

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

[X] Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814

[X] County Clerk
County of: Los Angeles
Address: 12400 E Imperial Highway Room 1201 Norwalk, California 90650

From:

Public Agency: Santa Monica-Malibu USD
Address: 1651 16th Street Santa Monica, California 90404
Contact: Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer
Phone: 310-399-5865 x79383

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Address:
Contact:
Phone:

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse):

Project Title: John Adams Middle School Campus Improvement Project

Project Applicant: Not applicable

Project Location (include county): 2425 16th Street, Santa Monica, Los Angeles County, California 90405

Project Description:

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 6th grade cohort; modernizing the 8th grade courtyard; installing new hardscaping and landscaping within the central quad, and renovating the existing cafeteria. See attached resolution.

This is to advise that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has approved the above (X) Lead Agency or ( ) Responsible Agency

described project on (date) and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

- 1. The project [ ] will [X] will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. [ ] An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. [X] A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [X] were [ ] were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [X] was [ ] was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [ ] was [X] was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [X] were [ ] were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Santa Monica-Malibu USD, Facility Improvement Projects Office, 2828 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Signature (Public Agency): CAREY UPTON Title: CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

Date: 1/19/23 Date Received for filing at OPR:

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-30**

**ADOPTING THE JOHN ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT'S  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING  
PROGRAM AND DECIDING TO CARRY OUT THE PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District ("District") developed the John Adams Middle School Campus Improvement Project to upgrade campus facilities at John Adams Middle School ("JAMS") located at 2425 16th Street in the City of Santa Monica ("Project");

**WHEREAS**, the Project consists of 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 6th grade cohort; modernizing the 8th grade courtyard; installing new hardscaping and landscaping within the central quad, and renovating the existing cafeteria;

**WHEREAS**, the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires the District to evaluate and determine whether the Project could create significant environmental impacts and develop and adopt feasible mitigation measures to reduce such impacts to less than significant;

**WHEREAS**, the District engaged Ascent Environmental ("Ascent") to conduct CEQA review of the Project;

**WHEREAS**, Ascent analyzed the Project and determined that it could potentially create significant environmental impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards, hazardous materials, noise, transportation and traffic, and tribal cultural resources, but that implementation of certain mitigation measures would reduce all such impacts to less than significant and that a Mitigated Negative Declaration ("MND") is the appropriate environmental document;

**WHEREAS**, Ascent prepared an MND that describes the Project, analyzes the potential environmental impacts, and identifies mitigation measures to reduce all those significant environmental impacts to less than significant;

**WHEREAS**, the MND was noticed and circulated for public comment according to CEQA's procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, the District received three comments which stated concerns that the District was piecemealing this Proposed Project and other District school projects. However, Ascent addressed these concerns by clarifying in responses to comments contained in the Final that this Proposed Project and other District school projects are not related and have independent utility. The responses further explain that each project is a separate and distinct school site with completely different students, staff, faculty, and location, and that the potential cumulative impacts were analyzed in the MND and found to be less than cumulatively considerable. Ascent made minor revisions to the text of the MND that are intended to clarify or elaborate upon the findings in the MND and do not constitute a substantial revision of the MND.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that based upon the whole of the administrative record, the MND, and the MMRP, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education ("Board") hereby finds the following:

1. That the above recitals are true and correct.
2. The Board has independently reviewed and considered the MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.
3. There is no fair argument or substantial evidence that the mitigated Project will have a potentially significant effect on the environment, and an environmental impact report is not required.
4. This Resolution wholly reflects the District's independent judgment and analysis.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby adopts:

1. The MND prepared by Ascent dated January 2023.
2. The Project's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby decides to carry out (i.e., approve) the Project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Interim Superintendent or designee serve as the custodian of the documents and other materials that constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Board's decision is based. The record of proceedings shall be maintained at the District's offices at 1651 Sixteenth Street, Santa Monica, California 90404.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the Interim Superintendent or designee to file with the County Clerk a Notice of Determination for the decision to carry out the Project.


**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County at its regularly scheduled meeting held on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.

AYES: 7  
NOES: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
ABSENT: 0



Jon Kean, Acting President  
Board of Education

I, Dr. Mark Kelly, Secretary of the Board of Education of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, do certify that the foregoing Resolution was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the Board of Education at its regularly scheduled board meeting held on this day of January 19, 2023.



Dr. Mark Kelly, Interim Superintendent  
Santa Monica-Malibu  
Unified School District