



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**To:** Reviewing Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**From:** Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District  
1651 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Monica, California 90404  
Contact: Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer, 310-450-8338 x79383

**Subject:** Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the John Adams Middle School Campus Improvement Project

**Lead Agency:** Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

**Environmental Information:** The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (District), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has completed a Draft Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the John Adams Middle School Campus Improvement Project (Proposed Project) in accordance with CEQA. The District is providing notice in compliance with Title 14, Chapter 3, sections 15072 and 15073 of the California Code of Regulations, as amended. The IS/MND was undertaken for the purpose of determining whether the Proposed Project may have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of mitigation measures. The IS/MND reflects the independent judgement of the District.

**Project Location:** The project site encompasses a 5.2-acre portion of the JAMS campus, located at 2425 16<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Santa Monica, California. The project site is bordered to the northwest by the JAMS Performing Arts Complex along Pearl Street, to the southwest by 16<sup>th</sup> Street, to the northeast by 17<sup>th</sup> Street, and to the southeast by campus athletic fields along Ocean Park Boulevard. The JAMS campus is listed under Government Code section 65962.5 on a hazardous materials database (Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor Database) for past cleanup actions, including the removal of polychlorinated biphenyls, asbestos-containing waste, waste oil, surplus organics, laboratory waste chemicals, and soils contaminated with lead and organochlorine pesticides. Because the contaminated soils and other hazardous wastes were disposed of off-site, this listing is not considered an environmental concern.

**Project Description:** The District is proposing improvements to the JAMS campus based on the 2020 Campus Master Plan. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to implement campus modernization efforts needed to align with the District's educational specifications. Overall, the Proposed Project would occur over four phases and would result in demolition of one existing building, construction of one new building, and renovation/reuse of six existing buildings over an approximate span of 10 to 15 years. Phase 1, which is currently funded, would include upgrading the existing library and courtyard. Subsequent phases would be constructed as funding becomes available and would include constructing a new Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math building; creating a defined space for the 6<sup>th</sup>

grade cohort; modernizing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade courtyard; installing new hardscaping and landscaping within the central quad; and renovating the existing cafeteria.

**Public Review and Comments:** This Notice of Intent and accompanying MND and supporting reference materials are available for a 30-day public review period beginning November 14, 2022, and ending December 14, 2022. Physical copies of the MND and supporting documents are available for review at the District's Office at 1651 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Monica, California 90405. The District's office is open from the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Electronic copies of the MND and supporting documents are available on the District's website at <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/5599>.

The District invites you to comment on the IS/MND. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, responsible and trustee agencies and other interested parties, including members of the public, must submit any comments in response to this notice no later than **5:00 p.m.** on December 14, 2022. Written comments on the IS/MND shall be addressed to *Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, 2828 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, California 90405*. If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer, 310-450-8338 x79383 or [cupton@smmusd.org](mailto:cupton@smmusd.org). The District will not consider tardy comments.

**Public Meeting:** A public meeting will be held to provide the community an opportunity to learn about the Proposed Project and comment on the IS/MND. The meeting will be held on December 12, 2022 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the following location:

John Adams Middle School  
Performance Lab (In the Performing Arts Complex)  
2425 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

**Board of Education Meeting:** Following the end of the public review period, a public meeting to consider the IS/MND and Proposed Project will be held at 5:30 p.m. on January 19, 2023, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Offices at 1651 16th St., Santa Monica, CA 90404.