the site. According to the City of Los Angeles General Plan Safety element, dams and reservoirs within the city are monitored during storms and measures are instituted to prevent the potential for overflow. Measures include release of stored water to minimize the potential of massive inundation in the event of dam failure. Hansen Reservoir and Big Tujunga Reservoir are flood control facilities that impound water only during periods of infrequent high seasonal precipitation, and, as such, the probability of flooding due to seismically induced dam failure is considered to be extremely low. As determined in the Initial Study, impacts would be less than significant.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to hydrology and water quality (alter drainage pattern – erosion or siltation; alter drainage pattern – runoff; contribute runoff water; flooding).

5.8 Noise (Exceed Applicable Standards or Ordinances; Groundbourne Vibration or Noise; Airport)

Exceed Applicable Standards or Ordinances

As discussed in the EIR, operational activities associated with the proposed project that would generate periodic noise include the automobile traffic, the play area, and mechanical equipment. Mobile noise associated with the project-related increase in traffic volumes would result in a less

than significant impact. LAUSD would comply with all applicable guidelines by regulating agencies and would result in less than significant impacts.

Groundbourne Vibration or Noise

The EIR found that groundborne vibration in the proposed project vicinity would continue to be generated by vehicular travel on the local roadways. Proposed project operation would not result in any additional long-term groundborne vibration sources. As such, proposed project operation would not exceed the 2 inches per second PPV significance threshold for groundborne vibration. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Airport

As discussed in the Initial Study, the proposed project would be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport and thereby exposing people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. The nearest existing public airport is the Bob Hope Airport is located about 1.6 miles west of the site. Since the proposed project site is located within 2 miles of an airport, potential impacts associated with airport noise may occur. However, based upon an analysis and observations of the proposed project site, impacts related to airport are expected to be less than significant.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to noise (exceed applicable standards or ordinances; groundbourne vibration or noise; airport).

5.9 Pedestrian Safety (Incompatible Design Feature or Uses; Unsafe Routes; Major Arterial Roadway or Freeway)

Incompatible Design Feature or Uses

The EIR determined that the proposed project does not include any design features or incompatible uses that would result in an increase of vehicular and/or pedestrian safety hazards. Although construction of the proposed project would result in the temporary closure of sidewalks, LAUSD requires its contractors to prepare and implement a Construction Worksite Traffic Control Plan. Any construction-related sidewalk obstructions would be short-term and pedestrians would be redirected to unobstructed sidewalks elsewhere in the vicinity.

The increased levels of traffic; increased number of pedestrians; and increased number of vehicular turning movements at the nearby intersections, driveways, and on-street parking areas would not result in an increased number of traffic conflicts with pedestrians and a corresponding increase in the probability of an accident occurring. The proposed project area provides adequate pedestrian amenities such as sidewalks and crosswalks, which provide necessary safety for pedestrians. In addition, stop signs and traffic signals within the proposed project site provide additional safety for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. With regards to the design features at the school, the driveways, drop-off/pick-up zone, pedestrian access features, and other such circulation facilities would be designed in accordance with LAUSD standards, and would not, therefore, result in any inherently unsafe or incompatible conditions.

Unsafe Routes

The proposed project would not create unsafe routes for students walking from local neighborhoods. Project operations would result in pedestrian traffic along surrounding streets. Based on field observations and as determined in the pedestrian analysis, the proposed project area provides adequate pedestrian amenities (i.e. crosswalks and sidewalks). There are no pedestrian safety issues that would be impacted by the proposed project. In addition, the recommended signalization of the intersection of Bellingham Avenue and Vanowen Street, with crosswalks provided, would further enhance pedestrian safety.

Traffic signals, stop signs, and sufficient crosswalks are currently in place and provide convenient, protected crossing locations for the pedestrians along the walking routes to and from the proposed project and would cause any related impacts to be less than significant.

Major Arterial Roadway or Freeway

Based on the pedestrian safety study, the proposed project area provides adequate pedestrian amenities (i.e. crosswalks and sidewalks). There are no observable pedestrian safety issues that would be impacted by the proposed project based on the distance of the proposed project to a major arterial roadway or freeway. In addition, the recommended mitigation measure of signalization of the intersections of Bellingham Avenue / Vanowen Street, and Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Archwood Street as discussed in the EIR, would further enhance pedestrian safety. As previously stated, traffic signals, stop signs, and crosswalks are currently in place that provide convenient, protected crossing locations for the pedestrians along the walking routes to and from the proposed project site and would result in less than significant impacts.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to pedestrian safety (incompatible design feature or uses; unsafe routes; major arterial roadway or freeway).

5.10 Public Services (Fire; Police; Other Public Facilities)

Fire

The proposed project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection. Due to the residential and educational uses that currently exist on site, the demand for fire protection services in the area is not expected to significantly increase as a result of the proposed project. In addition, because the proposed project would provide relief to overcrowded schools in the area, the proposed project would be growth accommodating rather than growth inducing. As such, response times would not be affected by the proposed project. In addition, in accordance with the LAUSD BMPs, in order to reduce impacts to fire protection services in connection with new construction projects, LAUSD would have local fire jurisdictions review site plans. As such, the proposed project would not generate a need for a new fire station and would result in less than significant impacts.

Police

The proposed project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police protection facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection. The Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD) would provide the primary law enforcement for the proposed project. LASPD currently provides protection services at the existing Bellingham Primary Center. LASPD would continue to provide on-campus security. Additional officers would be made available to serve the proposed school as necessary. The Program EIR includes both design features and provisions for the LASPD police officers in order to ensure a high level of safety and security at the proposed school and in the immediate surrounding area.. The City of Los Angeles Police Department, North Hollywood Division, would be the secondary provider of police protection services within the proposed project area and would supplement LASPD. The North Hollywood Community Police Station is located at 11640 Burbank Boulevard, which is approximately 1.9 miles from the proposed project site. Impacts associated with police service would be less than significant.

Other Public Facilities

The proposed project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered public facilities or services. The proposed project is growth accommodating rather than growth inducing. No new or altered government facilities would be required, and the proposed project would not contribute to an increased demand for additional public services and facilities. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to public services (fire; police; other public facilities).

5.11 Recreation and Parks (Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities)

As discussed in the Initial Study, the Bellingham Primary Center currently provides recreational facilities for its students. The proposed project would result in reconfiguration of the existing recreational facilities and would expand the current levels of recreational facilities. The proposed project would not require the construction or expansion of off-site facilities. Given that the new school is intended to meet the needs of existing and projected population growth in the study area, it is unlikely to burden any facility beyond capacity by generating additional recreational users. Since adequate recreational facilities would be provided on site, and students would not be required to use off-site recreational facilities, impacts associated with the proposed project would be less than significant.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to recreation and parks (construction or expansion of recreational facilities).

5.12 Transportation/Traffic (Level of Service; Emergency Access; Parking Capacity; Alternative Transportation Plans, Policies, or Programs)

Level of Service

The EIR found that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to traffic related to level of service. The nearest Congestion Management Program mainline freeway monitoring location to the proposed project site is on State Route 170, which is located south of Sherman Way. Based on the trip distribution and traffic assignment presented, the proposed project is primarily local traffic rather than regional traffic. The proposed project is expected to increase fewer than 150 new trips per hour to any freeway segments near the proposed project.

Emergency Access

The Initial Study determined that implementation of the proposed project would not result in inadequate emergency access. The proposed project would comply with applicable Fire Department regulations, California Building Standards Code, and California Division of State Architect requirements. LAUSD would also provide the local fire department with a site plan for review and approval, including locations of all buildings, fences, drive gates, retaining walls, or other features that might affect fire department access, with unobstructed fire lanes for access.

identified. This review process, along with LAUSD's compliance with the applicable regulations and standards stated above, shall ensure that adequate emergency access would be provided. As a result, impacts with regard to emergency access would be less than significant.

Parking Capacity

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in inadequate parking capacity. The existing school consists of 36 parking spaces; these parking spaces would not be removed as a result of the proposed project. LAUSD includes a parking provision to provide 2.25 parking spaces per elementary school classroom. The proposed project would contain 22 classrooms. The proposed project would require approximately 50 parking spaces to meet LAUSD's standard for parking ratios per classroom. Approximately 50 subterranean parking spaces would be provided for faculty and staff, for a combined total of 86 parking spaces. Approximately 45 full- and part-time faculty and staff would be employed at the proposed project during operation. The amount of on-site parking planned for the proposed project would meet LAUSD standards for parking and would, therefore, result in less than significant impacts.

Alternative Transportation Plans, Policies, or Programs

As discussed in the Initial Study, implementation of the proposed project would not be expected to conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. LAUSD schools encourage and remain supportive of students utilizing alternative and public forms of transportation, including walking and bicycling. The proposed project would encourage and support alternative transportation for students due to the close proximity of the school to the community it is intended to serve. LAUSD also has a policy to encourage ride sharing. Impacts would be less than significant.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to transportation/traffic (level of service; emergency access; parking capacity; alternative transportation plans, policies, or programs).

5.13 Utilities and Service Systems

The Initial Study determined that implementation of the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems. The LAUSD construction contractor would be required to obtain an NPDES permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, including requirements for wastewater discharge, BMPs, and a SWPPP prior to commencement of construction activities. The proposed project would not be expected to increase in the utilities and service systems currently serving the proposed project area.

In addition, the proposed project site is in a developed area of the City of Los Angeles, which contains an existing stormwater collection and conveyance system. Development of the proposed

project site would replace existing impermeable surfaces on some portions of the site and would potentially reduce the amount of impervious surfaces on other portions of the site where recreational fields are proposed. Overall, any increase in runoff from the proposed project site would be minimal. The proposed project is not anticipated to result in a substantial net increase in water demand. The expected increase in water demand as a result of the program, inclusive of the proposed project, would be expected to be minimal when compared to the combined capacity of the water supply facilities serving the proposed project area. Further, the proposed project would be located on a developed site that currently has sewer line connections that are currently served by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District.

The increase in solid waste associated with the proposed project would not be expected to exceed the combined available capacities of landfills or result in the need for new or expanded landfill facilities. LAUSD would implement BMPs such as source reduction, recycling, and other diversion measures with construction and operation of the proposed project to reduce solid waste generation impacts to landfills. During both construction, and operation of the proposed project, LAUSD shall comply with all city, county, and state solid waste diversion, reduction, and recycling mandates, including compliance with the City of Los Angeles Annual Report, Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, the Los Angeles Municipal Code, and BMPs. Impacts related to compliance with city, county, and state solid waste statutes and regulations would be less than significant. Compliance with the identified requirements and project features would be expected to reduce utilities impacts to a less than significant level.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant project-related impacts to utilities and service systems.

5.14 Irreversible Environmental Changes

Construction and operation of the proposed project would necessarily lead to the consumption of limited, slowly renewable, and non-renewable resources, committing such resources to uses that future generations would be unable to reverse. The proposed project would require the commitment of resources that include: (1) building and construction materials; (2) fuel and operational materials/resources; and (3) the transportation of goods and people to and from the proposed project site.

Construction of the proposed project would consume certain types of lumber and other forest products, the raw materials in steel, metals (such as copper and lead), aggregate materials used in concrete and asphalt (such as sand and stone), water, petrochemical construction materials (such as plastic), petroleum-based construction materials, and other similar slowly renewable or non-renewable resources. In addition, fossil fuels for construction vehicles and equipment would also be consumed. In terms of proposed project operations, at minimal, the following slowly renewable and non-renewable resources would be required: natural gas and electricity; petroleum-based fuels; fossil fuels, and water. Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations

regulates the amount of energy consumed by new development for heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting purposes.

The commitment of building materials required for the construction and operation of the proposed project would limit the availability of such resources for future generations or for other uses during the life of the proposed project. Despite this fact, continued use of such resources is necessary to address the current and anticipated growth and planned changes on the proposed project site and within the general vicinity.

The proposed project would result in commitment of the existing school site as well as residential land to school uses, eliminating other options for its use. Along with the long-term commitment of land uses is an increased commitment of certain public services to the proposed land uses. This includes the provision of police, fire, and emergency medical services, water supply services, wastewater treatment services, and solid waste disposal. However, as indicated in the Initial Study and respective sections of the EIR, impacts associated with these public services would be less than significant.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Initial Study, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to irreversible environmental changes.

5.15 Growth-inducing Impacts

Pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, an EIR must address whether a project will directly or indirectly foster economic or population growth or lead to the construction of additional housing in the surrounding environment. As such, the EIR evaluated whether the proposed project would directly, or indirectly, induce economic, population, or housing growth in the surrounding environment.

Direct Growth-inducing Impacts in the Surrounding Environment

A project would directly induce growth if it would remove barriers to population growth such as a change to a jurisdiction's General Plan and Zoning Ordinance that allowed new residential development to occur. The goal of LAUSD in constructing the proposed project is to provide a quality learning environment for the students through the relief of existing and projected overcrowded conditions at the neighboring school sites.

LAUSD is mandated to provide an education for all students who reside within the district. In an attempt to fulfill this mandate, LAUSD has incorporated year-round sessions, busing, and large class sizes, which combined with the district's growing population, leave it increasingly difficult to meet the space needs to house existing and projected student enrollments. The construction of the proposed school is intended to relieve the current overcrowding conditions at other schools within the vicinity of the proposed project and provide capacity for projected students who will

live in its attendance areas. The new school would not induce more growth, but it would accommodate that which already has occurred and which is projected to continue to occur over time.

Indirect Growth-inducing Impacts in the Surrounding Environment

A project would indirectly induce growth if it would increase the capacity of infrastructure in an area in which the public service currently met demand. Examples would be increasing the capacity of a sewer treatment plant or a roadway beyond that needed to meet existing demand. There is currently a shortage of schools in LAUSD. As evidenced by overcrowding conditions, the current demand for schools has not been met. LAUSD does not seek to induce growth by creating the capacity of infrastructure, but rather it seeks to utilize the existing infrastructure as efficiently as possible to support the population it serves. As stated above, the construction of new schools would not induce more growth, but would meet the current and future population demand.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Final EIR and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would not induce growth directly or indirectly, and impacts would be less than significant.

CHAPTER 6

Less Than Significant Environmental Impacts with Mitigation Incorporated

The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) determined that the proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition project (proposed project) has potentially significant environmental effects that can be mitigated in the areas of hazards and hazardous materials (Site Within 1,500 Feet of a Pipeline). The Final EIR identified feasible mitigation measures to avoid or substantially reduce some or all of the environmental effects in these areas. Based on the information and analysis set forth in the Final EIR, the proposed project impacts would be less than significant with identified mitigation measures and project design standards incorporated into the proposed project.

6.1 Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Site Within 1,500 Feet of a Pipeline)

The Los Angeles Unified School District prepared a Pipeline Safety Hazard Assessment (PSHA) to evaluate the safety hazards associated with the natural gas and hazardous liquid releases from pipelines within the vicinity of the proposed project. The PSHA determined that the hazard footprints of the 6-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline did not reach the boundary of the proposed school site. Therefore, a quantitative risk analysis was determined not to be necessary and mitigation measures not required. There would be no significant risk to students or staff who may attend or occupy the proposed project as a result of a release or rupture from this pipeline.

The PSHA also found that a full-flow rupture from two of the five water pipelines, the 48-inch and the 54-inch pipelines beneath Vanowen Street, would exceed the carrying capacity of the street. The water depth resulting from full-bore ruptures from the 48-inch and 54-inch pipelines would be 1 inch over the curb and 2.6 inches over the curb, respectively. However, only a water depth of 12 inches or more would warrant further investigation. Therefore, this impact is considered to be less than significant with mitigation.

Findings

The Board of Education finds that the following mitigation measure shall be implemented to reduce potentially significant impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials (site within 1,500 feet of a pipeline) to less than significant levels and ensure compliance with all applicable Hazardous Materials Safety Requirements.

- **Mitigation Measure 3C-1:** The Los Angeles Unified School District Office of Environmental Health and Safety shall incorporate evacuation and emergency response procedures associated to the potential exposure to hazardous materials into the Safe School Plan Volume II - Emergency Procedures document. All emergency procedures identified in this document would be implemented in the operational procedures of the proposed project.

CHAPTER 7

Significant and Unavoidable Environmental Impacts

The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) determined that the proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition project (proposed project) has significant and unavoidable impacts related to noise and transportation and traffic. The Final EIR identified feasible mitigation measures to avoid or substantially reduce the environmental effects in these areas.

7.1 Noise (Excessive Noise Levels; Substantial Increase in Ambient Noise Levels)

Excessive Noise Levels

Based on the information and analysis set forth in the Final EIR and the record proceedings, construction of the proposed project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact to noise.

Noise impacts from construction activities occurring within the proposed project site would be a function of the noise generated by construction equipment, the equipment location, and the timing and duration of the noise-generating activities. Construction activities would include demolition, site preparation, construction, and finishing.

The existing Bellingham Primary Center would be exposed to increased ambient noise levels from the proposed project construction activity. As construction activities could occur within 25 feet of existing structures at the Bellingham Primary Center, exterior noise levels at the existing elementary school could reach approximately 89 dBA Leq and interior noise levels could occasionally reach approximately 65 dBA Leq. These noise levels would exceed the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) noise standards. Therefore, short-term construction noise impacts would be significant and unavoidable at on-site sensitive receptors.

Substantial Increase in Ambient Noise Levels

The EIR found that the proposed project would cause temporary noise increases during construction activities at the proposed project site that would be perceptible from nearby residences. Noise levels would vary depending on the type and number of construction equipment in operation at any given time. Construction activities would be required to comply with relevant provisions of Chapter 11 of the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code and LAUSD noise

standards, due to the presence of the Bellingham Primary Center. Adherence to the Municipal Code is considered to be adequate mitigation for construction noise for non-LAUSD facilities. As discussed above, impacts associated with construction noise are expected to reach up to 89 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. Compliance with the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code and implementation of the Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures 3D-1 and 3D-2 would reduce noise impacts to the surrounding residents and also to the adjacent existing school. However, noise levels would exceed established thresholds even after implementation of all feasible mitigation measures. Therefore, temporary and periodic noise impacts during construction would be significant and unavoidable. The following mitigation measures shall be implemented to reduce potential noise related impacts:

- **Mitigation Measure 3D-1:** The Los Angeles Unified School District construction contractor shall implement the use of temporary sound barriers, such as noise-attenuating blankets, along all sides of the construction footprint due to the close proximity of sensitive receptors, including the exterior communal areas of the Bellingham Primary Center.
- **Mitigation Measure 3D-2:** Prior to initiating construction, the Los Angeles Unified School District construction contractor shall coordinate with the site administrator for the existing Bellingham Primary Center to discuss construction activities that generate high noise and vibration levels. Coordination between the site administrator and the construction contractor shall continue on an as-needed basis throughout the construction phase of the project to mitigate potential disruption of classroom activities as feasible.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Final EIR and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact to noise (excessive noise levels and substantial increase in ambient noise levels) despite implementation of all feasible mitigation. The Board of Education further finds that the project benefits outweigh these unavoidable impacts and are, therefore, overridden as set forth in the Statement of Overriding Considerations.

7.2 Transportation/Traffic (Substantial Increase in Existing Traffic; Cumulative Impacts)

Substantial Increase in Existing Traffic

An analysis of traffic impacts was conducted by quantifying the before-and-after traffic volumes, then determining the volume-to-capacity ratios and level of service at the study area intersections for the without-project and with-project scenarios. The analysis found that the proposed project would have significant impacts at three of the study area intersections during the morning peak hour: Bellingham Avenue / Vanowen Street, Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Vanowen Street, and Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Archwood Street.

In conjunction with the development of the proposed project, the segment of Vantage Avenue between Archwood Street and the alley south of and parallel to Vanowen Street (the proposed project's northern boundary) would be vacated. This vacation is necessary so that a public roadway would not bisect the school site. The segment of Vantage Avenue between Vanowen Avenue and the northern boundary of the school site would remain in place.

The proposed closure of Vantage Avenue would result in the shift of existing traffic to nearby roadways. Based on field observations during the morning drop-off period, a significant amount of traffic utilizing Vantage Avenue is school related. Based on this, the majority of Vantage Avenue traffic has been shifted to Bellingham Avenue and Archwood Street. As a result of the traffic shifts and new traffic from the proposed project, significant impacts have been identified.

The intersection of Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Vanowen Street would result in a significant impact as this intersection is fully built-out and there is no additional width available for additional lanes through restriping. The intersection of Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Vanowen Street was analyzed for traffic signal modifications as potential mitigation measures, however, no such feasible measures were deemed to mitigate the anticipated proposed project impacts. As a result, traffic impacts at this intersection would remain significant and unavoidable. At the request of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, a Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis was prepared for the intersections of Bellingham Avenue / Vanowen Street and Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Archwood Street, and these intersections do meet the criteria for traffic signals. As a result, impacts at these intersections will be less than significant with mitigation. The following mitigation measures identified in the EIR would reduce impacts to Bellingham Avenue / Vanowen Street and Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Archwood Street; however, the intersection of Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Vanowen Street would remain significant and unavoidable.

- **Mitigation Measure 3F-1:** Los Angeles Unified School District shall coordinate with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation for the installation of new traffic signals at the intersections of Bellingham Avenue / Vanowen Street, and Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Archwood Street. Installation of the traffic signals at these intersections will reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

Cumulative Impacts

The EIR determined that any additional traffic generated by cumulative project development in the area is included in the growth factor used for the year 2012 traffic projections. Based on the traffic analysis for the proposed project, traffic generated as a result of cumulative-growth projects is included in the analysis for this proposed project, which found that projected 2012 traffic impacts are significant and unavoidable at the intersection of Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Vanowen Street. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a significant contribution to cumulative traffic impacts within the area.

Findings

The Board of Education finds, based on the Final EIR and the whole of the record, that the proposed project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact to transportation/traffic (substantial increase in existing traffic; cumulative impacts) despite implementation of all feasible mitigation. The Board of Education further finds that the project benefits outweigh these unavoidable impacts and are, therefore, overridden as set forth in the Statement of Overriding Considerations.

CHAPTER 8

Feasibility of Project Alternatives

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must briefly describe the rationale for selection and rejection of alternatives. The lead agency may make an initial determination as to which alternatives are feasible and, therefore, merit in-depth consideration, and which alternatives are infeasible. Alternatives considered by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) include a reasonable range of potential projects to meet the needs of the local district with specific consideration given to the student population and demographics. The EIR for the proposed project discussed several alternatives to the proposed project in order to present a reasonable range of alternatives. The alternatives evaluated included: (1) No Project Alternative and (2) Reduced Project Alternative.

8.1 No Project

There are no components to the No Project Alternative. Under the No Project Alternative, the proposed project would not be constructed. The existing conditions at the site would remain the same. The project site would remain a residential site and partial street.

Under the No Project Alternative, the objectives of the project would not be met. The existing Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School site would not be expanded and the new 550 seats necessary to relieve overcrowding in the Valley Region Planning Area, specifically at Bellingham Primary Center, Fair Elementary School, and Maurice Sendak Elementary School, would not be available. However, LAUSD would be required to continue to accommodate the current and projected increases in student enrollment. This would likely result in the addition of portable classrooms to existing schools, where feasible, and the expansion of year-round calendars.

Findings

While the No Project Alternative would not result in significant environmental impacts, the Board of Education finds this alternative to be infeasible and less desirable than the proposed project. The Board of Education rejects this alternative, because it would not achieve the following LAUSD objectives:

- Provide a neighborhood elementary school for grades Kindergarten through 5th on a single-track, two-semester calendar to relieve overcrowding and restore pre-2002 classroom size norms at existing schools within the Valley Region Planning Area, specifically at Bellingham Primary Center, Fair Elementary School, and Maurice Sendak Elementary School, as soon as possible.

- Eliminate involuntary busing of students, as soon as possible.
- Reduce reliance on portable classrooms, as soon as possible.
- Maximize the use of limited bond funds to provide the needed classroom facilities.
- Create schools that are centers of community engagement, both during and outside of normal operating hours.
- Avoid, to the extent possible, the displacement of existing residences and businesses where feasible.
- Maintain traditional classroom instruction hours for elementary school students from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Maintain existing opportunities for after-school extracurricular activities.
- Build and maintain schools that reflect the wise and efficient use of limited land and public resources.

8.2 Reduced Project Alternative

Under the Reduced Project Alternative, an elementary school would be operated at the same location as the proposed project, but at a reduced scale. This alternative would provide for the addition of 380 new two-semester seats as opposed to 550 new two-semester seats. This represents a 31-percent reduction to the proposed project.

As with the No Project Alternative, the objectives of the project would not be met by the Reduced Project Alternative. While some of the current school overcrowding would be addressed, not all of the students requiring school seats would be accommodated in this alternative. As a result, portable classrooms would still be required at some school sites and at least one school would be required to operate on a year-round schedule to accommodate the remaining students.

Findings

The Board of Education finds this alternative scenario infeasible and less desirable than the proposed project. The Board of Education rejects this alternative scenario because the Reduced Project Alternative would provide fewer elementary school seats and, as a result, the overcrowding at the relief schools would continue. Compared to the proposed project, this alternative is preferable in all of the issue areas, with the exception of biological resources, where impacts would be comparable.

CHAPTER 9

Findings on Changes to the Draft EIR and Recirculation

9.1 Changes to Draft EIR

The proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition project (proposed project) has incorporated factual changes subsequent to publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Final EIR also includes the minor revisions to the Draft EIR. The changes and revisions were minor in nature and have been identified in the Final EIR.

9.2 Findings

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), on the basis of the review and consideration of the Final EIR, the Board of Education finds:

- Factual corrections and minor changes are set forth as additions and corrections to the Draft EIR;
- The factual corrections and minor changes to the Draft EIR are not substantial changes that would deprive the public of a meaningful opportunity to comment on a substantial adverse environmental effect of the proposed project, a feasible way to mitigate or avoid such an effect, or a feasible proposed project alternative;
- The factual corrections and minor changes to the Draft EIR would not result in new significant environmental effects or substantially increase the severity of the previously identified significant effects disclosed in the Draft EIR;
- The factual corrections and minor changes in the Draft EIR would not involve mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the Draft EIR that would substantially reduce one or more significant effect(s) on the environment; and
- The Draft EIR is not fundamentally inadequate or so conclusionary in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.

Based on the Draft EIR, the Final EIR, and the whole of the record for the proposed project, none of the conditions set forth in CEQA requiring recirculation of a Draft EIR have been met. Incorporation of the factual corrections and minor changes to the Draft EIR into the Final EIR does not require the Final EIR be recirculated for public and/or agency comment.

CHAPTER 10

Findings on Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

10.1 Introduction

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is acting as the Lead Agency for the proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition project (proposed project). Pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines Sections 15091(d) and 15097, the Lead Agency must adopt a program for monitoring or reporting mitigation measures identified in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), if the Lead Agency makes findings of significant impacts during the process of certifying the EIR. The primary purpose of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) is to ensure that the mitigation measures identified in the EIR are implemented, thereby reducing or avoiding identified environmental impacts. The MMRP is provided in Attachment A, *Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan*. If necessary, LAUSD may appoint delegate responsibilities to environmental monitors or other professionals to monitor any specialized mitigation measures identified in the EIR, as warranted.

10.2 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program Description

The purpose of the MMRP is to ensure the effective implementation of the mitigation measures imposed by the LAUSD for the proposed project. In addition, the MMRP provides a means of identifying corrective actions, if necessary, before irreversible environmental damage occurs. This plan includes:

- A brief description of each impact expected to occur from the proposed project;
- Mitigation measures associated with each impact;
- Responsible monitoring party;
- Responsible implementing party;
- Implementation phase (i.e., pre-construction, construction, prior to occupancy, post-occupancy); and

- Completion date / initials of reviewing party (to be completed as the requirements are fulfilled).

As the Lead Agency for the proposed project, LAUSD will be required to comply with all applicable plans, permits, and conditions of approval for the proposed project, in addition to implementation of the MMRP. The mitigation measures presented in Attachment A will be implemented as indicated to avoid or minimize environmental impacts that might occur as a result of the proposed project.

CHAPTER 11

Statement of Overriding Considerations

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 21081(b) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, the Board of Education has balanced the benefits of the proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition project (proposed project) against the unavoidable adverse impacts related to noise and transportation and traffic for the proposed project, despite the adoption of all feasible mitigation measures. The Board of Education has also examined alternatives to the proposed project, none of which meet all of the project objectives and is preferable to the proposed project.

11.1 Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) identified the following significant impacts that cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level even though the Board finds that all feasible mitigation measures have been identified and incorporated into the proposed project:

Noise (Excessive Noise Levels; Substantial Increase in Ambient Noise Levels)

Excessive Noise Levels

Based on the information and analysis set forth in the Final EIR and the record proceedings, construction of the proposed project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact related to excessive noise levels. Noise impacts from construction activities occurring within the proposed project site would be a function of the noise generated by construction equipment, the equipment location, and the timing and duration of the noise-generating activities. Construction activities would include demolition, site preparation, construction, and finishing.

The existing Bellingham Primary Center would be exposed to increased ambient noise levels from the proposed project construction activity. As construction activities could occur within 25 feet of existing structures at the Bellingham Primary Center, exterior noise levels at the existing elementary school could reach approximately 89 dBA Leq and interior noise levels could occasionally reach approximately 65 dBA Leq. These noise levels would exceed the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) noise standards. Therefore, short-term construction noise impacts would be significant and unavoidable at on-site sensitive receptors.

Substantial Increase in Ambient Noise Levels

The EIR found that the proposed project would cause temporary noise increases during construction activities at the proposed project site that would be perceptible from nearby residences. Noise levels would vary depending on the types and number of construction equipment in operation at any given time. Construction activities would be required to comply with relevant provisions of Chapter 11 of the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code and LAUSD noise standards. As discussed above, impacts associated with construction noise are expected to reach up to 89 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. Compliance with the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code and implementation of the Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures 3D-1 and 3D-2 would reduce noise impacts to the surrounding residents and to the adjacent existing school. However, noise levels would exceed established thresholds even after implementation of all feasible mitigation measures. Therefore, temporary and periodic noise impacts during construction would be significant and unavoidable.

Findings

Although the proposed project would comply all applicable regulations and with the stated mitigation measures, impacts would still be significant and unavoidable. Therefore, the Board of Education finds that these impacts related to noise are significant and unavoidable. However, pursuant to Section 21081(a)(3) of the Public Resources Code, as described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board of Trustees has determined that this impact is acceptable based on specific overriding considerations.

Traffic (Substantial Increase in Existing Traffic; Cumulative Impacts)

Substantial Increase in Existing Traffic

An analysis of traffic impacts was conducted by quantifying the before-and-after traffic volumes, then determining the volume-to-capacity ratios and level of service at the study area intersections for the without-project and with-project scenarios. The analysis found that the proposed project would have significant impacts at three of the study area intersections during the morning peak hour: Bellingham Avenue / Vanowen Street, Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Vanowen Street, and Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Archwood Street.

In conjunction with the development of the proposed project, it is proposed that the segment of Vantage Avenue between Archwood Street and the alley south of and parallel to Vanowen Street (the proposed project's northern boundary) is proposed to be vacated. This proposed vacation is necessary so that a public roadway would not bisect the school site. The segment of Vantage Avenue between Vanowen Avenue and the northern boundary of the school site would remain in place.

The proposed closure of Vantage Avenue would result in the shift of existing traffic to nearby roadways. Based on field observations during the morning drop-off period, a significant amount of traffic utilizing Vantage Avenue is school related. Based on this, the majority of Vantage

Avenue traffic has been shifted to Bellingham Avenue and Archwood Street. As a result of the traffic shifts and new traffic from the proposed project, significant impacts have been identified.

Cumulative Impacts

The EIR determined that any additional traffic generated by cumulative project development in the area is included in the growth factor used for the year 2012 traffic projections. Based on the traffic analysis for the proposed project, traffic generated as a result of cumulative growth projects is included in the analysis for this proposed project, which found that projected 2012 traffic impacts are significant and unavoidable at the intersection of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Vanowen Street. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a significant contribution to cumulative traffic impacts within the area.

Findings

The mitigation measures listed above would not reduce all of the traffic related impacts to less than significant. The final traffic plans for the proposed project require approval by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation prior to project implementation. The Board finds that transportation and traffic impacts related to substantial increase in existing traffic are significant and unavoidable. However, pursuant to Section 21081(a)(3) of the Public Resources Code, as described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board of Trustees has determined that this impact is acceptable based on specific overriding considerations.

11.2 Project Benefits

LAUSD has balanced the proposed project's benefits against the proposed project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to noise and transportation and traffic. The Board of Education finds that the proposed project's benefits outweigh the proposed project's significant and unavoidable impacts, and the impacts are, therefore, considered acceptable in light of the proposed project's benefits. The Board of Education finds that each of the following benefits is an overriding consideration that warrants approval of the proposed project, notwithstanding the proposed project's significant and unavoidable impacts. Provision of the needed educational facilities would provide the following public benefits:

- Provide a neighborhood elementary school for grades Kindergarten through 5th on a single-track, two-semester calendar to relieve overcrowding and restore pre-2002 classroom size norms at existing schools within the Valley Region Planning Area, specifically at Bellingham Primary Center, Fair Elementary School, and Maurice Sendak Elementary School, as soon as possible.
- Eliminate involuntary busing of students, as soon as possible.
- Reduce reliance on portable classrooms, as soon as possible.
- Maximize the use of limited bond funds to provide the needed classroom facilities.

- Provide relief to allow for a traditional, two-semester calendar.
- Create schools that are centers of community engagement, both during and outside of normal operating hours.
- Avoid, to the extent possible, the displacement of existing residences and businesses where feasible.
- Maintain traditional classroom instruction hours for elementary school students from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Maintain existing opportunities for after-school extracurricular activities.
- Build and maintain schools that reflect the wise and efficient use of limited land and public resources.

11.3 Conclusion

The goal of LAUSD is to provide each student a quality education. A solid education will help individuals become contributing members of society by carefully and deliberately building the knowledge, skills, and values that are necessary to meet the challenges of a changing world.

The Board of Education, after balancing the specific economic, legal, social, technological, and other benefits of the proposed project, has determined that the identified significant and unavoidable impacts may be considered acceptable due to the specific considerations, which were discussed above, and subsequently outweigh the significant and unavoidable impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed project.

Accordingly, the Board of Education adopts the following Statement of Overriding Considerations, recognizing that the significant and unavoidable noise and transportation and traffic impacts would result from implementation of the proposed project. Having (1) adopted all feasible mitigation measures, (2) rejected alternatives to the proposed project, and (3) considered the unavoidable significant impacts, the Board of Education hereby finds that each of the benefits of the proposed project, as stated herein, is determined to be unto itself an overriding consideration, independent of other benefits that warrants approval of the proposed project and outweighs and overrides its significant and unavoidable impacts, and thereby justifies the approval of the proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition project.

ATTACHMENT A

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

**VALLEY REGION BELLINGHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN**

Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Monitoring Party	Responsible Implementing Agency	Implementation Phase	Completion Date/Initials
3C. Hazards and Hazardous Materials					
Impact 3C-1: Be located on a site that is within 1,500 feet of a pipeline that may pose a safety hazard.	MM3C-1 The Los Angeles Unified School District Office of Environmental Health and Safety shall incorporate evacuation and emergency response procedures associated with the potential exposure to hazardous materials into the safe school plan Volume II – Emergency procedures document. All emergency procedures identified in this document would be implemented in the operational procedures of the proposed project.	LAUSD, Office of Environmental Health and Safety	LAUSD, Office of Environmental Health and Safety	Prior to and during project operation	
3D. Noise					
Impact 3D-1: Expose people to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.	MM3D-1: The Los Angeles Unified School District construction contractor shall implement the use of temporary sound barriers, such as noise-attenuating blankets, along all sides of the construction footprint due to the close proximity of sensitive receptors, including the exterior communal areas of the Bellingham Primary Center.	LAUSD Facilities Services Division – New Construction	LAUSD Facilities Services Division – New Construction	During construction	

Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Monitoring Party	Responsible Implementing Agency	Implementation Phase	Completion Date/Initials
	MM3D-2: Prior to initiating construction, the Los Angeles Unified School District construction contractor shall coordinate with the site administrator for the existing Bellingham Primary Center to discuss construction activities that generate high noise and vibration levels. Coordination between the site administrator and the construction contractor shall continue on an as-needed basis throughout the construction phase of the project to mitigate potential disruption of classroom activities as feasible.	LAUSD Facilities Services Division – New Construction	LAUSD Facilities Services Division – New Construction	During construction	
Impact 3D-3: Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.	Refer to Mitigation Measures 3D-1 and 3D-2.	LAUSD Facilities Services Division – New Construction	LAUSD Facilities Services Division – New Construction	During construction and project operation	
3F. Transportation and Traffic					
Impact 3F-1: Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections).	MM3F-1: Los Angeles Unified School District shall coordinate with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation for the installation of new traffic signals at the intersections of Bellingham Avenue / Vanowen Street, and Laurel Canyon Boulevard / Archwood Street. Installation of the traffic signals at these intersections will reduce impacts to less than significant levels.	LAUSD Facilities Services Division – New Construction	LAUSD Facilities Services Division – New Construction	Prior to project operation	