

From: Ann Maggio <annmaggio@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 3:24 PM
To: Upton, Carey <cupton@smmusd.org>
Subject: Roosevelt EIR Comments

Caution: This EXTERNAL email originated from outside SMMUSD. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Carey,

When will the video of the CEQA meeting be made available here: <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/5595>? The [current slideshow](#) on the website presents two parking options that will be included in the EIR review process for a comment period that ends on Oct. 20th.

EIR COMMENT

In addition to my comments made at the Sept meeting:

1. The EIR needs to include a traffic flow study and impacts to space and safety regulations if the Board of Ed should decide to use what is currently labeled "Library" situated in the TK/K yard area as a [5000 sq foot](#) daycare/preschool instead. The SMMUSD Health & Safety DAC docs suggest that the board has interest in furthering the investigation and expansion of these programs.

Design Comment

1. Why would the Music Room, which can be really distracting, be placed so near to the 5th grade classroom? Sound travels upward.

Thanks,

Ann Maggio Thanawalla

"Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth." - Albert Einstein

From: Ann Hoover <annkbowman@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 8:23 PM

To: Carey Upton <cupton@smmusd.org>

Cc: Steve Massetti <smassetti@smmusd.org>; Alexis Dennis Huether <alexis@dh-studio.net>; Margaret Bach <mnlbach@gmail.com>; Joan Krenik <mkrenik@yahoo.com>; tcmalayil@gmail.com <tcmalayil@gmail.com>; Ralph Mechur <ralph@rmechurarchitects.com>; Sam Levitt <samuelllevitt@gmail.com>; Bisson Amy <abisson@smmusd.org>; Laurie Lieberman <llieberman@smmusd.org>; Jon Kean <jkean@smmusd.org>; Maria Leon-Vazquez <mlvazquez@smmusd.org>; Jennifer Smith <jsmith@smmusd.org>; amignano@smmusd.org <amignano@smmusd.org>; srouse@smmusd.org <srouse@smmusd.org>; rtahvildaranjesswein@smmusd.org <rtahvildaranjesswein@smmusd.org>

Subject: Roosevelt CEQA

Caution: This EXTERNAL email originated from outside SMMUSD. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Carey -

Here are my comments / concerns for the permanent CEQA input record:

I'd like the district please to investigate the impacts of 20 years of constant construction on students, teachers, administrators, and the surrounding neighborhood. Those potential detrimental impacts include:

- Constant construction noise
- Air quality (unpleasant smells) - diesel, gas, paint, tar, and other noxious fumes
- Air quality (particulate matter) - soil, dust, other particulate matter
- Construction hazards and hazardous materials
- Extra traffic
- General disarray
- Cumulative impacts

What are the impacts on student mental and physical health? What are the impacts on adult mental and physical health?

What are the impacts of the foregoing on the surrounding community?

As we've discussed before, why is the district so resistant to simply going campus-by-campus, closing each for 2-3 years to do a complete renovation, relocating students and teachers during that period, and then bringing everyone back to a brand new & sparkling campus.

Doing it this way would be SO much better and healthier for everyone and likely MORE EFFICIENT and MORE COST EFFECTIVE compared to the piecemeal approach the District favors.

I think it's unconscionable to subject our school communities and surrounding communities, including our most vulnerable populations - young children, developing minds, developing bodies - to years and years of constant construction on every campus. It's wrong.

Sincerely,
Ann Bowman
FDAC member, 2016-2020
Franklin Elementary PTA President, 2010-2011
Recreation and Parks Commissioner, July 2023- present



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 13, 2023

Carey Upton
Chief Operations Officer
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
1717 Fourth Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT (DEIR) FOR THE ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS PLAN
PROJECT DATED SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #
[2023090499](#)

Dear Carey Upton:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a NOP for the Roosevelt Elementary School Campus Plan Project where the proposed Project would renovate and modernize the existing campus. Based on our Project review, DTSC requests consideration of the following comments.

1. If the district plans to use State funds for the project, then the district shall comply with the requirements of California Education Code (CDE), sections 17210, 17213.1 and 17213.2, unless otherwise specifically exempted under section 17268. If the district is not using State funds for the project, or is otherwise specifically exempted under section 17268, DTSC recommends the district continue to investigate and clean up the

Site, if necessary, under the oversight of Los Angeles County and in concurrence with all applicable DTSC guidance documents.

A local education agency may also voluntarily request the CDE site/plan approval for locally funded site acquisitions and new construction projects. In these cases, CDE will require DTSC to review and approve prior to its final approval, except when exempt under section 17268.

2. Because the project is school site related, DTSC recommends that an environmental review, such as a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and/or Preliminary Environmental Assessment, be conducted to determine whether there has been or may have been a release or threatened release of a hazardous material, or whether a naturally occurring hazardous material is present based on reasonably available information about the property and the areas in its vicinity. Such an environmental review should generally be conducted as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. If the District elects to proceed and conduct an environmental assessment at the Site under DTSC oversight, it should enter into an Environmental Oversight Agreement with DTSC to oversee the preparation of the environmental assessment.
3. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any project sites included in the proposed project, surveys should be conducted for the presence of lead-based paints or products, mercury, asbestos containing materials, and polychlorinated biphenyl caulk. Removal, demolition, and disposal of any of the above-mentioned chemicals should be conducted in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. In addition, sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's 2006 [Interim Guidance Evaluation of School Sites with Potential Contamination from Lead Based Paint, Termiticides, and Electrical](#)

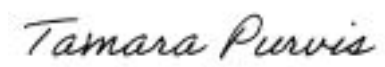
[Transformers](#)

4. If any projects initiated as part of the proposed project require the importation of soil to backfill any excavated areas, proper sampling should be conducted to ensure that the imported soil is free of contamination. DTSC recommends the imported materials be characterized according to [DTSC's 2001 Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material](#) webpage.

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Roosevelt Elementary School Campus Plan Project's NOP. If you would like to proceed with DTSC's school environmental review process, please visit [DTSC's Evaluating & Clean-up School 3-Step Process](#) to begin a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment.

Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances. If you have any questions or would like any clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via [email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,



Tamara Purvis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Planning and
Research State Clearinghouse
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Mr. Dave Kereazis
Associate Environmental Planner
CEQA Unit - HWMP
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov

Scott Wiley
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
HWMP – Permitting Division - CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov

Wu, Jennifer

From: Capata, Julian <jcapata@smmusd.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2023 12:31 PM
To: Wu, Jennifer; Bellas, John; Marotz, Nicole
Subject: EXTERNAL: Fwd: Roosevelt Elementary School Campus Plan Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Sent from my iPhone!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Upton, Carey" <cupton@smmusd.org>
Date: October 21, 2023 at 10:48:39 AM PDT
To: "Capata, Julian" <jcapata@smmusd.org>
Cc: "Massetti, Steve" <smassetti@smmusd.org>, "Chiavelli, Barbara" <bchiavelli@smmusd.org>
Subject: Fwd: Roosevelt Elementary School Campus Plan Project

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marisa Weintraub <mnwein7@gmail.com>
Date: October 20, 2023 at 11:12:49 PM PDT
To: "Upton, Carey" <cupton@smmusd.org>
Subject: Roosevelt Elementary School Campus Plan Project

Caution: This EXTERNAL email originated from outside SMMUSD. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello. I have concerns about the proposed project for Roosevelt Elementary. These have mainly to do with traffic/parking and noise.

At many points during the day, there is a lot of traffic on Lincoln Blvd. I'm not sure why a new drop-off/pick-up point wasn't included in the new school plan, but I would ask that you seriously reconsider this. Parents don't pay attention and can be aggressive. They park without concern for no parking zones or other people's driveways, often blocking them by pulling in or by parking parallel to them and leaving their cars unattended. I live across the street and have witnessed several near-missed accidents. Additionally, there is no parking available for residents at these times or during school functions. I would therefore be an advocate for the larger capacity parking plan, however the entrance is planned to be located off of Lincoln Blvd., further exasperating these problems. Could this be located elsewhere, on another street, and try to incorporate as much parking as possible?

Noise is a huge problem. We fully accept the normal noise levels that schools produce, but living in close vicinity to the school subjects us to everything 24/7 - from early in the morning (sometimes before 6:30am) until late at night (after 10pm). The last construction project at the school had workers using jackhammers at 10:30/11:30pm. I am not exaggerating - we wrote to the district. Everything here is concrete so the sound is reverberated and enhanced by the buildings, which the school corridors help to direct our way. I really hope that this is taken into consideration. Montana Avenue may be commercial, but the school is surrounded on three sides and fully engulfed by a neighborhood. I ask that you show us the consideration and respect we deserve by adhering to the hours for construction as established by the city of Santa Monica.

I know that I'm sending this late on October 20th, but I am within the commenting deadline and hope you will seriously consider my points.

Thank you,
Marisa Weintraub
mnwein7@gmail.com
Sent from my iPad

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7

100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

PHONE (213) 266-3562

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

October 23, 2023

Carey Upton

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD)

1717 Fourth Street

Santa Monica, CA 90401

RE: Roosevelt Elementary School Campus
Project – Notice of Preparation (NOP)
Vic. SR-1, I-10 / PM LA 36.31, LA R2.381
SCH # 2023090499
GTS # 07-LA-2023-04315

Dear Carey Upton:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. The project proposes to renovate and modernize the existing campus to develop new and renovated facilities that would support a project-based learning approach at Roosevelt ES that would expand instructional strategies currently in place within the District and would address future learning that is flexible, adaptable, and project-centered in its delivery. The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The nearest State Facilities is the SR-1 (Pacific Coast Highway) and the I-10. After reviewing the NOP, Caltrans has the following comments:

- Section 4.17-a and 4.17-c states that the project will have a “Potentially Significant Impact” to the site during project implementation. During the construction period, Caltrans recommends:
 - Work with Caltrans Office of Permits, Multi-Modal Unit, for a designated truck route for construction trucks to transport construction equipment to and from the construction sites.
 - Construction vehicles/equipment should use alternative routes to avoid congested state facilities, especially during peak hours.
 - Cover construction trucks with tarpaulin to avoid debris spillage onto State facilities.
- Section 4.17-d states that it will have a “Potentially Significant Impact”, however the 4.17.1 Table states that it will have “Less Than Significant Impact.” Please adjust the discrepancy in the future documents.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that requires the use of oversized transport vehicles on State Highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the Project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

Caltrans looks forward to reviewing the forthcoming EIR. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jaden Oloresisimo, the project coordinator, at Jaden.Oloresisimo@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2023-04315.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong for

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse



P.O. BOX 653
SANTA MONICA, CA 90406
310-496-3146
www.smconservancy.org

Dear Mr. Upton,

This letter responds to the scoping meeting on September 27, 2023 and Notice of Preparation of an EIR for Roosevelt Elementary School, located at 801 Montana Avenue.

A potential California Register Historic District and Santa Monica City Historic District were identified in the Roosevelt Elementary School Historic Resources Inventory Report, prepared by Historic Resources Group, making this collection of buildings and courtyard spaces a protected historic resource as defined by CEQA.

We agree with the statement by the EIR consultant at the meeting that the project impacts on historic resources will be analyzed as a significant adverse impact under CEQA, due to proposed demolitions under the current Master Plan which would result in the removal of district contributors, impacting its integrity as a district and its ability to convey its historic significance.

The report evaluated Roosevelt School as significant under NRHP Criteria A and C, CRHR Criteria 1 and 3, and Santa Monica Criterion 1, 4 and 5.

Roosevelt Elementary School contains a cohesive concentration of six contributing buildings, five contributing site features, and one contributing additional feature that dates from the period of significance and has been identified as the potential historic district. (p. 71 of the report)

Additionally, Roosevelt School has an additional level of significance due to its pioneering of a new concept in educational design, known as the “Santa Monica Plan”.

Unlike other schools that were rehabilitated or upgraded in the post-Long Beach Earthquake years, Roosevelt Elementary School was cohesively designed as a new campus using Marsh, Smith & Powell’s new “Santa Monica Plan.” (P. 67)

Roosevelt Elementary School campus debuted Marsh, Smith & Powell’s new “Santa Monica Plan,” a school plant design engineered to meet the requirements of the new state construction code and reflect modern design. (p. 41)

The “Santa Monica Plan” was quickly hailed by critics as a “new trend in educational procedure” that provided functional teaching spaces, child-centered buildings, and plentiful outdoor play areas. It was precedent-setting for school design not only in Los Angeles but also nationwide. Roosevelt Elementary School was publicized as a “model” school in national, regional, and local publications including Architect and Engineer, California Arts and Architecture, Southwest Builder and Contractor, and The Architectural Record. In fact, the school’s design was so influential that it was highlighted as a model school in *The Progressive Elementary School: A Handbook for Principals, Teachers, and Parents*, an influential book published in 1938 by Robert Hill Lane, superintendent of schools in Los Angeles and vice president of the Progressive Education Association. The book featured numerous photographs and diagrams of the school, as well as an interview with a teacher at the school, who lauded the fresh air permitted by large glass doors and the sunny patios. (p. 42-43)

And: The school's classroom wings, outdoor patios, and landscaping all reflect the architectural elements of the new "Santa Monica Plan" established by the firm at Roosevelt Elementary School, and subsequently modeled at later schools. Roosevelt Elementary School subsequently came to influence school design across the country (p.68)

The concepts behind the Santa Monica Plan continue to guide school facility design today, and lend additional weight to the original design concepts at Roosevelt School underlying the potential historic district.

The Santa Monica Conservancy is requesting that the EIR for Roosevelt School not confine itself just to discussions of mitigation of potentially adverse environmental impacts, but instead include a robust and thorough analysis of project alternatives that include retention of the historic district.

We are asking that this evaluation not be superficial and dismissed as "not meeting project objectives," but rather consider possible modifications to programmatic assumptions such as the Ed Specs that would allow continued functionality to these buildings and spaces. Adjustments such as smaller class sizes might be considered, in view of local demographic trends.

The EIR is required to include environmentally preferred alternatives that ***avoid, and not simply mitigate, identified adverse impacts***. According to CEQA, an EIR must describe a reasonable range of alternatives to a proposed project that could feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives, and would avoid or substantially lessen any of the proposed project's significant effects; in this case, those significant effects are adverse impacts to the historic resource.

Such an analysis will provide decision-makers with a full range of project alternatives so that they can make a well-informed decision.

Roosevelt campus today, while altered, is still able to convey its history and association with a major cultural shift in the design of neighborhood schools with the use of outdoor teaching patios, landscaped courtyards, low-scale and pedestrian friendly covered walkways, and lots of light and windows. Educating today's students within this historical context promotes a better understanding of place and history and provides a connection to their community.

Sincerely,

Carol Lemlein and Ruthann Lehrer
Santa Monica Conservancy
Advocacy Co-Chairs



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
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Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE:

LD-4

October 31, 2023

Mr. Carey Upton
Chief Operations Officer
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
1717 Fourth Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Dear Mr. Upton:

**ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (RPPL2023005349)
INITIAL STUDY (IS)/NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP)
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS MASTER PLAN PROJECT**

As requested, Public Works reviewed the proposed project. The proposed project would renovate and modernize the existing campus at Roosevelt Elementary School.

We offer the following comment for your consideration:

1. General Comment:

- 1.1. Any work within Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) right of way or affecting LACFCD facilities will require a LACFCD permit through EPIC-LA (epicla.lacounty.gov). The LACFCD owns and operates storm drains BI 0248 and BI 0736, fronting the project site, not the City of Santa Monica as referenced in Section 4.10, subsection c-iii.
- 1.2. Please include Public Works in the review of the Environmental Impact Report when it becomes available.

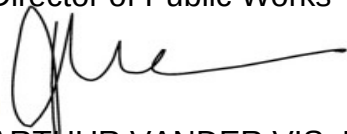
For questions regarding comment 1, please contact Mark Beltran of Public Works, Stormwater Planning Division, at (626) 458-5988 or mbeltran@pw.lacounty.gov.

Mr. Carey Upton
October 31, 2023
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact Toan Duong of Public Works,
Land Development Division, at (626) 458-4921 or tduong@pw.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,

MARK PESTRELLA, PE
Director of Public Works

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Vander Vis', is written over the printed name. To the left of the signature, the word 'for' is written in blue ink.

ARTHUR VANDER VIS, PE
Assistant Deputy Director
Land Development Division

TD:la

P:\LD\PUB\SUB\CHECK\PLAN CHECKING FILES\PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY OTHER AGENCIES\RPPL2023005349 - ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS MASTER PLAN PROJECT\2023-10-18 SUBMITTAL\DPW_CLEARED_2023-10-19_RPPL2023005349.DOCX

**Roosevelt Elementary School Campus Plan Project
EIR Public Scoping Meeting (September 27, 2023)
Comment Summary**

Commenter and Affiliation	Comment Summary
Ruthann Lehrer, Santa Monica Conservancy	Commenter has coordinated with the District regarding the campus plan and the historic resource. The campus contains a significant historic collection, is an example of the Santa Monica Plan, and is meaningful to the community. The EIR should not just mitigate for the impacts but consider a feasible alternative to preserve the historic district and include the District's Educational Specifications.
Margaret Bach, FDAC	a) Member of facilities advisory committee. The EIR should address open space and recreation. b) Alternatives should consider ways to reduce impacts through adaptive reuse and through incorporation or use of open space. c) Concerned about sun and shading and the removal of shade canopies. Children deserve to have shading.
Ann Thanawalla, Parent	a) Concerned regarding hazardous materials and that more testing should be conducted. Testing two doors and four windows is not enough. There is asbestos and other hazardous materials in the calking. Testing should be conducted on the external doors and not the interior. The District buried hazardous materials under the playing field at other schools like Lincoln. Did that happen here? b) As much open space should be preserved as possible. The transitional kindergarten is reducing open space and the library is large. c) Also not understanding what a maker space is. d) How to mitigate for disturbances to historic resources? e) Would the community have an opportunity to rent the maker space
Tally, Neighbor	Would like to make sure the trees, including the eucalyptus trees and trumpet vines along the school perimeter are saved.
Catherine Handelman, Teacher at Roosevelt ES	a) The invitation did not specify CEQA only. b) Commenter has questions on the glass walls (shown on the renderings), when the teachers have spoken and said they did not want glass walls, why is this still in the plan?
Andala, Dad and Neighbor	a) How would comments be addressed? b) For the grade level parking and subterranean parking, how would the ingress/egress be different?
Name unknown	Where would afterschool care be? Will it be provided?