

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF EDUCATION MARTHA DEUTSCH DON LEE TERRY RAGINS MARK STEFFEN MICHAEL WERMERS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS GEORGE W. MANNON, Ed.D.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION South High School Auditorium Project

Public Notice: Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as amended, Torrance Unified School District (District), as lead agency, intends to adopt an Initial Study/Mitigation Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the South High School Auditorium Project.

Project Title: South High School Auditorium Project

Project Location: The project site comprises three general areas on the South High School campus at 4801 Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) in the City of Torrance: tennis courts near the southwest corner, a ball field on the east-central boundary, and a grass field in the center of the campus.

Project Description: The proposed project is construction and operation of a new auditorium on the South High School campus that would be developed near the southwest corner of the school, at PCH and a driveway into the school's main parking lot. The new structure would displace four tennis courts, which would be relocated to a practice ball field near other tennis courts on the eastern perimeter of the campus. The proposed project would also require the installation of a new baseball backstop in the center of the campus. The auditorium would be 13,900 square feet, with seating for up to 550 spectators, including 494 fixed seats.

Development of the proposed auditorium would not significantly change the operations of the school, which already offers a performing arts program and holds day- and nighttime performances and events in another school facility. The existing facility accommodates 500 folding chairs for performances and productions. The proposed auditorium, with 550 spectator seats, could increase event attendance by up to 50 spectators. However, the project does not include new classrooms and consequently does not change the school's enrollment capacity or operations. Although no joint-use programs are proposed for the auditorium, the facility would be available for community use through the Civic Center Act.

Environmental Documentation: The District has prepared an Initial Study in accordance with CEQA to determine whether the project may have a significant effect on the environment. On the basis of this Initial Study, the District has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore prepared a MND. The Initial Study reflects the independent judgment of the District.

The project site is not on a list of hazardous waste sites compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5. The proposed project is not considered a project of statewide, regional, or area-wide significance. A scoping meeting will not be held by the lead agency.

Public Review: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, responsible and trustee agencies and other interested parties, including members of the public, may submit comments in response to this notice no later than 30 days after receipt. The Notice of Intent (NOI) and accompanying Initial Study are available for a 30-day public review period beginning June 30, 2015, and ending July 29, 2015.

A copy of the Initial Study and supporting documents are available for review at:

- § Torrance Unified School District Administration, 2335 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance, CA 90501
- § Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90503
- § The District's website at <u>http://www.tusd.org/</u>

Public Comments: Written comments on the proposed project must be received no later than July 29, 2015, and should be directed to the attention of Donald Stabler, Deputy Superintendent, at the address below:

Donald Stabler Deputy Superintendent Torrance Unified School District 2335 Plaza Del Amo Torrance, CA 90501 <u>dstabler@tusd.org</u>

Public Meeting: Submitted comments will be considered by the Torrance Unified School District Board of Education prior to their decision regarding the adoption of the IS/MND and approval of the proposed project, slated for the regular board meeting to be held on September 15, 2015, at 7:30 PM or soon thereafter at the District Board Room in the Educational Materials Building (EMB) at 2336 Plaza del Amo, Torrance. Please contact TUSD at 310.972.6500 to confirm the date and time.