APPENDIX A – Initial Study/ NOP and Scoping Comments

INITIAL STUDY
Washington Middle School Transformation Project
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for:

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Facilities Development and Planning Branch
2425 Webster Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90810

Prepared by:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
3151 Airway Avenue, Suite F208
Costa Mesa, California 92626
(949) 261-5414

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

SECTION 1.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING 1
1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE 1
1.2 PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS 1
1.2.1 Location 1
1.3 PROJECT BACKGROUND 1
1.4 PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 1
1.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION 2
1.5.1 Project Schedule 3
1.6 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS 5

SECTION 2.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION 9
2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 9
2.2 DETERMINATION 9

SECTION 3.0 – EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS 10

SECTION 4.0 – CHECKLIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES 12
4.1 AESTHETICS 12
4.1.1 Impact Analysis 12
4.2 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES 13
4.2.1 Impact Analysis 15
4.3 AIR QUALITY 16
4.3.1 Introduction 16
4.3.2 Environmental Setting 16
4.3.3 Impact Analysis 19
4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES 20
4.4.1 Impact Analysis 21
4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES 22
4.5.1 Impact Analysis 23
4.6 ENERGY 24
4.6.1 Impact Analysis 25
4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS 25
4.7.1 Impact Analysis 26
4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS 29
4.8.1 Impact Analysis 29
4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS 30
4.9.1 Impact Analys 31
4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY 33
4.10.1 Impact Analys 34

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING 38
4.11.1 Impact Analysis 39
4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES 39
4.12.1 Impact Analysis 40
4.13 NOISE 40
4.13.1 Environmental Setting 40
4.13.2 Impact Analysis 41
4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING 41
4.14.1 Impact Analysis 42
4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES 43
4.15.1 Impact Analysis 43
4.16 RECREATION 45
4.16.1 Impact Analysis 45
4.17 TRANSPORTATION 46
4.17.1 Impact Analysis 46
4.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES 47
4.18.1 Impact Analysis 48
4.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS 48
4.19.1 Impact Analysis 49
4.20 WILDFIRE 51
4.20.1 Impact Analysis 51

SECTION 5.0 – REFERENCES 53

LIST OF TABLES

Page

Table 1: Designations/Classifications for the Project Area 18

LIST OF FIGURES

Page

Figure 1 - Project Vicinity Map 7

Figure 2 - Project Location Map 8

SECTION 1.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE

bonds were approved on June 23, 2016, to support upgrades to aging schools within the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD, District). The $1.5 billion school repair and safety bond measure includes repairs; technology improvements; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); and school safety improvements.Measure Q bonds were approved in November 2022 to support health, safety, and student achievement within the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD, District). The $1.7 billion measure aims to:

- Improve plumbing systems
- Maintain safe drinking water
- Upgrade schools to meet accessibility and earthquake safety standards
- Other health and safety improvements
- Renovation of libraries, science & computer labs
- Fund construction of new career education spaces
- New or renovated athletic facilities
- New air conditioning systems at aging campuses

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.2.1 Location

Washington Middle School was originally built in 1935-1936. Washington Middle School is located at 1450 Cedar Avenue, Long Beach, California, and is situated in a residential area surrounded by housing on all sides of the property. This school accommodates middle school students from grades 6 to 8. The site is approximately 5 acres in size and encompasses five (5) permanent buildings and (1) relocatable/portable building. The five permanent buildings are approximately 116,000 sq. ft. in size and include three (3) two-story buildings and two (2) single-story buildings. The relocatable/portable building adds an additional 1,450 sq. ft. to the site. Current student enrollment is approximately 983 students. Projected student enrollment is approximately 1,100.

1.3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The District serves nearly 74,000 students in 85 public schools and is the third largest school district in California. In November 2022, Measure E and Measure Q bonds were approved to implement District-wide school upgrade projects.

1.4 PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and objectives under Measure E address four key areas consisting of repairs, technology, air conditioning, and safety. Objectives under Measure Q include supporting health, safety, and student achievement. The objective of the Proposed Project is for the District to transform the entire Washington Middle School campus in order to improve classroom conditions, provide up-to-date equipment for student use, and create a safe educational environment. Specific improvements include the following:

Health

- Air-conditioning equipment will be upgraded with modern, energy-efficient systems to improve classroom conditions and prevent class cancellations due to overheated classrooms.

Safety

- Improvements to indoor and outdoor areas include upgrades to the fire alarm system and improvements to recreational areas, such as the sports field and gym, to provide students access to safe, supervised activities apart from the daily classroom schedule.

Student Achievement

- Due to several District campuses being built 60 to 80 years ago, the outdated buildings require transformation of the campus to provide more appropriate classroom sizes, meet ADA accessibility requirements; meet fire and life safety standards; and improve on-site building conditions and utilities.

1.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Demolition:
Demolition of one (1) relocatable building and five (5) buildings including the Administration (Building A), Gymnasium (Building D), the Cafeteria (Building E), Auditorium (Building C), and Classroom - Science/Shop (Building B).

New Buildings, Parking Structure, Courtyard, and Turf Field: Three (3) new permanent buildings will be constructed: a two- to three- story, 102,000 sq. ft. classroom/administration/cafeteria building, a partial two-story 34,000 square foot gymnasium/locker room/classroom/library building, and a one-story, 14,000 square foot auditorium. New site improvements include a student drop off, semi-subterranean parking structure, artificial turf soccer field, synthetic track, basketball courts, pickleball court, lunch shelter, planting, irrigation, and outdoor learning environments.
Scope includes, but is not limited to:

- HVAC installation in all classrooms, offices, and support spaces (including auditorium and cafeteria) located in permanent buildings on-site.
- New projectors, projector screens, and marker boards in classrooms.
- New projectors and projector screens in cafetorium.
- New tactile signage required throughout the campus for rooms and exits.
- ADA upgrades to paths of travel, drinking fountains, and restrooms.
- Campus-wide Fire Alarm upgrades.
- Interior and exterior paint for all permanent buildings.
- New windows and ceiling tiles on new buildings.
- New landscaping and planting.
- Installation of photovoltaic panels at each roof of new permanent building and battery storage systems.
- Removal of all on-site trees and landscaping.
- Surveillance cameras.

1.5.1 Project Schedule

The Proposed Project is expected to occur over a 3-year period, from approximately August 2024 to June 2027. The construction would occur in one phase. Students would be temporarily relocated to Butler Middle School, located approximately 1.8 miles northeast from Washington Middle School. The campus would be operating from Butler Middle School from August 2024 to June 2027. Once the 2027/2028 school year begins, students would be transferred back to their Washington Middle School spaces. The Contractor would have from August 2024 to June 2027 to complete the work. Construction activities would take place between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Construction Activities

Once the Proposed Project has been approved by the District's Board of Education, Proposed Project construction activities would begin in August 2024 after the school year has ended. The construction would begin after Division of the State Architect (DSA) approval of plans and specifications is obtained and the contract for construction is awarded.

Prior to construction activities, any existing asbestos and lead-based paint, or asbestos- and lead-containing materials, would be abated in accordance with all applicable requirements, including South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1403, and disposed of properly (SCAQMD 1994). As recommended in the Hazardous Materials Building Survey prepared by Ninyo and Moore for the school, the following activities will be included as part of the pre-construction, and construction activities:

Asbestos / Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM):

- The identified ACMs should not be disturbed. Prior to renovation activities which would disturb identified ACMs and Assumed ACMs, a licensed abatement removal contractor should remove the ACMs. The licensed abatement contractor must maintain current licenses as required by applicable state or local jurisdictions for the removal, transporting, disposal, or other regulated activities.
- Applicable laws and regulations should be followed, including those provisions requiring notification to regulatory agencies, building occupants, renovation contractors, and workers of the presence of asbestos.
- Asbestos abatement monitoring consulting services should be performed by a third party environmental consultant, to include oversight of abatement contractor activities to be performed in accordance with the abatement specifications, daily air monitoring, clearances, verification of complete removal of hazardous materials, and preparation of a closeout report summarizing the abatement activities.

Lead / Lead-Containing Surfaces (LCS)

- The identified LCSs should not be disturbed. All disturbances and removal activities should be performed by a licensed abatement contractor with certified lead personnel. Any painted LCSs in a non-intact condition should be stabilized and the substrate should be encapsulated. All lead related removal activities should be performed in accordance with the DOSH Lead in Construction Standard, Title 8 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 1532.1.
- Proper LCS waste stream categorization is required. Prior to any renovation activities, a composite sample of the representative LCS material should be analyzed for total lead for

comparison with the Total Threshold Limit Concentration in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reference method SW-846. If the concentration of total lead is greater than or equal to 1,000 mg/kg, the LCS waste material must be disposed at a landfill which can receive such wastes. If the concentration is less than 50 mg/kg, the sample may be disposed as construction debris, if it is to remain in California. If the total lead result is greater than or equal to 50 mg/kg and less than 1,000 mg/kg, the sample must be further analyzed for soluble lead by the Waste Extraction Test for comparison with the Soluble Threshold Limit Concentration (STLC) as described in Title 22 CCR 66261.24a. Additionally, if the result is greater than or equal to 100 mg/kg, the sample must be further analyzed for leachable lead by the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) for comparison with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) limits. Based on the results of the soluble and leachable analysis, the waste material may require disposal as RCRA-Hazardous waste or non-RCRA- (California) Hazardous waste.

- Lead abatement monitoring consulting services should be performed by a third party environmental consultant, to include oversight of abatement contractor activities to be performed in accordance with the abatement specifications, daily air monitoring, clearances, verification of complete removal of hazardous materials, and preparation of a closeout report summarizing the abatement activities.

<u>Universal Wastes</u>

- Universal wastes discussed in this report (Table 4), should be removed and properly recycled or disposed of by the licensed abatement contractor prior to renovation activities. Contractor should provide proper manifesting for all hazardous materials removed and recycled to prove the disposal of all materials was completed in accordance with local, state, and federal requirements.
- The water-stained ceiling tiles found to be present in Buildings B, D, and E will need additional investigation in order to define the extent of water damage and if potential mold growth exists, and develop recommendations for remediation as needed.
- Monitoring consulting services should be performed by a third party environmental consultant, to ensure the appropriate removal of the hazardous materials prior to building demolition activities.

Uncontaminated materials would be recycled to the extent feasible; and the remaining debris, existing vegetation, and other structures would be removed and disposed of at an appropriate landfill.

Construction Equipment

The Proposed Project will utilize the following construction equipment during replacement and installation of the proposed upgrades:

- Loaders
- Pickup trucks
- Backhoe
- Water truck
- Asphalt paver
- Crane
- Excavators

Demolition and Excavation

Proposed demolition work for the Proposed Project will primarily occur within the existing buildings and rooftops and the existing turf field. The proposed demolition activities will include the removal of window HVAC units, flooring, ceiling tile, plumbing fixtures, ceiling fans, window coverings and treatments, light fixtures, conduits, and other mechanical and electrical equipment. Concrete slabs outside buildings A-E will be removed (in specific areas) for the construction of ADA ramps or reconstruction of ADA walkways. Types of excavation will include concrete, asphalt, and earth excavations for installation of units, electrical wiring, plumbing, and ramps. The existing turf field will be excavated approximately 3 feet deep, 195 feet wide, and 315 feet in length during the turf replacement. Universal wastes and other discarded materials such as HVAC units, piping, fixtures, vegetation, and other eligible materials will be transported for recycling or be properly disposed.

Fencing

The Contractor would be responsible for providing protection for the site during construction as there will be no staff or students present. Temporary fence enclosures with lockable gates would be added to staging areas and around all construction sites. Screens would be added to the perimeter fence to control dust. Signage would be added to the fence to designate the area as a construction site. A security guard would be present during non-work hours.

Staging Areas

Construction trailers and staging areas will be located within the school property. Hauling trucks, cranes, and other construction vehicles will be located in the staging areas. Temporary fence enclosures with lockable gates will be added to the staging areas.

1.6 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

A public agency, other than the Lead Agency, that has discretionary approval power over a project is referred to under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines as a "Responsible Agency." Reviewing Agencies include those agencies that do not have discretionary powers but may review the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for adequacy and accuracy. Responsible Agencies have discretionary approval authority for a project. Potential Reviewing Agencies and Responsible Agencies include the following:

State

- State Clearinghouse
- State Water Resources Control Board
- California Department of Education
- California Department of Public Health
- Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC)
- Division of the State Architect (DSA)
- Division of Occupational Safety and Health
- Office of Public School Construction (OPSC)

Regional

- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
- Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
- Southern California Edison (SCE)
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB)

Local

- City of Long Beach Public Works
- City of Long Beach Fire Department
- City of Long Beach Health Department

Figure 1 - Project Vicinity Map

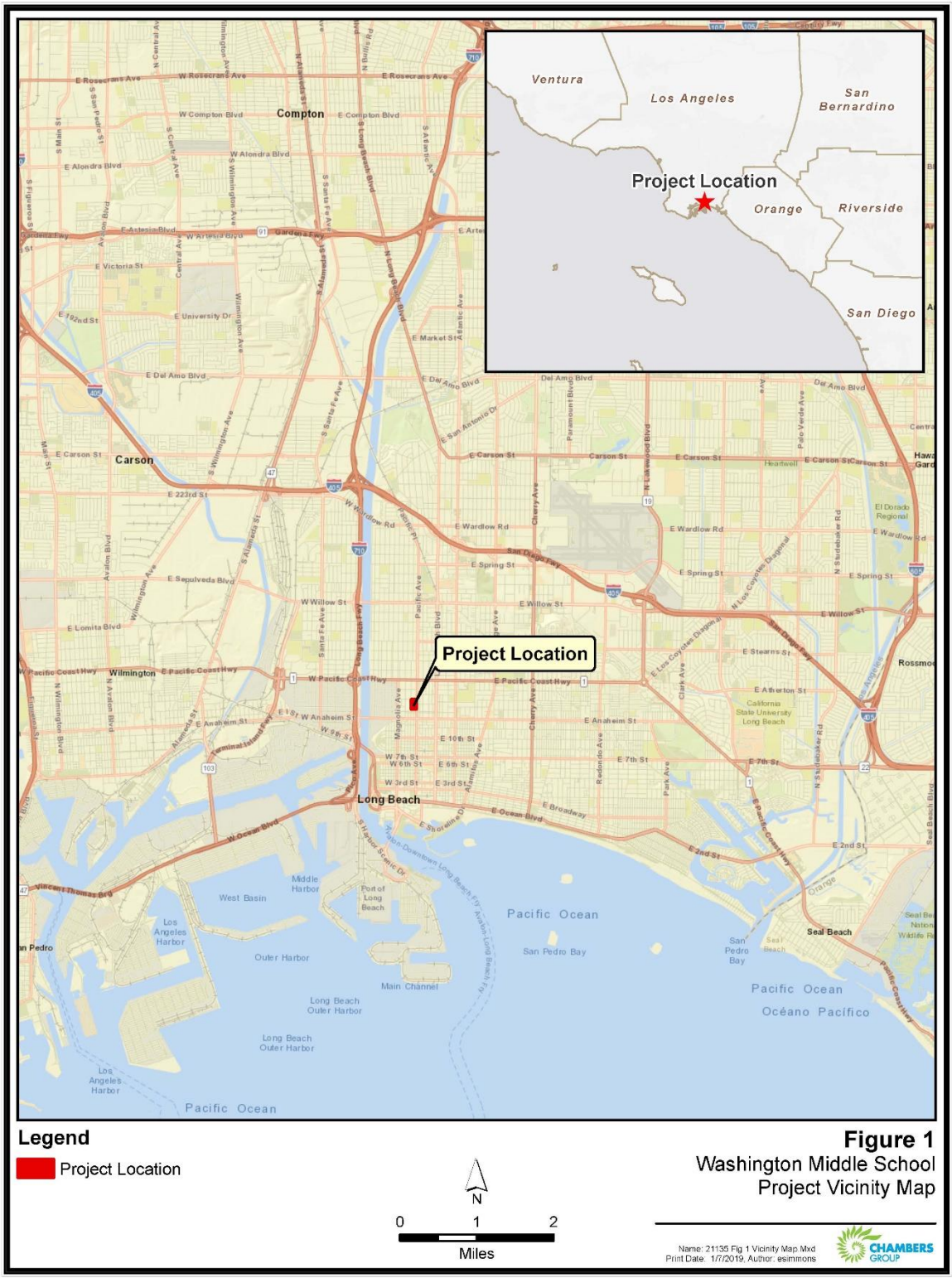

Figure 2 - Project Location Map

SECTION 2.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact," as indicated by the checklists on the following pages. For each of the potentially affected factors, mitigation measures are recommended that would reduce the impacts to less than significant levels.

☐ *Aesthetics*	☐ *Agriculture and Forestry Resources*	☒ *Air Quality*
☐ *Biological Resources*	☒ *Cultural Resources*	☐ *Energy*
☐ *Geology /Soils*	☒ *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*	☒ *Hazards & Hazardous Materials*
☐ *Hydrology /Water Quality*	☐ *Land Use / Planning*	☐ *Mineral Resources*
☒ *Noise*	☐ *Population / Housing*	☐ *Public Services*
☐ *Recreation*	☒ *Transportation*	☒ *Tribal Cultural Resources*
☐ *Utilities /Service Systems*	☐ *Wildfire*	☐ *Mandatory Findings of Significance*

2.2 DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

1. I find that the project **could not** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND)** will be prepared. ☐
2. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND)** will be prepared. ☐
3. I find the proposed project **may have a significant effect** on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required. ☒
4. I find that the proposed project **may have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact"** on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. ☐
5. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or ND pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or ND, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. ☐

x _____ x 2.2.24

Signature Date

David Miranda Executive Director - Facilities

Name Title

SECTION 3.0 – EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if substantial evidence exists that an effect may be significant. If one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries are marked when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be cross-referenced).

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or ND. (Section 15063(c)(3)(D).) In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

    a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

    b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

    c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8. The explanation of each issue should identify:

    a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

    b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

    *Note: Instructions may be omitted from final document.

SECTION 4.0 – CHECKLIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

4.1 AESTHETICS

The aesthetic value of an area is a measure of its visual character and quality, combined with the viewer response to the area. Scenic quality can best be described as the overall impression that an individual viewer retains after driving through, walking through, or flying over an area. Aesthetic resources include scenic resources, which include water forms, trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, and scenic highways. Impacts to aesthetic resources include obstruction and destruction of views to or from scenic resources and/or the degradation of the visual character of the area.

1.	AESTHETICS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.1.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is bound by West 15th Street to the north, Pacific Avenue to the east, West 14th Street to the south, and Cedar Avenue to the west. Potential scenic vistas in the vicinity of the Proposed Project site include views of the Pacific Ocean to the southeast, south, and southwest, and mountain views of the San Gabriel Mountains to the north and the Saddleback Mountains to the east; however, the surrounding area is heavily developed and views of these scenic vistas are limited. The area surrounding the Proposed Project site has been developed since the early twentieth century, and Washington Middle School has existed on the current site since 1935; the school was expanded in 1957 (LBUSD 2017a). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with scenic vistas. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is approximately 0.4 mile south from California State Highway 1. Although parts of California State Highway 1 are classified as eligible for state scenic highway designation, the portion of Highway 1 nearest the Proposed Project site is not designated or eligible for listing as a scenic highway. The Proposed Project site is not visible from the nearest section that is eligible or officially

designated (Caltrans 2018). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with scenic resources within a scenic highway. No further analysis is required.

c) *Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?*

Less Than Significant Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project includes demolition and addition of new buildings, facility repairs and upgrades, classroom technology upgrades, utility upgrades and installation of HVAC, accessibility upgrades, and installation of a synthetic turf field. The area surrounding the Proposed Project site is designated as Residential. The visual character of the Proposed Project site would be slightly altered; however, the proposed new buildings will be designed and constructed in a way consistent with the existing architecture of the Proposed Project site The Proposed Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with visual character or quality. No further analysis is required.

d) *Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site currently contains security lighting, parking lighting, indoor lighting, and adjacent street lighting. Lighting at the Proposed Project site is installed to minimize glare for pedestrians and drivers and to minimize spillover light. The District applies design standards that avoid any impacts that adversely affect day or nighttime views, such as window shades and glare shields. The Proposed Project would provide new indoor lighting and outdoor lighting; however, it would be installed to minimize glare for pedestrians and drivers and to minimize spillover light. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not alter the facade or exterior finish of existing buildings, or install materials in new buildings, in a way which increases glare on the Proposed Project site. During construction, the Proposed Project site will include temporary construction lighting, and presence of vehicles transporting equipment. However, these activities would be temporary and not result in permanent, significant impacts. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with new sources of light or glare. No further analysis is required.

4.2 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES

Agricultural resources include prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, unique farmland, farmland of local importance, and commercial grazing land as defined in the Guidelines for the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, pursuant to Section 65570 of the Government Code, as well as land in a Williamson Act contract.

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor and without intolerable soil erosion (7 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4201(c)(1)(A)).

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruits, and vegetables (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)(B)).

Additional farmland of statewide or local importance is land identified by state or local agencies for agricultural use, but not of national significance (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)(C)).

The California Legislature passed the Williamson Act in 1965 to preserve agricultural and open-space lands by discouraging premature and unnecessary conversion to urban uses. The Act creates an arrangement whereby private landowners contract with counties and cities to voluntarily restrict their land to agricultural and compatible open-space uses.

The Williamson Act is a means to restrict the uses of agricultural and open-space lands to farming and ranching uses during the length of the contract period. The Williamson Act Program was also envisioned as a way for local governments to integrate the protection of open space and agricultural resources into their overall strategies for planning urban growth patterns.

2.	**AGRICULTURE & FOREST RESOURCES.** **(In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.) In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.)** **Would the project:**	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
(a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.2.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is currently a school, and the project does not propose a change to the land use designation. The Proposed Project site is not identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (Department of Conservation 2016a); therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in any impacts associated with the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. No areas zoned for agricultural use are on or near the Proposed Project site. Additionally, the City of Long Beach does not include any properties subject to the Williamson Act (Department of Conservation 2016b). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in any impacts associated with Williamson Act lands or agricultural zoning. No further analysis is required.

c) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

No Impact. The City of Long Beach does not include any forest lands or timberland. Ornamental trees exist on the Proposed Project site; however, Proposed Project activities would not result in any disturbance to the existing ornamental trees on site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in any impacts associated with forest land or timberland. No further analysis is required.

d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The City of Long Beach does not include any forest land. Ornamental trees exist on the Proposed Project site; however, Proposed Project activities would not result in any disturbance to the existing ornamental trees on site. Additionally, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in any change to land use on the Proposed Project site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in any impacts associated with forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No further analysis is required.

e) Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site and surrounding properties do not contain any Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Farmland, and the City of Long Beach does not include any forest land. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in any impact associated with conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest land. No further analysis is required.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

4.3.1 Introduction

This section describes the existing air quality setting and potential effects from Proposed Project implementation on the site and its surrounding area.

4.3.2 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project site is located within the City of Long Beach in southwestern Los Angeles County. The Proposed Project site is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), and air quality regulation is administered by the SCAQMD. The SCAQMD implements the programs and regulations required by the federal and state Clean Air Acts.

Atmospheric Setting

Air quality is a function of both the rate and location of pollutant emissions under the influence of meteorological conditions and topographical features. Atmospheric conditions such as wind speed, wind direction, and air temperature gradients interact with physical features of the landscape to determine their movement and dispersal and, consequently, their effect on air quality. The combination of topography and inversion layers generally prevents dispersion of air pollutants in the SCAB.

The climate of the SCAB is influenced by the semi-permanent high-pressure zone of the eastern Pacific, which results in a mild climate tempered by cool sea breezes. Although the SCAB has a semiarid climate, the air near the surface is typically moist due to the presence of a shallow marine layer. Except for infrequent periods when dry air is brought into the basin by offshore winds, the ocean effect is dominant. Periods of heavy fog are frequent, and low stratus clouds, often referred to as “high fog,” are a characteristic climate feature. Average temperatures for Long Beach Municipal Airport, which is the nearest monitoring station to the Proposed Project site (WRCC 2016), range from an average low of 45.3 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in December to an average high of 83.9 °F in August. Rainfall averages approximately 12.01 inches a year, with almost all annual rainfall coming from the fringes of mid-latitude storms from late October to early April, and summers being almost completely dry.

Winds are an important parameter in characterizing the air quality environment of a project site because they determine the regional pattern of air pollution transport and control the rate of dispersion near a source. Daytime winds in the SCAB are usually light breezes from off the coast as air moves regionally onshore from the cool Pacific Ocean. These winds are usually the strongest in the dry summer months. Nighttime winds in the SCAB result mainly from the drainage of cool air off the mountains to the east, and they occur more often during the winter months and are usually lighter than the daytime winds. Between the periods of dominant airflow, periods of air stagnation may occur, both in the morning and evening hours. Whether such a period of stagnation occurs is one of the critical determinants of air quality conditions on any given day.

During the winter and fall months, surface high-pressure systems north of the SCAB, combined with other meteorological conditions, can result in very strong winds from the northeast called “Santa Ana winds.” These winds normally have durations of a few days before predominant meteorological conditions are reestablished. The highest wind speed typically occurs during the afternoon due to daytime thermal convection caused by surface heating. This convection brings about a downward transfer of momentum

from stronger winds aloft. It is not uncommon to have sustained winds of 60 miles per hour with higher gusts during a Santa Ana wind.

Regulatory Setting

The Proposed Project site lies within the SCAB, which is managed by the SCAQMD. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) have been established for the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O_3), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), inhalable particulate matter (PM_{10}), fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), and lead. The CAAQS also set standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility.

Areas are classified under the Federal Clean Air Act as either "attainment" or "nonattainment" areas for each criteria pollutant, based on whether the NAAQS have been achieved or not. Attainment relative to the state standards is determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The SCAB has been designated by the federal EPA as a nonattainment area for O_3 and suspended particulates ($PM_{2.5}$). Currently, the SCAB is in attainment with the ambient air quality standards for CO, SO_2, PM_{10} and NO_2. The SCAB is designated as partial nonattainment for lead, based on two source-specific monitors in Vernon and in the City of Industry that are both near battery recycling facilities.

The EPA has designated the SCAB as extreme nonattainment for the 8-hour average ozone standard. The 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS was strengthened from 0.08 parts per million (ppm) to 0.075 ppm, effective May 27, 2008. The 1997 8-hour ozone standard was revoked in implementation rules for the 2008 ozone NAAQS, effective April 6, 2015. On October 1, 2015, the EPA again strengthened the 8-hour ozone NAAQS to 0.070 ppm, effective December 28, 2015, retaining the same form as the previous 1997 and 2008 standards. The 2008 ozone NAAQS is a primary focus of the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).

Additionally, the EPA has designated the SCAB as nonattainment for $PM_{2.5}$. In 1997, the EPA established standards for $PM_{2.5}$ (particles less than 2.5 micrometers), which were not implemented until March 2002. $PM_{2.5}$ is a subset of the PM_{10} emissions whose standards were developed to complement the PM_{10} standards that cover a full range of inhalable particle matter. For the PM_{10} health standards, the annual PM_{10} standard was revoked by the EPA on October 17, 2006; and the 24-hour average PM_{10} nonattainment status was redesignated to attainment (maintenance) on July 26, 2013.

The 2012 AQMP provides measures to reduce $PM_{2.5}$ emissions to within the federal standard by 2015. On January 25, 2013, the CARB approved the 2012 AQMP that was prepared per the federal Clean Air Act requirements to show attainment of the $PM_{2.5}$ standard by the revised date of 2014. The 2012 AQMP builds upon the approaches taken in the 2007 AQMP utilized to reduce $PM_{2.5}$ emissions in the SCAB. On December 14, 2012, the EPA revised the primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS from 15 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$) to 12 $\mu g/m^3$. The 2016 AQMP includes implementation strategies to meet the revised $PM_{2.5}$ standard.

The SCAB has been designated by CARB as a nonattainment area for O_3, NO_2, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, and lead. Currently, the SCAB is in attainment with the state ambient air quality standards for CO, SO_2, and sulfates and is unclassified for visibility-reducing particles and hydrogen sulfide. The 2007, 2012, and 2016 AQMPs provide measures to meet the state standards for O_3, NO_2, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$.

Table 1: Designations/Classifications for the Project Area

Pollutant	Averaging Time Standard	National Standards Attainment Date	California Standards
Ozone (O_3)	1-Hour (1979) (0.12 ppm)	Nonattainment (Extreme) 2/26/2023	Nonattainment
	8-Hour (1997) (0.08 ppm)	Nonattainment (Extreme) 6/15/2024	
	8-Hour (2008) (0.075 ppm)	Nonattainment (Extreme) 7/20/2032	
	8-Hour (2015) (0.07 ppm)	Pending – Expect Nonattainment beyond 2032	Pending
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1-Hour (35 ppm) 8-Hour (9 ppm)	Attainment (Maintenance) 6/11/2007 (attained)	Maintenance
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	1-Hour (100 ppb)	Unclassifiable/Attainment Attained	Attainment
	Annual (0.053 ppm)	Attainment (Maintenance) 9/22/1998	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	1-Hour (75 ppb)	Designation Pending/ Pending	Attainment
	24-Hour (0.14 ppm) Annual (0.03 ppm)	Unclassifiable/Attainment 3/19/1979 (attained)	
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	24-Hour (150 µg/m^3)	Attainment (Maintenance) 7/26/2013	Nonattainment
Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	24-Hour (2006) (35 µg/m^3)	Nonattainment 12/14/2014	Nonattainment
	Annual (2012) (12.0 µg/m^3)	Nonattainment 4/5/2015	
	Annual (1997) (15.0 µg/m^3)	Attainment (final determination pending) 4/5/2015 (attained 2013)	Attainment
Lead (Pb)	3-Months Rolling (0.15 µg/m^3)	Nonattainment (Partial) 12/31/2015	Nonattainment

Source: SCAQMD 2017

3.	**AIR QUALITY. (Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.) Would the project:**	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
(a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(b)	Violate any air quality standard or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in an existing or projected air quality violation?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(d)	Result in substantial emissions (such as odors or dust) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.3.3 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Potentially Significant Impact. CEQA requires a discussion of any inconsistencies between a Proposed Project and applicable general plans (GP) and regional plans (CEQA Guidelines Section 15125). The regional plan that applies to the Proposed Project includes the SCAQMD AQMP. The Proposed Project may have the potential to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the SCAQMD AQMP. This is a potentially significant impact that will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

b) Would the project violate any air quality standard or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in an existing or projected air quality violation?

Potentially Significant Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project could have the potential to result in air quality impacts during project construction and operation. Construction phase air quality impacts would include emissions from construction exhaust and travel, demolition and earth moving activities, architectural coatings, and asphalt paving. Operational air quality impacts would include emissions from project generated vehicle traffic and from on-site sources. These emissions may have the potential to violate air quality standards or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in an existing air quality violation. This is a potentially significant impact that will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Potentially Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors are generally defined as facilities that house or attract groups of children, the elderly, people with illnesses, or others who are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollution. Schools, hospitals, residential areas, and convalescent facilities are examples of sensitive receptors. The closest sensitive receptors are homes located as near as 50 feet south of the Proposed Project site.

The Proposed Project could have the potential to result in short-term construction and permanent operational air pollutant emissions of particulate matter, carbon monoxide, reactive organic gases, oxides of nitrogen as well as toxic air contaminants. This is a potentially significant impact that will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

d) Would the project result in substantial emissions (such as odors or dust) affecting a substantial number of people?

Less than Significant Impact. Individual responses to odor or dust emissions are highly variable and can result in a variety of effects. Generally, the impacts from odor or dust emissions result from a variety of factors such as frequency, intensity, duration, offensiveness, location, and sensory perception. The frequency is a measure of how often an individual is exposed to the emissions. The intensity refers to an individual's or a group's perception of the odor or dust emissions strength or concentration. The duration of the emissions refers to the elapsed time over which the emissions are experienced by individuals or groups. The offensiveness of the emissions is the subjective rating of the unpleasantness of the odor or dust. The location accounts for the distance between the source of the emission and the individuals or groups affected by the emissions.

Potential sources that may emit odor or dust emissions during construction activities include emissions from demolition and dirt moving activities, diesel equipment emissions, and emissions from building materials that include asphalt pavement, paints, and solvents. The objectionable emissions that may be produced during the construction process would be temporary and would likely not be noticeable for extended periods of time beyond the project site's boundaries. Odor and dust emissions during construction would be short-term in nature and limited to the operational time of the diesel equipment and the amounts of odor producing materials being utilized, which would result in transitory odor and dust emission impacts at the nearby residences; however, it is not anticipated to impact more than 50 percent of the nearby population at any time. Therefore, a less than significant odor and dust emissions impact would occur and no mitigation would be required. No further analysis is required.

Issues Requiring Further Study. The EIR will include further study related to conflicts with applicable air quality management plans, short-term construction emissions, long-term operational emissions, a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant, non-stationary source CO hotspot, and exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Cumulative impacts to global climate change will be further discussed in the EIR.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Biological resources include habitats and vegetative communities, migratory corridors, plants, wildlife, fisheries, special status species (regulated by a law, regulation, or policy, such as threatened and endangered species), and waters of the United States. The Washington Middle School campus is a developed site and is located in an urbanized area in the City of Long Beach. Campus vegetation is limited to ornamental landscaping.

4.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands as (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.4.1 Impact Analysis

(a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less Than Significant Impact. Washington Middle School was first built on the existing property in 1935. Since opening, the campus has expanded, and the property has become more developed. Campus vegetation is limited to ornamental landscaping; no candidate, sensitive, or special status species are expected to exist on or around the middle school. Additionally, the majority of work associated with the Proposed Project would occur in the interior of the existing campus; only minor ground-disturbing activities would occur with during the demolition and construction of existing buildings associated with the transformation. Due to the current amount of development on site and the limited amount of work occurring away from existing buildings, implementation of the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact associated with candidate, sensitive, or special status species. No further analysis is required.

(b) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. Washington Middle School is an existing campus located in an urbanized area. Campus vegetation is limited to ornamental landscaping. No riparian habitats or other sensitive natural communities are known to exist on the Proposed Project site (USFWS 2018a). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in impacts associated with riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. No further analysis is required.

(c) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impact. Washington Middle School is an existing campus in an urbanized area. Campus vegetation is limited to ornamental landscaping. No wetlands are known to exist on the site (USFWS 2018b). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with wetlands. No further analysis is required.

(d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

No Impact. Washington Middle School is an existing campus in an urbanized area. No native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, established wildlife corridors, or native wildlife nursery sites are known to exist on the Proposed Project site (USFWS 2018a). In addition, the Proposed Project would not result in the removal of any existing trees. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in no impact associated with native migratory species or nursery sites. No further analysis is required.

(e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. Washington Middle School is an existing campus in an urbanized area, and vegetation is limited to ornamental landscaping. The majority of work will occur on the interior of existing buildings; only minor accessibility upgrades and turf replacement would result in minor ground-disturbing activities. The Long Beach Public Works Department implements Section 14.28 of the Long Beach Municipal Code that focuses on the preservation and protection of Long Beach's urban forests (City of Long Beach 2018). The Proposed Project does not include the removal of any existing trees and, therefore, would not result in an impact associated with any policy or ordinance protecting biological resources. No further analysis is required.

(f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservancy Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. Currently, no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans are adopted for the City of Long Beach or the surrounding area; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in impacts associated with an applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. No further analysis is required

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources include archaeological and paleontological artifacts such as human remains, geologic features, historical buildings and structures, and Native American remains and artifacts. CEQA defines cultural resources as:

- Resources listed in, or determined to be eligible by, the State Historical Resources Commission for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (Public Resources Code [PRC] 5024.0, Title 14 CCR, Section 4850 et seq.)

- Resources included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or identified in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, will be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public Agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant; and

- Any object, building structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific,

economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be a historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource will be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (PRC 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852).

Impacts to cultural resources include physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource would be materially impaired.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Standards) are codified at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 67.7. In most circumstances, the Standards are relevant in assessing whether a substantial adverse change under CEQA would occur. Section 15064.5b(3) of the CEQA Guidelines states in part that "…a project that follows the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings or the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1995), Weeks and Grimmer, shall be considered as mitigated to a level of less than a significant impact on the historic resource," and therefore may be considered categorically exempt.

The Proposed Project was reviewed for its historical significance and for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards by PCR Services in 2017 in the *Distrcit-Wide Historical Resources Assessment for Long Beach Unified School District*. A Phase II Intensive Historic Assessment Report was prepared for the school on December 2018 (Appendix B).

As part of the District-Wide Cultural Resources Assessment, PCR Services recommended that Washington Middle School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C and the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) Criterion 3 (LBUSD 2017a).

5.	CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.5.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Potentially Significant Impact. According to the CEQA Guidelines regarding historical resources, a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource amounts to a significant impact on

the environment (Guidelines § 15064.5(b)). Accordingly, a substantial adverse change means demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings resulting in the significance of the resource being materially impaired. The significance of a historical resource is materially impaired when a project:

(A) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the CRHR; or

(B) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or its identification in an historical resources survey meeting the requirements of section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or

(C) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the CRHR as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.

Washington Middle School was determined to be eligible for listing in the NRHP and CRHR under Criterion 3 (LBUSD 2017a). Impacts to historical resources will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Potentially Significant Impact. No known archaeological resources are located on the Proposed Project site (LBUSD 2017b). However, there is potential to discover previously unidentified resources. Impacts to archaeological resources will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

No Impact. Historic and modern maps were reviewed, and no known cemeteries or areas in which human remains are located were found within the Proposed Project area. The Proposed Project site is located in an urbanized area, previously disturbed by past activities. In addition, if any human remains are encountered during construction activities, the District's Construction BMPs related to cultural resources and procedures required by State law will be followed. Further, ground disturbance of any native soils or soils not previously disturbed will not occur as part of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no impacts are expected. No further analysis is required.

Issues Requiring Further Study. The EIR will include further study related to historical and archaeological resources.

4.6 ENERGY

This section describes the potential energy resources impacts from implementation of the Proposed Project.

6.	ENERGY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, or wasteful use of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.6.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, or wasteful use of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project includes the demolition and construction of buildings located on the Project Site. Construction associated with the Proposed Project would result in a temporary increase in energy consumption due to the energy requirements associated with operating construction equipment. All construction activities would implement BMPs to reduce construction related emissions, which would minimize the energy needed to implement the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would implement CCR Title 24 Part 6: California's Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings. Compliance with this regulation would result in condominium buildings that require less electricity, natural gas, and other fuels for operational purposes. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with wasteful or inefficient energy consumption during construction or operation. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would comply with CCR Title 24, which regulates the amount of energy consumed by new development for heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting. Additionally, the Proposed Project would implement the City-wide strategy of promoting renewable energy sources. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with renewable energy or energy efficiency plans. No further analysis is required.

4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Informed land-use decisions require information about California's geologic and seismic hazards such as surface rupture, ground failure, landslides, liquefaction, soil erosion, and subsidence. The California Geological Survey (CGS) provides technical information and advice about landslides, erosion, sedimentation, and other geologic hazards to the public, local governments, agencies, and industries that make land-use decisions in California. Surface rupture is the breakage of ground along the surface trace of a fault caused by the intersection of the fault surface area ruptured in an earthquake. Liquefaction is a process by which water-saturated granular soils transform from a solid to a liquid state during strong ground-shaking. A seismically induced landslide is a general term for falling, sliding, or flowing masses of

soil, rocks, water, and debris caused by an earthquake. Erosion is displacement of soil, usually by moving water and wind.

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act was passed in 1972 to mitigate the hazard of surface faulting to structures for human occupancy. This State law was a direct result of the 1971 San Fernando Earthquake, which was associated with extensive surface fault ruptures that damaged numerous homes, commercial buildings, and other structures. Surface rupture is the most easily avoided seismic hazard. The Act's main purpose is to prevent the construction of buildings used for human occupancy on the surface trace of active faults. The Act only addresses the hazard of surface fault rupture and is not directed toward other earthquake hazards. The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, passed in 1990, addresses non-surface fault rupture earthquake hazards, including liquefaction and seismically induced landslides.

7.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
	ii)Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iii)Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iv)Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.7.1 Impact Analysis

a)i) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Less than Significant Impact. Although the Proposed Project site is located within a seismically active region of southern California, the site is not located within a designated Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone. The Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone prevents construction of buildings used for human occupancy on the surface trace of active faults. The nearest designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone is the Newport-Inglewood Fault Zone, which is approximately 2 miles northeast of the Proposed Project site (CGS 1999). Furthermore, the Proposed Project involves interior and exterior upgrades, including HVAC upgrades and ADA accessibility requirements, consistent with current State and local building and safety codes.

The implementation of the Proposed Project would not exacerbate existing conditions at the school or result in risk of loss, injury, or death involving a rupture of a known fault. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with earthquake fault rupture. No further analysis is required.

ii) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site is not located within a State of California or Los Angeles County-designated Earthquake Fault Rupture Hazard Zone for active surface faulting (CGS 1999). The Proposed Project involves interior and exterior upgrades, including HVAC upgrades and ADA accessibility requirements, coinciding with current building and safety codes. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with strong seismic ground-shaking. No further analysis is required.

iii) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less Than Significant Impact. The California Geological Survey (CGS 1999) identifies the northwest portion of the Proposed Project site as located within an area prone to seismically induced liquefaction; however, as noted above in Section 4.6.1 Impact (a) i) and (a) ii), the Proposed Project involves interior and exterior upgrades, including HVAC upgrades and ADA accessibility requirements, coinciding with current building and safety codes. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with seismic induced liquefaction. No further analysis is required.

iv)Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is not identified as an area prone to seismically induced landslides, and the relatively flat site does not facilitate landslide potential; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with seismically induced landslides. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than Significant Impact. The locations of the proposed facility repairs and upgrades and utility upgrades would occur in areas that are currently paved and developed and would require minor ground-disturbing activities. These upgrades, including those occurring within the interior buildings, will not result in soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The installation of the synthetic turf field, however, would require ground-disturbing activities over the entire existing grass soccer field. The installation of the synthetic field has the potential to result in erosion and loss of topsoil. The City of Long Beach Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit provides BMPs for construction sites to reduce sediment loss and soil erosion. Compliance with these BMPs, which include erosion and sediment controls, would reduce soil erosion during ground-disturbing activities. These include, but are not limited to, fiber rolls, gravel bags, and wind erosion controls. As such, the Proposed Project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, and impacts would be less than significant. No further analysis is required.

c) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site is located within a seismically active region of southern California, and the CGS identifies the Proposed Project site as located within an area prone to seismically induced liquefaction (CGS 1999); however, the Proposed Project site has been previously graded and developed, and the Proposed Project involves upgrades to existing facilities to satisfy current earthquake standards. Facility upgrades would conform to current building and seismic safety codes as required by the California Building Code and California Department of Education. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. No further analysis is required.

d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site has been previously graded and developed. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) classifies the landform underlying the Proposed Project site as urban land with areas classified as loam to fine sandy loam (USDA NRCS 2018). The native materials are capped locally by artificial fill where previously existing natural grades have been modified as part of urbanization. Due to a lack of clay content in soils underlying the Proposed Project site and previous grading and development on-site, it is unlikely that the Proposed Project site contains expansive soils. Additionally, the work associated with implementation of the Proposed Project will involve minimal ground-disturbing activities. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with expansive soils. No further analysis is required.

e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site relies on existing sewer infrastructure to accommodate wastewater disposal requirements. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with soils incapable of supporting septic systems. No further analysis is required.

f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Less Than Significant Impact. No known paleontological resources are located on the Proposed Project site. The Proposed Project site is located in an urbanized area previously disturbed by past activities. In addition, if any paleontological resources are encountered during construction activities, the District's Construction BMPs related to cultural resources will be followed. Ground disturbances for path-of-travel improvements will occur within previously disturbed areas. No disturbances will occur on native soils nor soils not previously disturbed. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant. No further analysis is required.

4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

This section describes the potential global climate change effects from implementation of the Proposed Project. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission modeling was performed through use of the CalEEMod Version 2016.3.2. The model output is provided in Appendix A.

8.	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.8.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Potentially Significant Impact. Significant legislative and regulatory activities directly and indirectly affect climate change and GHG emissions in California. The primary climate change legislation in California is Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 focuses on reducing GHG emissions in California and requires that GHGs emitted in California be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020.

The CARB is the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of GHGs in California that contribute to global warming in order to reduce emissions of GHGs. The CARB Governing Board approved the 1990 GHG emissions level of 427 million tons of CO_2 equivalent ($MtCO_2e$) on December 6, 2007. Therefore, in 2020, annual emissions in California are required to be at or below 427 $MtCO_2e$. In January 2017, the CARB Board approved the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan). The Scoping Plan aims to reduce to 1990 levels by 40 percent by 2030. The Scoping Plan continues programs and activities that are implemented primarily by state agencies but also includes actions by local government agencies. Primary strategies addressed in the Scoping Plan include new industrial and emission control technologies; alternative energy generation technologies; advanced energy conservation

in lighting, heating, cooling, and ventilation; reduced-carbon fuels; hybrid and electric vehicles; and other methods of improving vehicle mileage. Local government will have a part in implementing some of these strategies. The Scoping Plan also calls for reductions in vehicle-associated GHG emissions through smart growth that will result in reductions of vehicle miles traveled (CARB 2017).

The Proposed Project would not increase the capacity of the school nor would it increase the number of activities that would occur at the Proposed Project site that would result in a significant increase in GHG emissions. No increases in long-term operational GHG emissions are anticipated to occur from the Proposed Project. Although implementation of the Proposed Project is anticipated to result in a less than significant impact associated with greenhouse gas emissions, this impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Potentially Significant Impact. Neither the County nor SCAQMD have any specific plans, policies, or regulations adopted for reducing the emissions of GHGs. The Proposed Project emissions are short-term and anticipated to be insignificant, and the operation of the Proposed Project would not create a significant increase in GHG emissions as the school will continue to operate in the same manner; therefore, it is anticipated that implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for reducing the emissions of GHGs. However, this impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

Issues Requiring Further Study. The EIR will include further study related to greenhouse gas emission generation and compliance with existing plans and regulations related to greenhouse gas emissions.

4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Proposed Project and Proposed Project site were analyzed to determine the potential for hazards or hazardous materials to occur on-site. Background research included an evaluation of the Geotracker and EnviroStor websites, operated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the DTSC, respectively, and the preparation of a Hazardous Building Material Survey by Ninyo & Moore in 2017 (Appendix A).

9.	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
I	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☒	☐	☐	☐

(d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan had not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(h)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.9.1 Impact Analys

a) *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The Proposed Project would involve the use of heavy equipment during construction that would emit emissions associated with internal combustion engines, (i.e., diesel and gasoline); however, once operational, the Proposed Project would only use chemicals associated with maintenance operations including the use of commercial cleansers, lubricants, solvents, and paints, among other things typically used in educational facilities. Maintenance materials would not be considered acutely hazardous and would be used in limited quantities at the Proposed Project site. Compliance with the existing regulations, including the manufacturer's product label and Safety Data Sheets, would ensure that no significant hazard to the public, the students, or the environment would result through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous material. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Potentially Significant Impact. A Hazardous Building Material Survey was prepared for Washington Middle School in 2017 by Ninyo & Moore to provide information about the current conditions within the site structures regarding the potential presence of ACMs, LCSs, and other hazardous materials which are present within the buildings. A survey was conducted for asbestos, LCS, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and universal wastes.

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would require compliance with federal and state law that regulate construction activities which might involve interaction with ACM or LBP. Regulations require that, prior to demolition, alteration, or renovation, (1) proper notification is given to the SCAQMD (who regulates airborne pollutants) and the local California Occupational Safety and Health

Administration (OSHA) office; (2) LBUSD will certify that ACMs have been removed or mitigated by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor certified by the State of California Contractors Licensing Board; and (3) LBUSD will institute an operations and maintenance (O&M) program so that ACMs that are not damaged or LBP that will remain in place are properly managed to prevent exposure to hazardous materials. These permitting requirements automatically apply to all developments associated with the Proposed Project and are considered standard conditions for approval of the Proposed Project.

School staff and contractors that may be on-site during construction work will be informed of the type of ACMs that they may encounter and the location of the ACM. The appropriate employers/contractors will implement specific work practices to protect workers, school staff, and students from airborne asbestos exposures. Control measures will be implemented that will address worker, staff, and student safety during the proposed upgrades. Recommendations include abatement procedures, proper training when working with or near ACM, and sampling and reporting procedures.

Compliance with these regulations and implementation of the recommended safety measures would reduce potential impacts during construction and operation to a level below significant.

Additionally, as mentioned in Section 4.9.1 Impact (a), the construction phase of the Proposed Project would involve the use of heavy equipment during construction that would emit emissions associated with internal combustion engines (i.e., diesel and gasoline); however, the use of fuels is regulated by the state and would be in compliance with all state regulations during construction. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

i) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Proposed Project involves campus transformation including classroom technology upgrades, utility upgrades and installation of HVAC, accessibility upgrades, and installation of a synthetic turf field at Washington Middle School. PAAL Academy is located approximately 0.25 mile east of the Proposed Project site. The results of the Hazardous Building Material Survey identified areas within the campus that contain lead and asbestos compounds. As listed above in Section 4.9.1 Impact (b), and as identified in the construction activities in Section 1.5.3, the District will comply with the recommendations on handling asbestos- and lead-containing materials, including avoidance, and therefore reduce impacts to less than significant.

The Proposed Project would also involve the use of heavy equipment during construction that would emit emissions associated with internal combustion engines (i.e., diesel and gasoline). Once operational, the Proposed Project would involve the use of chemicals associated with maintenance operations which would be subject to federal, State, and local health and safety requirements. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

ii) Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65862.5 (SWRCB 2018; DTSC 2018); therefore, implementation of the Proposed

Project would not result in an impact associated with known hazardous materials site. No further analysis is required.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan had not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is located approximately 3 miles southwest of Long Beach Municipal Airport. The Proposed Project site is not located within the Airport Influence Area or a Runway Protection Zone for the Long Beach Municipal (LACALUC 2003). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with a public airport. No further analysis is required.

f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site and surrounding areas are currently developed. The Proposed Project involves facility repairs and upgrades, classroom technology upgrades, utility upgrades and installation of HVAC, accessibility upgrades, and installation of a synthetic turf field at Washington Middle School. These activities would not create interference with established emergency response or emergency evacuation plans as there is no proposed alteration of infrastructure identified in an evacuation plan; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with an emergency evacuation plan. No further analysis is required.

g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is identified as a Non-Very High Fire Hazard Safety Zone (VHFHSZ)(CALFIRE 2007). Additionally, the Proposed Project is not located within or adjacent to wildlands or identified Very High Fire Hazard Safety Zones. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with wildland fires. No further analysis is required.

Issues Requiring Further Study. Issues requiring further study in the EIR include accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment and emitting hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Hydrology is the study of the movement, distribution, and quality of water throughout the Earth, and thus addresses both the hydrologic cycle and water resources. Water quality is the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of water, characterized through the methods of hydrometry. The primary bases for such characterization are parameters which relate to drinking water, safety of human contact, and the health of ecosystems.

A seiche is a standing wave in an enclosed or partially enclosed body of water. A tsunami is a series of waves created when a body of water, such as an ocean, is rapidly displaced. A mudflow or mudslide is the most rapid (up to 80 kilometers per hour) and fluid type of downhill mass wasting.

10.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
	i) Result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
	ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flood on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
	iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
	iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(f)	Potentially impact stormwater runoff from construction activities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(g)	Potentially impact stormwater runoff from post-construction activities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(h)	Result in a potential for discharge of stormwater pollutants from areas of material storage, vehicle or equipment fueling, vehicle or equipment maintenance (including washing), waste handling, hazardous materials handling or storage, delivery areas, loading docks or other outdoor work areas?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(i)	Result in the potential for discharge of stormwater to affect the beneficial uses of the receiving waters?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(j)	Create the potential for significant changes in the flow velocity or volume of stormwater runoff to cause environmental harm?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(k)	Create significant increases in erosion of the project site or surrounding areas?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.10.1 Impact Analys

a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project involves facility repairs and upgrades, classroom technology upgrades, utility upgrades and installation of HVAC, accessibility upgrades, and installation of a synthetic turf field at Washington Middle School. Although the majority of work would occur indoors and on existing buildings, accessibility upgrades and installation of the synthetic turf field would involve soil disturbance. The disturbance would result in short-term impacts to site drainage during construction periods. If soil is not contained and is directly exposed to rain, soil erosion and sediment could flow into the storm drain system, resulting in the potential degradation of water quality; however, the likelihood of a violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements would be reduced due to compliance with the site-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and implementation of best management practices (BMPs).

BMPs reduce the potential for erosion by implementing erosion and sediment control measures that regulate the amount and quality of runoff from a construction site. Due to the majority of work associated with the Proposed Project occurring indoors and on existing buildings and required compliance with the SWPPP, the impacts associated with water quality standards or waste discharge requirements are not considered significant. The replacement of the existing field with synthetic turf materials would increase the amount of impervious surface and decrease permeability; however, the Proposed Project would comply with the City's MS4 Permit and BMPs. These include but are not limited to minimizing soil compaction, implementing good housekeeping practices and treatment controls, and controlling runoff. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

No Impact. The Proposed Project involves facility repairs and upgrades, classroom technology upgrades, utility upgrades and installation of HVAC, accessibility upgrades, and installation of a synthetic turf field at Washington Middle School. The Proposed Project site is currently developed and located in an urbanized area. The Proposed Project would not substantially increase the amount of impervious surface and would not interfere with groundwater recharge. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not increase the number of students or staff; and additional water resources would not be required to accommodate any such growth. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in impacts associated with groundwater recharge or groundwater depletion. No further analysis is required.

c) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site is in an urbanized location and is currently developed. Ground-disturbing activities would result due to the proposed accessibility improvements and installation of the synthetic turf field; however, the Proposed Project would not substantially increase the area of impervious surfaces at the Proposed Project site. In addition, any construction which would result in ground-disturbing activities would be required to comply with the SWPPP and implement BMPs from the City's MS4 Permit that would reduce any potential erosions or siltation on- or off-site. Further, the drainage pattern of the Proposed Project site and surrounding area is well established, and no streams or

rivers are located on the Proposed Project site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with the existing drainage pattern. No further analysis is required.

ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

No Impact. As mentioned above in Section 4.10.1 Impact (c(i)), the Proposed Project site is in an urbanized location and does not include any streams or rivers on the site; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in impacts associated with stream course alteration or increase runoff rates. No further analysis is required.

iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources or polluted runoff?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would not create or contribute significant runoff from the Proposed Project site. The Proposed Project site is in an urbanized location, and the site is currently developed. Runoff from the Proposed Project site following construction would be similar to the pre-project runoff volumes; therefore, the Proposed Project is not expected to create or contribute surface runoff volume that would exceed the capacity of the existing stormwater drainage systems. Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with stormwater drainage systems. No further analysis is required.

iv) impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identified 100-year flood hazard area (FEMA 2008); therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with flood flows. No further analysis is required.

d) Would the project in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

No Impact. Seiches or mudflows are not hazards in the Proposed Project area. Tsunamis have the potential to impact the coastal area; however, the Proposed Project site is located approximately 1.6 miles inland and is not located in an inundation or tsunami hazard area (City of Long Beach 1988). Additionally, no lakes are located within the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Project area. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No further analysis is required.

e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed above, the Proposed Project would comply with the SWPPP and implement appropriate BMPs from the City's MS4 Permit. The identification and implementation of BMPs identified in the SWPPP would reduce any impacts associated with water quality to less than significant. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not use groundwater for construction or operation of the Proposed Project. Impacts associated with water quality and groundwater plans are less than significant. No further analysis is required.

f) Potentially impact stormwater runoff from construction activities?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project involves facility repairs and upgrades, classroom technology upgrades, utility upgrades and installation of HVAC, accessibility upgrades, and installation of a synthetic turf field at Washington Middle School. As discussed above in Section 4.10.1 Impact (c(i-iv)), the drainage site would not be substantially altered from existing conditions; and the Proposed Project is not anticipated to significantly impact stormwater runoff. BMPs would reduce any impacts associated with stormwater runoff; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with stormwater runoff from construction activities. No further analysis is required.

g) Potentially impact stormwater runoff from post-construction activities?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project site is in an urbanized location, and stormwater drainage systems are already located in the vicinity of the Proposed Project site. The Proposed Project would not significantly increase the amount of impervious surface on-site, and any increase in stormwater runoff would be accommodated by the existing stormwater system. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with runoff from post-construction activities. No further analysis is required.

h) Result in a potential for discharge of stormwater pollutants from areas of material storage, vehicle or equipment fueling, vehicle or equipment maintenance (including washing), waste handling, hazardous materials handling or storage, delivery areas, loading docks or other outdoor work areas?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project involves campus transformation including building demolition, rebuilding of classrooms, classroom technology installation, utility upgrades and installation of HVAC, accessibility upgrades, and installation of a synthetic turf field at Washington Middle School. The drainage site would not be substantially altered from existing conditions, and the Proposed Project is not anticipated to result in a potential for discharge of stormwater pollutants. The implementation of BMPs would reduce any potential impacts associated with pollutant discharge from areas of material storage, vehicle or equipment fueling, vehicle or equipment maintenance, waste handling, delivery areas, loading docks, or other outdoor work areas; therefore, this impact would be less than significant. No further analysis is required.

i) Result in the potential for discharge of stormwater to affect the beneficial uses of the receiving waters?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with stormwater discharge during construction. The short-term construction impacts would be reduced with the implementation of BMPs; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with downstream beneficial uses of receiving water. No further analysis is required.

j) Create the potential for significant changes in the flow velocity or volume of stormwater runoff to cause environmental harm?

Less than Significant Impact. Impervious surfaces such as buildings and paved areas can increase runoff rates through impeding infiltration of rainfall and increasing overland flow velocities. The Proposed Project site is currently developed, and the Proposed Project would not significantly increase the amount

of impervious surface on-site. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not generate substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. The Proposed Project is not anticipated to create or contribute surface runoff volume that would exceed the capacity of the existing stormwater drainage systems; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with changes in the flow velocity or volume of stormwater runoff to cause environmental harm. No further analysis is required.

k) Create significant increases in erosion of the project site or surrounding areas?

Less Than Significant Impact. The locations of the proposed facility repairs and upgrades and utility upgrades would occur in areas that are currently paved and developed, and installation of the synthetic turf field would occur at the site of the existing grass soccer field. In addition, the relatively flat nature of the Proposed Project site limits susceptibility to erosion; however, construction of accessibility upgrades and turf installation would require ground disruption activities which would require the preparation of a SWPPP and implementation of BMPs. Due to past development of the area and implementation of the City's MS4 Permit and BMPs, erosion would be minimized and not substantial; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with erosion. No further analysis is required.

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Cities and counties "plan" in order to identify important community issues (such as new growth, housing needs, and environmental protection), project future demand for services (such as sewer, water, roads, etc.), anticipate potential problems (such as overloaded sewer facilities or crowded roads), and establish goals and policies for directing and managing growth. Local governments use a variety of tools in the planning process including the general plan, specific plans, zoning, and the subdivision ordinance.

The Proposed Project site is located within an area designated by the City of Long Beach General Plan as Institutional, which allows educational land uses. The zoning for the Proposed Project site is Institutional, which also allows public and private educational land uses by right (without a Conditional Use Permit). Land use designations adjacent to the Proposed Project site include Moderate and High Density Residential. In the November 2017 Draft General Plan Update, designations for zoning and land use will be referred to as 'Placetype' designations which will illustrate major physical planning concepts for the City (City of Long Beach 2017).

11.	LAND USE/PLANNING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.11.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would be located on a site that has been in use as a public school since 1935. The Proposed Project would continue the long-standing presence of an educational institution at the Proposed Project site. The Proposed Project would not change the land uses currently existing at the site or create an incompatible use. The continued use of the site as a school campus would not result in a new barrier in the community that would divide the established surrounding community; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with the physical division of a community. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. As described above, the Proposed Project site is located within an area designated by the General Plan as Institutional, which allows educational land uses. The zoning for the Proposed Project site is Institutional, which also allows public and private educational land uses by right (without a Conditional Use Permit). The Proposed Project would not result in a change to the existing land use or zoning designations. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation. No further analysis is required.

4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Mineral resources are commercially viable mineral or aggregate deposits such as sand, gravel, and other construction aggregate. California is the largest consumer of sand and gravel in the nation; but it is also a major provider, producing approximately one billion dollars' worth of mineral resources annually.

The CGS provides objective geologic expertise and information about California's diverse non-fuel mineral resources. Maps, reports, and other data products developed by the CGS staff assist governmental agencies, mining companies, consultants, and the public in recognizing, developing, and protecting important mineral resources. The California Department of Conservation protects mineral resources to ensure adequate supplies for future production. The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) was developed to encourage production and conservation of mineral resources, prevent or minimize adverse effects to the environment, and protect public health and safety.

12.	MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.12.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

No Impact. The State of California Division of Mines and Geology classified the Proposed Project site as a Mineral Resource Zone 4 (MRZ-4). MRZ-4 zones are defined as areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ (CDMG 1982); however, Proposed Project activities would occur on previously disturbed soils and would not result in loss of a known mineral resource. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with mineral resources. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No Impact. No existing or historic mineral resource sites are in or around the Proposed Project site; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with a mineral resource recovery site. No further analysis is required.

4.13 NOISE

4.13.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project is located in the City of Long Beach. The primary noise sources in the Project vicinity are from the operation of vehicles on the nearby roads; however, traffic noise at the Proposed Project site is minimal and the proposed activities will not involve roadway widening or construction that would exacerbate existing traffic noise.

City of Long Beach Noise Standards

For construction activities within the City of Long Beach, Section 8.80.202 of the Municipal Code exempts construction noise from the City's exterior and interior noise standards between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Since some construction activities could result in noise levels that could cause harm to the nearby residents, a noise threshold utilizing the OSHA agency limits of noise exposure is used. The use of a significance threshold using an OSHA standard is considered conservative. The OSHA standard is limiting noise exposure of workers to 90 decibels (dB) or less over eight continuous hours. Typical construction activities result in a range of noise levels from operating various pieces of equipment. Typical equipment operating cycles may be used at a full power setting followed by a lower setting. Therefore, noise levels fluctuate during construction activities. For the purpose of this noise impact analysis, noise levels that could expose residents or workers to more than 90 dB for over eight continuous hours are considered a significant noise impact.

13.	NOISE Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.13.2 Impact Analysis

a) *Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

Potentially Significant Impact. Construction of the Proposed Project will create short-term noise impacts associated with construction equipment. Grading equipment, as well as excavators, lifts, dozers, backhoes, concrete pumps, pickup trucks, paving machines, and generators may be used in construction of building and parking areas for the Proposed Project. After, construction, traffic associated with the Proposed Project may increase traffic on area roadways and possibly increase localized noise levels. Therefore, the Proposed Project could potentially generate substantial temporary or permanent increases in ambient noise levels or in excess of standards established in the general plan or noise ordinance or other applicable standards that may have a potentially significant impact on the environment. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

b) Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Potentially Significant Impact. Construction of the Proposed Project will utilize equipment such as bull dozers and jack hammers that are known sources of vibration. The long-term operation of the Proposed Project would not include the operation of any known vibration sources. Since there is an existing commercial structure that is located adjacent to the south property line, the Proposed Project could potentially generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels during construction activities at the nearest off-site structures. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

Issues Requiring Further Study. Issues requiring further study in the EIR include construction and operation noise impacts, vibration impacts, and potential to expose sensitive receptors to noise above ambient noise levels.

4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Population refers to the occupants of housing projects, population indirectly associated with workers or proposed nonresidential projects, or changes in the amount and distribution of population and employment permitted by adoption or revision to a land use plan. Important areas include changes in the number, characteristics, geographical distribution, and timing of new residents directly or indirectly

resulting from a project and the degree to which project-related changes are consistent with city, regional or other adopted population growth policies. Other issues are the degree to which project-related population is already present in the area under analysis (i.e., already residing or working in the area) or whether they represent immigrants.

Housing impacts may result directly from a project, which includes housing units, or indirectly from revisions to the Housing Element in a General Plan or changes in housing demand associated with new non-residential development projects.

A project would have a significant adverse impact if it would induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly by proposing new homes and businesses or indirectly through the extension of roads or other infrastructure; displaced housing units causing the construction of replacement housing somewhere else; or displaced people causing the construction of replacement housing somewhere else.

14.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.14.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. The Proposed Project involves campus transformation including building demolition, rebuilding of classrooms, classroom technology upgrades, utility upgrades and installation of HVAC, accessibility upgrades, and installation of a synthetic turf field at Washington Middle School. The Proposed Project would not induce population growth in the areas surrounding the Proposed Project site nor would it create the need for additional housing. Additionally, implementation of the Proposed Project would not increase the capacity of Washington Middle School or result in an increase in student enrollment. The Proposed Project would not result in the creation of housing or businesses that would induce or accelerate population growth. Further, the Proposed Project would be located on an existing school site and adjacent to a number of roadways that currently serve the site. The Proposed Project site is already served by utilities infrastructure, and utility upgrades associated with the Proposed Project are strictly related to HVAC operations. Therefore, the implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with population growth. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site does not contain any residences or housing units and does not accommodate residential use; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with the displacement of people or housing. No further analysis is required.

4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Public services include fire, police, schools, parks, and libraries. A project would impact a public service if it would result in an increased demand for that service or if the project would result in a hindrance to that service.

15.	**PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:**	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
(a)	Fire Protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Police Protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(d)	Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(e)	Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.15.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities. Fire protection services would be provided by the City of Long Beach Fire Department. Fire Station No. 3 is located approximately 0.3 mile southwest of Washington Middle School and would serve as the primary responder to the Proposed Project site (Google Earth 2018). Fire protection service needs are generally related to the size of the population and geographic area served, the number and types of calls for service, and other community and physical characteristics. Because land uses at the Proposed Project site would remain the same as under current conditions, an increase in the demand for fire services resulting from the Proposed Project is not anticipated. The Proposed Project site is located in an urbanized area that is void of any wildlands that may create significant fire risks to the Proposed Project site. In addition, to ensure conformance with State Fire Codes, the Proposed Project would not result in street closures that would result in inadequate access to the Proposed Project site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with fire protection. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities,

the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for police protection?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities to maintain acceptable service ratios for police protection. The District maintains its own safety department to provide security for the schools within its jurisdiction. The District's School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Department would provide on-campus security for the Proposed Project. The City of Long Beach Police Department would be the secondary provider of law enforcement services to the Proposed Project and would supplement the District's School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Department as needed. The police substation nearest to the Proposed Project site is located at 400 West Broadway, approximately 1 mile south of the Proposed Project site (Google Earth 2018). The Proposed Project would not rely primarily on the City of Long Beach Police Department police protection services and would not induce population growth resulting in the need for additional police services. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with police protection. No further analysis is required.

c) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for schools?*

Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project involves facility repairs and upgrades, classroom technology upgrades, utility upgrades and installation of HVAC, accessibility upgrades, and installation of an synthetic turf field at Washington Middle School. The work would be mostly concentrated in the interior of the buildings and would consist of seismic retrofits, upgrades, and renovations; portions of the accessibility upgrades and installation of the synthetic turf field would occur outside. During construction, portions of the buildings would not be available for school use. The potential limitation of use will be short-term, and following construction the Proposed Project site would return to its fully functioning existing uses. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with schools. No further analysis is required.

d) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for parks?*

No Impact. The Proposed Project would not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities to maintain acceptable opportunities for parks. The closest park (Seaside Park) is located approximately 0.1 mile west of the Proposed Project site. The Proposed Project would not induce population growth and therefore will not create new residents. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with parks. No further analysis is required.

e) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for other public facilities?*

No Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project is not anticipated to impact any other public facilities as it would not induce population growth directly or indirectly. No further analysis is required.

4.16 RECREATION

Recreational facilities include active and passive facilities. Active recreational facilities include parks, tennis and basketball courts, pools, golf courses, and various other facilities. Passive recreational facilities include plazas and other public places.

A project would result in a significant impact on recreational facilities if it would increase the use of existing parks and facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated, or if the project included recreational facilities or required construction that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

16.	RECREATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.16.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or any other recreational facilities. The closest park (Seaside Park) is located approximately 0.1 mile west of the Proposed Project site. Physical impacts to existing recreational facilities are usually associated with population growth. The Proposed Project would neither directly increase the local population nor would it indirectly induce population growth in the future; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with the deterioration of recreational facilities. No further analysis is required.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. The Proposed Project site is located at Washington Middle School, which provides students with on-campus recreational facilities. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not require the construction or expansion of off-site recreational facilities. The Proposed Project is intended to repair and upgrade school facilities for an existing student population and would not burden any facility beyond capacity by generating additional recreational users. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project

would not result in an impact associated with the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No further analysis is required.

4.17 TRANSPORTATION

17.	TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle lanes and pedestrian paths?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	For a land use project, would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☒	☐	☐	☐
(d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e. g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.17.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle lanes and pedestrian paths?

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project would generate minor increases in traffic associated with the short-term construction activities, which involve facility repairs and upgrades, classroom technology upgrades, utility upgrades and installation of HVAC, accessibility upgrades, and installation of a synthetic turf field. No increase in operation and maintenance traffic is anticipated. In addition, the Proposed Project would not cause an increase in the number of students attending the school. The temporary and limited increase in construction traffic would not conflict with any applicable plans, ordinances, or policies establishing measures of effectiveness for the circulation systems. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts associated with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. No further analysis is required.

b) For a land use project, would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

Potentially Significant Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not change activities that currently occur on the existing school campuses, and student capacity and number of employees would not increase. Land use would remain the same, and no changes to the existing circulation system are proposed. No anticipated change to vehicle miles travelled would result due to implementation of the Proposed Project; however, this impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

c) For a transportation project, would the project conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)(2)?

No Impact. The Proposed Project is not a transportation project and does not propose any changes to the existing circulation system; therefore, no impact would occur. No further analysis is required.

d) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would not change any roadways and would not involve any incompatible uses; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with road hazards. No further analysis is required.

e) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. The Proposed Project would occur entirely within the Washington Middle School campus and does not include changes to nearby roadways or emergency access routes. All lanes in the vicinity of the Proposed Project would remain open for emergency use; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with emergency access. No further analysis is required.

Issues Requiring Further Study. Issues requiring further study in the EIR include a vehicle miles travelled assessment.

4.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section describes the potential tribal cultural resources effects from implementation of the Proposed Project.

18.	TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
	i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☒	☐	☐	☐
	ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.18.1 Impact Analysis

i) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in a listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?

Potentially Significant Impact. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR.

ii) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1?

Potentially Significant Impact. This impact will be fully analyzed in the EIR, and tribal consultation will occur in accordance with AB 52.

4.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Utilities and service systems include potable water and wastewater treatment. The quantity of water consumed and wastewater generated by a project is determined by several factors, including the size, type, and characteristics of the project. The need for construction of new or replacement water and wastewater treatment facilities (e.g., reservoirs, storage tanks, water mains, filtration plants, pumps, wells, and other connections or distribution facilities) would depend on the existing capacity and anticipated demand for the Proposed Project site.

19.	UTILITIES/SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(e)	Negatively impact the provision of solid waste services or impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(f)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid wastes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

4.19.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or expansion of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Less Than Significant Impact. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not require the relocation or construction of utilities that serve the Proposed Project site. The Proposed Project would not result in an increase in student or staff population. After construction, the use of utilities on-site would be similar to existing conditions; however, campus upgrade and technological improvements would likely require less energy to operate. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with relocation or construction of utility infrastructure. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal dry and multiple dry years?

No Impact. Long Beach Water Department is responsible for supplying water to the Proposed Project site and for ensuring that the delivered water meets applicable California Department of Health Services standards for drinking water. The Proposed Project does not involve increases in student or staff population, and no substantial increase in water supply requirements is anticipated. In addition, the District would comply with local, regional, and State water conservation policies and would follow standard BMPs, including Title 22 regulations, in order to reduce water consumption. The Proposed Project would result in no need for new or expanded entitlements; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with sufficient water supplies. No further analysis is required.

c) Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact. It is anticipated that no net increase in wastewater generation for the region would occur. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would be located on an existing developed site with established sewer line connections that are currently serviced by the City of Long Beach. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an impact associated with new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities. No further analysis is required.

d) Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure?

Less than Significant Impact. The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) and private waste management collectors and disposal facilities manage solid waste in the county. The LACSD operates a comprehensive solid waste management system that includes three active sanitary landfills, three closed landfills, two materials recovery/transfer stations, three gas-to-energy facilities, a clean-fuel facility, two full-service recycle centers, multiple landfill recycling programs, and, in conjunction with the County's

Department of Public Works, an extensive program of household hazardous waste and electronic waste collection round-ups.

The active landfills and the materials recovery/transfer stations receive approximately 19,000 tons of nonhazardous solid waste per day, of which approximately 15,500 tons per day is disposed, with the remainder being reused or recycled. This disposal represents approximately 40 percent of the total solid waste disposed of by the residents and businesses of the county. The remaining 60 percent is disposed of at privately owned landfills. In general, solid waste is hauled directly to Class III landfills, transfer stations, resource recovery centers, and refuse-to-energy facilities.

The Proposed Project will not involve an increase in student or staff population and would not result in an operational increase in waste generation; however, construction of the Proposed Project would result in the generation of solid waste including scrap lumber, concrete, residual waste, packaging material, plastics, and vegetation. To ensure optimal diversion of solid waste resources by a project, the District requires its contractors to recycle or salvage nonhazardous waste materials generated during demolition and/or construction, to foster material recovery and re-use, and to minimize disposal in landfills. Furthermore, impacts from construction activities will be short-term and intermittent and will be mitigated by BMPs and compliance with existing State solid waste reduction statutes. With the incorporation of these requirements into the Proposed Project, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with sufficient landfill capacity. No further analysis is required.

e) Would the project negatively impact the provision of solid waste services or impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

Less Than Significant Impact. As noted above in Section 4.19.1 Impact (d), the Proposed Project will not involve an increase in student or staff population and would not result in an operational increase in waste generation; however, construction of the Proposed Project would result in the generation of solid waste including scrap lumber, concrete, residual waste, packaging material, plastics, and vegetation. As operation of the Proposed Project would not result in an increase in solid waste generation beyond the existing condition, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with solid waste reduction goals. No further analysis is required.

f) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Less than Significant Impact. During construction and operation of the Proposed Project, the District would comply with all city, county, and State solid waste diversion, reduction, and recycling mandates, including compliance with the county-wide Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with waste regulations. No further analysis is required.

4.20 WILDFIRE

20.	WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.20.1 Impact Analysis

a) Would the project impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. As discussed in Section 4.9.1 Impact (g), the Proposed Project site is not located in VHFHSZ. The Proposed Project site is located in a built-out, urbanized community that is not considered at high risk for wildfire. All Proposed Project activities will occur within the existing school boundary, and operation of the Proposed Project would continue to operate as an existing school. No impact would occur. No further analysis is required.

b) Would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

No Impact. The school campus is located within an established and built-out urban community that is at low risk for wildfire. The school campus is relatively flat and not located within a VHFHSZ. Additionally, Proposed Project activities would all occur within the existing school campus and would not include the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as road, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, or other utilities) that may exacerbate a fire risk. No impact would occur. No further analysis is required.

c) Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

No Impact. As discussed above in Section 4.20.1 Impact (b), the school campus is not located within a VHFHSZ. Additionally, Proposed Project activities would all occur within the existing school campus and

would not include the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as road, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, or other utilities) that may exacerbate a fire risk. No impact would occur. No further analysis is required.

d) Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability or drainage changes?

No Impact. The school campus is not located within a VHFHSZ. Additionally, the school campus is relatively flat and not at risk of post-fire-induced landslide. No impact would occur. No further analysis is required.

SECTION 5.0 – REFERENCES

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City of Long Beach

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South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)

2017 SCAQMD Final Air Quality Management Plan. Online URL: http://www.aqmd.gov/home/library/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

2018 GeoTracker Database. Online URL: https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=washington+middle+school+long+beach.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

2018 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey. Online URL: https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx.

United States Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

2008 FEMA Flood Map Database. Online URL: https://msc.fema.gov/portal.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

2018a Environmental Conservation Online System - U.S. FWS Threatened & Endangered Species Active Critical Habitat Report. Online URL: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html.

2018b National Wetlands Inventory – Wetlands Mapper. Online URL: https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/Mapper.html.

Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC)

2016 Long Beach Daugherty Field, California Monthly Climate. Online URL: https://wrcc.dri.edu/Climsum.html.

Weeks, Kay D., and Anne E. Grimmer

1995 The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

From: Long Beach Unified School District

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report. The Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed project. LBUSD has prepared an Initial Study and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project identified below:

Project Title: **Washington Middle School Transformation Project**

Agencies: LBUSD requests your agency's views on the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project, in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15082(b).

Organizations and Interested Parties: LBUSD requests your comments regarding the environmental issues associated with construction and operation of the proposed project.

Project Location: Washington Middle School was originally built in 1935-1936. Washington Middle School is located at 1450 Cedar Avenue, Long Beach, California, and is situated in a residential area surrounded by housing on all sides of the property. This school accommodates middle school students from grades 6 to 8. The site is approximately 5 acres in size and encompasses five (5) permanent buildings and (1) relocatable/portable building. The five permanent buildings are approximately 116,000 sq. ft. in size and include three (3) two-story buildings and two (2) single-story buildings. The relocatable/portable building adds an additional 1,450 sq. ft. to the site. Current student enrollment is approximately 983 students. Projected student enrollment is approximately 1,100.

Project Description: The proposed project would include demolition of one (1) relocatable building and five (5) buildings including the Administration Building A, Gymnasium Building D, the Cafeteria Building E, Auditorium Building C, and Classroom (Science/Shop) Building B.

Three (3) new permanent buildings will be constructed: a two- to three- story, 102,000 sq. ft. classroom/administration/cafeteria building, a partial two-story 34,000 square foot gymnasium/locker room/classroom/library building, and a one-story, 14,000 square foot auditorium. New site improvements include a student drop off, semi-subterranean parking structure, artificial turf soccer field, synthetic track, basketball courts, pickleball court, lunch shelter, planting, irrigation, and outdoor learning environments.
Scope includes, but is not limited to:

- HVAC installation in all classrooms, offices, and support spaces (including auditorium and cafeteria) located in permanent buildings on-site.
- New projectors, projector screens, and marker boards in classrooms.
- New projectors and projector screens in cafetorium.
- New tactile signage required throughout the campus for rooms and exits.
- ADA upgrades to paths of travel, drinking fountains, and restrooms.
- Campus-wide Fire Alarm upgrades.
- Interior and exterior paint for all permanent buildings.
- New windows and ceiling tiles on new buildings.

- New landscaping and planting.
- Installation of photovoltaic panels at each roof of new permanent building and battery storage systems.
- Removal of all on-site trees and landscaping.
- Surveillance cameras.

Potential Environmental Effects: Based on the Initial Study prepared for the proposed project, LBUSD has determined that an EIR is the appropriate level of environmental documentation. The EIR analysis will include the provision of alternatives, and topical areas will include: noise, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, transportation, air quality, and tribal cultural resources.

Document Availability: The Initial Study is available for review at the following locations:

- The following libraries:
    - Long Beach Main Library (101 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90822)
    - Signal Hill Library (1770 East Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA 90755)
    - Angelo M. Iacoboni Library (4990 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90712)
    - Washington Middle School, 1450 Cedar Ave Long Beach, CA
    - Online at the LBUSD website https://www.lbschoolbonds.net/ceqa-notice-washington

Agency/Public Comments: LBUSD will accept written comments from February 8th, 2024, to March 11th, 2024. Please indicate a contact person for your agency or organization and send your responses and comments to: David Miranda, Long Beach Unified School District, 2425 Webster Avenue, Long Beach, California 90810. Your comments may also be sent via e-mail to CEQA@lbschools.net (please include the name of the project in the subject heading).

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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

Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 27 2024

Priscilla Garcia
Planning Project Manager
Long Beach Unified School District – Facilities Development and Planning
2425 Webster Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90810
PGarcia2@lbschools.net

RE: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR) FOR THE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL (MS) TRANSFORMATION PROJECT, DATED FEBRUARY 8, 2024 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE # 2024020305

Dear Priscilla Garcia,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a NOP of a DEIR for the Washington MS Transformation Project. The proposed Project would include demolition of one (1) relocatable building and five (5) buildings including Administration Building A, Gymnasium Building D, the Cafeteria Building E, Auditorium Building C, and Classroom (Science/Shop) Building B. Three (3) new permanent buildings will be constructed: a two-to-three-story, 102,000 sq. ft. classroom/administration/cafeteria building, a partial two-story 34,000 sq. ft. gymnasium/ locker room/classroom/library building, and a one-story 14,000 sq. ft. auditorium. New site improvements include a student drop off, semi-subterranean parking structure, artificial turf soccer field, synthetic track, basketball

courts, pickleball court, lunch shelter, planting, irrigation, and outdoor learning environments. Scope includes but is not limited to the following: heating, ventilation and air conditioning installation in all classrooms, offices, and support spaces (including auditorium and cafeteria) located in permanent buildings on-site; new projectors, projector screens, and marker boards in classrooms; new projectors and projector screens in cafetorium; new tactile signage required throughout the campus for rooms and exits; ADA upgrades to paths of travel, drinking fountains, and restrooms; campus-wide fire alarm upgrades; interior and exterior paint for all permanent buildings; new windows and ceiling tiles on new buildings; new landscape and planting; installation of photovoltaic panels at each roof of new permanent building and battery storage systems; removal of all on-site trees and landscaping; and surveillance cameras. Based on our review, DTSC requests consideration of the following comments.

1. If the district plans to use California Department of Education (CDE) State funds for the project, then the district shall comply with the requirements of Education Code (EDC), §17210, §17213.1, and §17213.2, unless otherwise specifically exempted under section §17268. If the district is not using CDE State funds for the project, or is otherwise specifically exempt under section §17268, DTSC recommends the district continue to investigate, clean up the Site under the oversight of Los Angeles County and in concurrence with all applicable DTSC guidance documents, if necessary. For more information on the CDE State funding, please visit the Office of Public-School Consultation webpage.

   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. The NOP states, “The proposed project would include demolition of one (1) relocatable building and five (5) buildings including the

Administration Building A, Gymnasium Building D, the Cafeteria Building E, Auditorium Building C, and Classroom (Science/Shop) Building B." If planned activities include building modifications/demolitions, 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, evaluate whether polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) containing materials is present in onsite buildings and address as necessary to protect human health and the environment and sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's Update to June 2006 Phase I Addendum Guidance

3. If there are any recognized environmental conditions in the project area, then proper investigation, sampling and remedial actions overseen by the appropriate regulatory agencies should be conducted prior to the new development or any construction.

4. DTSC recommends that all imported soil and fill material should be tested to ensure any contaminants of concern are within approved screening levels for the intended land use. To minimize the possibility of introducing contaminated soil and fill material there should be documentation of the origins of the soil or fill material and, if applicable, sampling be conducted to ensure that the imported soil and fill material meets screening levels for the intended land use. The soil sampling should include analysis based on the source of the fill and knowledge of the prior land use. If during construction/demolition of the project, soil and/or groundwater contamination is suspected, construction/demolition in the area should cease and appropriate health and safety procedures should be implemented. If it is determined that contaminated soil and/or groundwater exist, the EIR

should identify how any required investigation and/or remediation will be conducted, and the appropriate government agency to provide regulatory oversight.

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the NOP of a DEIR for the Washington MS Transformation Project. 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: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Dave Kereazis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP – Permitting Division - CEQA Unit
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

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 7
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 266-3574
FAX (213) 897-1337
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov

Making Conservation a California Way of Life

March 7, 2024

Priscilla Garcia, Planning Project Manager
Long Beach Unified School District –
Facilities Development and Planning
2425 Webster Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90810

RE: Washington MS Transformation Project– Notice of Preparation (NOP)
SCH #2024020305
GTS #07-LA-2024-04448
LA-1/PM 6.57

Dear Priscilla Garcia,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The City of Long Beach proposes demolition of one relocatable building and five buildings including the Administration Building A, Gymnasium Building D, the Cafeteria Building E, Auditorium Building C, and Classroom (Science/Shop) Building B on the Long Beach Unified School District campus. New site improvements include a student drop off, semi-subterranean parking structure, artificial turf soccer field, synthetic track, basketball courts, pickleball court, lunch shelter, planting, irrigation, and outdoor learning environments.

After reviewing the NOP, Caltrans has the following comments regarding active transportation:

Caltrans acknowledges that the Initial Study determined that the project would have less than significant impacts with an applicable program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The City of Long Beach Bicycle Master Plan outlines the effort to create a bicycle-friendly city and Caltrans encourages the project to apply those implementation strategies for a more connected regional network. Caltrans also recommends the project enhance the crosswalks on the north end of the project area to high visibility continental crosswalks and repaint the existing continental crosswalks, install bicycle and pedestrian signage, and upgrade bike racks for students to encourage

bike commutes to school. Examples of signage, markings, and other safety elements can be found in the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD).

Caltrans requests an estimate of the increase in parking spaces, and the total number of parking spaces after redevelopment. A figure of the proposed semi-subterranean parking lot will best supplement Caltrans' analysis of any significant environmental impact as a result of the project. As proposed, the project creates a new supply of personal car storage at the existing destination, encouraging further automobile usage as a primary form of transportation. Therefore, the proposed project would be expected to induce demand for additional vehicle trips and contribute towards long-term operational GHG emissions.

Caltrans recommends the implementation of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies as an alternative to building an excessive amount of parking. Reducing the amount of car parking supplied acts against enabling driving over other methods of transit. Research indicates that removing excess car parking is a proven method of reducing trip demand and encouraging active modes of transportation. Additionally, implementing electrical car charging spaces would encourage the usage of plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs) or fully electric vehicles (BEVs), which can help to reduce tailpipe emissions and minimize reliance on fuel.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Frances Duong, at frances.duong@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS #07-LA-2024-04448.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson

Miya Edmonson
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

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NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

February 13, 2024

David Miranda
Long Beach School District
2425 Webster Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90813

Re: 2024020305, Washinton Middle School Transformation Project

Dear Mr. Miranda:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has received the Notice of Preparation (NOP), Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) or Early Consultation for the project referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code §21000 et seq.), specifically Public Resources Code §21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit.14, §15064.5 (b) (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 (b)). If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before a lead agency, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) shall be prepared. (Pub. Resources Code §21080 (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 5064 subd.(a)(1) (CEQA Guidelines §15064 (a)(1)). In order to determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are historical resources within the area of potential effect (APE).

CEQA was amended significantly in 2014. Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) (AB 52) amended CEQA to create a separate category of cultural resources, "tribal cultural resources" (Pub. Resources Code §21074) and provides that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code §21084.2). Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)). **AB 52 applies to any project for which a notice of preparation, a notice of negative declaration, or a mitigated negative declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015.** If your project involves the adoption of or amendment to a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation or proposed designation of open space, on or after March 1, 2005, it may also be subject to Senate Bill 18 (Burton, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (SB 18). **Both SB 18 and AB 52 have tribal consultation requirements.** If your project is also subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the tribal consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (154 U.S.C. 300101, 36 C.F.R. §800 et seq.) may also apply.

The NAHC recommends consultation with California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project as early as possible in order to avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and best protect tribal cultural resources. Below is a brief summary of portions of AB 52 and SB 18 as well as the NAHC's recommendations for conducting cultural resources assessments.

Consult your legal counsel about compliance with AB 52 and SB 18 as well as compliance with any other applicable laws.

AB 52

AB 52 has added to CEQA the additional requirements listed below, along with many other requirements:

1. Fourteen Day Period to Provide Notice of Completion of an Application/Decision to Undertake a Project: Within fourteen (14) days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, a lead agency shall provide formal notification to a designated contact of, or tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, to be accomplished by at least one written notice that includes:

a. A brief description of the project.

b. The lead agency contact information.

c. Notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1 (d)).

d. A "California Native American tribe" is defined as a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of Statutes of 2004 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code §21073).

2. Begin Consultation Within 30 Days of Receiving a Tribe's Request for Consultation and Before Releasing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report: A lead agency shall begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving a request for consultation from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1, subds. (d) and (e)) and prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration or Environmental Impact Report. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1(b)).

a. For purposes of AB 52, "consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in Gov. Code §65352.4 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1 (b)).

3. Mandatory Topics of Consultation If Requested by a Tribe: The following topics of consultation, if a tribe requests to discuss them, are mandatory topics of consultation:

a. Alternatives to the project.

b. Recommended mitigation measures.

c. Significant effects. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (a)).

4. Discretionary Topics of Consultation: The following topics are discretionary topics of consultation:

a. Type of environmental review necessary.

b. Significance of the tribal cultural resources.

c. Significance of the project's impacts on tribal cultural resources.

d. If necessary, project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the tribe may recommend to the lead agency. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (a)).

5. Confidentiality of Information Submitted by a Tribe During the Environmental Review Process: With some exceptions, any information, including but not limited to, the location, description, and use of tribal cultural resources submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with Government Code §6254 (r) and §6254.10. Any information submitted by a California Native American tribe during the consultation or environmental review process shall be published in a confidential appendix to the environmental document unless the tribe that provided the information consents, in writing, to the disclosure of some or all of the information to the public. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (c)(1)).

6. Discussion of Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources in the Environmental Document: If a project may have a significant impact on a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency's environmental document shall discuss both of the following:

a. Whether the proposed project has a significant impact on an identified tribal cultural resource.

b. Whether feasible alternatives or mitigation measures, including those measures that may be agreed to pursuant to Public Resources Code §21082.3, subdivision (a), avoid or substantially lessen the impact on the identified tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (b)).

7. Conclusion of Consultation: Consultation with a tribe shall be considered concluded when either of the following occurs:

a. The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource; or

b. A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (b)).

8. Recommending Mitigation Measures Agreed Upon in Consultation in the Environmental Document: Any mitigation measures agreed upon in the consultation conducted pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.2 shall be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document and in an adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program, if determined to avoid or lessen the impact pursuant to Public Resources Code §21082.3, subdivision (b), paragraph 2, and shall be fully enforceable. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (a)).

9. Required Consideration of Feasible Mitigation: If mitigation measures recommended by the staff of the lead agency as a result of the consultation process are not included in the environmental document or if there are no agreed upon mitigation measures at the conclusion of consultation, or if consultation does not occur, and if substantial evidence demonstrates that a project will cause a significant effect to a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency shall consider feasible mitigation pursuant to Public Resources Code §21084.3 (b). (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (e)).

10. Examples of Mitigation Measures That, If Feasible, May Be Considered to Avoid or Minimize Significant Adverse Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources:

a. Avoidance and preservation of the resources in place, including, but not limited to:

i. Planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context.

ii. Planning greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.

b. Treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following:

i. Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource.

ii. Protecting the traditional use of the resource.

iii. Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.

c. Permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places.

d. Protecting the resource. (Pub. Resource Code §21084.3 (b)).

e. Please note that a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a non-federally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC to protect a California prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place may acquire and hold conservation easements if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. (Civ. Code §815.3 (c)).

f. Please note that it is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated. (Pub. Resources Code §5097.991).

11. Prerequisites for Certifying an Environmental Impact Report or Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration with a Significant Impact on an Identified Tribal Cultural Resource: An Environmental Impact Report may not be certified, nor may a mitigated negative declaration or a negative declaration be adopted unless one of the following occurs:

a. The consultation process between the tribes and the lead agency has occurred as provided in Public Resources Code §21080.3.1 and §21080.3.2 and concluded pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.2.

b. The tribe that requested consultation failed to provide comments to the lead agency or otherwise failed to engage in the consultation process.

c. The lead agency provided notice of the project to the tribe in compliance with Public Resources Code §21080.3.1 (d) and the tribe failed to request consultation within 30 days. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (d)).

The NAHC's PowerPoint presentation titled, "Tribal Consultation Under AB 52: Requirements and Best Practices" may be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation_CalEPAPDF.pdf

SB 18

SB 18 applies to local governments and requires local governments to contact, provide notice to, refer plans to, and consult with tribes prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation of open space. (Gov. Code §65352.3). Local governments should consult the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's "Tribal Consultation Guidelines," which can be found online at: https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/09_14_05_Updated_Guidelines_922.pdf.

Some of SB 18's provisions include:

1. Tribal Consultation: If a local government considers a proposal to adopt or amend a general plan or a specific plan, or to designate open space it is required to contact the appropriate tribes identified by the NAHC by requesting a "Tribal Consultation List." If a tribe, once contacted, requests consultation the local government must consult with the tribe on the plan proposal. **A tribe has 90 days from the date of receipt of notification to request consultation unless a shorter timeframe has been agreed to by the tribe.** (Gov. Code §65352.3 (a)(2)).
2. No Statutory Time Limit on SB 18 Tribal Consultation. There is no statutory time limit on SB 18 tribal consultation.
3. Confidentiality: Consistent with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Gov. Code §65040.2, the city or county shall protect the confidentiality of the information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of places, features and objects described in Public Resources Code §5097.9 and §5097.993 that are within the city's or county's jurisdiction. (Gov. Code §65352.3 (b)).
4. Conclusion of SB 18 Tribal Consultation: Consultation should be concluded at the point in which:
    a. The parties to the consultation come to a mutual agreement concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
    b. Either the local government or the tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached concerning the appropriate measures of preservation or mitigation. (Tribal Consultation Guidelines, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (2005) at p. 18).

Agencies should be aware that neither AB 52 nor SB 18 precludes agencies from initiating tribal consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with their jurisdictions before the timeframes provided in AB 52 and SB 18. For that reason, we urge you to continue to request Native American Tribal Contact Lists and "Sacred Lands File" searches from the NAHC. The request forms can be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/forms/.

NAHC Recommendations for Cultural Resources Assessments

To adequately assess the existence and significance of tribal cultural resources and plan for avoidance, preservation in place, or barring both, mitigation of project-related impacts to tribal cultural resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

1. Contact the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) Center (https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30331) for an archaeological records search. The records search will determine:
    a. If part or all of the APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
    b. If any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
    c. If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
    d. If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
    a. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum and not be made available for public disclosure.
    b. The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional CHRIS center.

3. Contact the NAHC for:
   a. A Sacred Lands File search. Remember that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the Sacred Lands File, nor are they required to do so. A Sacred Lands File search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project's APE.
   b. A Native American Tribal Consultation List of appropriate tribes for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in planning for avoidance, preservation in place, or, failing both, mitigation measures.

4. Remember that the lack of surface evidence of archaeological resources (including tribal cultural resources) does not preclude their subsurface existence.
   a. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of inadvertently discovered archaeological resources per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15064.5(f) (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(f)). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
   b. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the disposition of recovered cultural items that are not burial associated in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
   c. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98, and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15064.5, subdivisions (d) and (e) (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5, subds. (d) and (e)) address the processes to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery of any Native American human remains and associated grave goods in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Green

Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

cc: State Clearinghouse