



Date: October 2, 2023

Subject: Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Herbert Hoover Elementary School Replacement Campus Project

Lead Agency/Sponsor: Palo Alto Unified School District

Project Title: Herbert Hoover Elementary School Reconstruction Project

Notice is hereby given that Palo Alto Unified School District (“the District”), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared an Initial Study (IS) for the Herbert Hoover Elementary School Replacement Campus Project (Proposed Project) pursuant to CEQA. Based on the IS, District determined that, with mitigation, the Proposed Project would have no significant adverse impacts on the environment and a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is the appropriate CEQA compliance document. The District is providing public notice in compliance with Title 14, Chapter 3, §§ 15072 and 15073, of the California Code of Regulations, as amended.

Project Location: The Proposed Project site (PPS) is located at 445 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto, California 94306. The PPS includes the existing Herbert Hoover Elementary School and a southern portion of the J.L. Stanford Middle School (JLSMS) athletic fields.

Project Description: The Proposed Project would involve demolishing the entirety of the school campus, including approximately 30 feet of the adjoining JLSMS athletic fields owned by the District and developing an all-electric campus using pre-fabrication where available. The updated facility would maintain the same student capacity of 405 students for grades K through 5. The main entrance to the school campus and the administration and library building would be constructed to face East Charleston Road along the southern boundary of the PPS. The single-story building would include administration offices in the eastern portion of the building, library facilities in the center, and an enrichment classroom in the western portion. The classrooms would be housed in two separate buildings creating an open area in the center of the PPS for playgrounds, playing fields, circulation, and hardcourts that would face and promote access to the JLSMS athletic fields. One building would be a single-story kindergarten complex within the southwestern portion of the campus encompassing three kindergarten classrooms. The remaining grades would be housed in a single, two-story building located along the eastern boundary of the PPS perpendicular to the eastern half of the administration and library building. The Proposed Project also includes a multi-purpose building located just north of the two-story classroom building. The existing access and circulation pattern would be removed and concentrated along the eastern boundary of the PPS improving safety access for bicycles and pedestrians accessing the school grounds. The massing of the elementary school classrooms would allow the development of a one-way access/egress pattern with parking and bike paths connecting to Waverley Street and the JLSMS athletic fields.



Potential Environmental Impacts: Some potentially significant impacts were identified related to air quality, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, and tribal cultural resources. Each of these impacts would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level if the identified mitigation measures are implemented. The District has agreed to implement the mitigation measures and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, thereby decreasing these impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Notice of Availability: The public review period will commence on Monday, October 2, 2023, and will close on Wednesday November 1, 2023. The IS/MND is available for review at 1) the Palo Alto Unified School District Main Office, 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306, and 2) on the District's website: www.pausd.org.

Written Comments: Comments on the IS/MND must be received, in writing, by the end of the review period, November 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Submit comments to: Eric Holm, Director of Facilities and Construction, at eholm@pausd.org or mail to:

Palo Alto Unified School District
Attn: Eric Holm
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D
Palo Alto, California 94306