

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

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Renata Ooms
Los Angeles Department of City Planning
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

PROJECT LOCATION: 3160 West Geneva Street
PROJECT: A 30,000 square-foot addition to the former Shriner's Children's Hospital resulting in a 169,000 square-foot mixed use development with outpatient medical clinic, medical office uses, and 40 Senior Independent Living Units

Presented below are comments submitted on behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) regarding the subject project located at 3160 West Geneva Street. LAUSD is concerned about the potential negative impacts of the project on our students, staff and parents traveling to and from Commonwealth Elementary School due to the fact that the project site is approximately 580 ft from the school. Based on the extent/location of the proposed development, it is our opinion that environmental impacts on the surrounding community (traffic, pedestrian safety) may occur. Since the project may have an environmental impact on LAUSD schools, recommended conditions designed to help reduce or eliminate potential impacts are included in this response.

Traffic/Transportation

LAUSD's Transportation Branch **must be contacted** at (213) 580-2950 regarding the potential impact upon existing school bus routes. The Project Manager or designee will have to notify the LAUSD Transportation Branch of the expected start and ending dates for various portions of the project that may affect traffic within nearby school areas. To ensure that effective conditions are employed to reduce construction and operation related transportation impacts on District sites, including the net increase of 1000 or more daily vehicle trips, we ask that the following language be included in the recommended conditions for traffic impacts:

- School buses must have unrestricted access to schools.
- During the construction phase, truck traffic and construction vehicles may not cause traffic delays for our transported students.
- During and after construction changed traffic patterns, lane adjustment, traffic light patterns, and altered bus stops may not affect school buses' on-time performance and passenger safety.
- Construction trucks and other vehicles are required to stop when encountering school buses using red-flashing-lights must-stop-indicators per the California Vehicle Code.
- Contractors must install and maintain appropriate traffic controls (signs and signals) to ensure vehicular safety.

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*Our Mission: To ensure a safe and healthy environment for students to learn, teachers to teach, and employees to work.
Our Vision: To eliminate all environmental health and safety risks at schools.*

- Contractors must maintain ongoing communication with LAUSD school administrators, providing sufficient notice to forewarn children and parents when existing vehicle routes to school may be impacted.
- Parents dropping off their children must have access to the passenger loading areas.

Pedestrian Safety

Construction activities that include street closures, the presence of heavy equipment and increased truck trips to haul materials on and off the project site can lead to safety hazards for people walking in the vicinity of the construction site. To ensure that effective conditions are employed to reduce construction and operation related pedestrian safety impacts on District sites, we ask that the following language be included in the recommended conditions for pedestrian safety impacts:

- Contractors must maintain ongoing communication with LAUSD school administrators, providing sufficient notice to forewarn children, and parents when existing pedestrian routes to school may be impacted.
- Contractors must maintain safe and convenient pedestrian routes to all nearby schools. The District will provide School Pedestrian Route Maps upon your request.
- Contractors must install and maintain appropriate traffic controls (signs and signals) to ensure pedestrian and vehicular safety.
- Haul routes are not to pass by any school, except when school is not in session.
- No staging or parking of construction-related vehicles, including worker-transport vehicles, will occur on or adjacent to a school property.
- Funding for crossing guards at the contractor's expense is required when safety of children may be compromised by construction-related activities at impacted school crossings.
- Barriers and/or fencing must be installed to secure construction equipment and to minimize trespassing, vandalism, short-cut attractions, and attractive nuisances.
- Contractors are required to provide security patrols (at their expense) to minimize trespassing, vandalism, and short-cut attractions.

The District's charge is to protect the health and safety of students and staff, and the integrity of the learning environment. The comments presented above identify potential environmental impacts related to the proposed project that must be addressed to ensure the welfare of the students attending Commonwealth Elementary School, their teachers and the staff, as well as to assuage the concerns of the parents of these students. Therefore, the recommended conditions set forth in these comments should be adopted as conditions of project approval to offset environmental impacts on the affected school students and staff when school is in session.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you need additional information, please contact me at (323) 286-7377.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alex Campbell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alex Campbell
Assistant CEQA Project Manager