



October 2020 | Response to Comments
State Clearinghouse No. 2020090205

VAUGHN NEXT CENTURY LEARNING CENTER

Administrative, Media/Literacy
& Kitchen Building Project

LEAD AGENCY: Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 21st Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017

Contact: Eimon Smith, CEQA Project Manager

APPLICANT: Vaughn Next Century Learning Center Charter School

13330 Vaughn Street, Los Angeles, CA 91340

Contact: Dr. Yvonne Chan, Principal, Facilities Director



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1. Introduction

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This document includes the public comments received on the Vaughn Next Century Learning Center Administrative, Media/Literacy & Kitchen Building Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and supporting Initial Study along with the Lead Agency responses to those comments.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, Division 13, Sections 21000 et seq. and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000 et seq.), a lead agency has no affirmative duty to prepare formal responses to comments on an MND. The lead agency, however, should have adequate information on the record explaining why the comments do not affect the conclusion of the MND. In the spirit of public disclosure and engagement, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)—as the lead agency for the proposed Project—has responded to all written comments submitted during the 30-day public review period.

1.2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15072 and 15073, the LAUSD determined that an MND would be required for this proposed Project and circulated a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) and the MND. The public review period for this CEQA document was from September 11, 2020 to October 10, 2020. Public outreach for the MND included the following methods.

U.S. Postal Mail

- NOI sent to addresses within 300 feet of project site— owner/occupant mailings
- NOI sent to Los Angeles County Clerk

Document Availability

The NOI and MND were available for review at the following locations:

- LAUSD website at: <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>
- Vaughn Next Century Learning Center website at: www.myvaughncharter.com
- California State Clearinghouse at: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>

1. Introduction

Community Outreach

A virtual public meeting was held on October 21, 2020 at 4:30 PM. The meeting provided agencies and the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed Project and the MND.

1.3 DOCUMENT FORMAT

This document is organized as follows:

Section 1, *Introduction.* This section describes CEQA requirements and content of this document.

Section 2, *Response to Comments.* This section provides a list of agencies, organizations, and interested persons that commented on the MND; comment letters received during the public review period; and individual responses to written comments. To facilitate review of the responses, each comment letter has been reproduced and assigned a letter. Individual comments in each letter are numbered, and each letter is followed by responses, with reference to the corresponding comment number.

1.4 CEQA REQUIREMENTS REGARDING COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 (b) outlines parameters for submitting comments on MNDs and reminds persons and public agencies that the focus of review and comment should be “on the proposed finding that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.” If the commenter believes that the project may have a significant effect, it should: (1) Identify the specific effect, (2) Explain why they believe the effect would occur, and (3) Explain why they believe the effect would be significant.

Comments are most helpful when they suggest additional specific alternatives or mitigation measures that would provide better ways to avoid or mitigate the significant environmental effects. At the same time, reviewers should be aware that the adequacy of an MND is determined in terms of what is reasonably feasible.

Section 15204 (d) also states, “Each responsible agency and trustee agency shall focus its comments on environmental information germane to that agency’s statutory responsibility.” Section 15204 (e) states, “This section shall not be used to restrict the ability of reviewers to comment on the general adequacy of a document or of the lead agency to reject comments not focused as recommended by this section.”

Finally, CEQA does not require a lead agency to conduct every test or perform all research, study, and experimentation recommended or demanded by commenters. Written responses to comments are not required for MNDs; however, it is LAUSD’s policy to respond in writing to all comments. When responding to comments, lead agencies need only respond to potentially significant environmental issues and do not need to provide all information requested by reviewers, as long as a good faith effort at full disclosure is made in the environmental document.

1. Introduction

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2. Response to Comments

This section has the written comments received on the circulated MND and LAUSD's response to each comment. The comment does not address the adequacy of the CEQA document; however, the District has still responded.

Comment Reference	Commenting Person / Agency	Date of Comment	Page Number
A	California Department of Transportation	October 1, 2020	6

2. Response to Comments

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2. Response to Comments

COMMENT A

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

Gavin Newsom, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 7- OFFICE OF REGIONAL PLANNING
100 S. MAIN STREET, SUITE 100
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 897-0087
FAX (213) 897-1337
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www.dot.ca.gov



Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.

October 1, 2020

Los Angeles Unified School District
Attn: Eimon Smith
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 21st Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017

RE: Vaughn Next Century Learning Center
Administrative, Media/Literacy & Kitchen
Building Project – Mitigated Negative
Declaration (MND)
SCH# 2020080265
GTS# 07-LA-2020-03369
Vic. LA-118 PM R13.017

Dear Eimon Smith,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The proposed Project consists of the removal of the existing 2,582 square-foot, one-story administration building and replacement with a new 26,000 square-foot, two-story building that will include six learning pods (equivalent to 12 classrooms), health and administrative offices, a media/literacy center, a teacher work room, and a cooking cafeteria. The Project would not change existing site access, circulation, parking, roadways or sidewalks.

The nearest State facility to the proposed project is State Route 118. After reviewing the MND, Caltrans does not expect project approval to result in a direct adverse impact to the existing State transportation facilities. However, transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

A-1

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2020-03369.

Sincerely,
Miya Edmonson
MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief
cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system
to enhance California's economy and livability"*

2. Response to Comments

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2. Response to Comments

A. **Response to Comments from the California Department of Transportation, dated October 1, 2020**

- A-1 Comment noted. LAUSD will comply with permit requirements for State highways. Additionally, LAUSD has Standard Conditions of Approval that requires construction activities that affect traffic flow are restricted to off-peak hours (e.g. between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM). No further analysis is required.

2. Response to Comments

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