

**APPENDIX D – George Washington Middle School Historical Resources
Proposed Mitigation Measures**





MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas Strand, Senior Environmental Planner, Chambers Group
FROM: Amanda Taylor, Principal Architectural Historian, Kleinfelder
DATE: August 1, 2024
SUBJECT: George Washington Middle School Historical Resources Proposed Mitigation Measures

Kleinfelder understands that Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) plans to demolish the buildings, including Building A – Administration Building and Building B – Science and Shop Building, on the George Washington Middle School campus in order to build a new school campus comprised of four new buildings (Project). Kleinfelder’s principal architectural historian has reviewed the project to assess potential mitigation measures to historical resources under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

As part of compliance with the CEQA, the LBUSD completed a District-Wide Historical Resources Assessment in 2017 that determined the George Washington Middle School eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C and the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) under Criterion 3 as a representative example of a Works Project Administration/Public Works Administration Moderne-style school campus designed after the 1933 Long Beach earthquake and as the work of architect Horace Austin. Kleinfelder confirmed this determination of eligibility in 2024. Therefore, the George Washington Middle School is considered a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. Both Building A – Administration Building and Building B – Science and Shop Building contribute to the historic significance of the school. The Project will result in the demolition of all buildings that contribute to the historic integrity of this historical resource; therefore, the Project will result in a substantial adverse change under CEQA.

Because the Project will result in the demolition of all buildings that contribute to the historical significance of the resource, the Project cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level under CEQA. However, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation be undertaken even if it does not mitigate below a level of significance. In this context, recordation, material salvage, and interpretation serve a legitimate archival purpose. The level of documentation required as a mitigation should be proportionate with the level of significance of the resource. Kleinfelder recommends the following mitigation measures to lessen the impact the Project will have to the historical resource:

- **MM-1: Historic American Buildings Survey-like Documentation:** Prior to the commencement of demolition, the LBUSD should record the contributing buildings through a documentation report based on Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) standards. The report will be completed by an architectural historian or historic architect who meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards and will be based on the National Park Service (NPS) HABS



Level III format and content requirements. The HABS-like report will include digital photographs documenting the interior and exterior of the building, a historical summary, and copies of any available as-builts for the contributing buildings. A hard copy and digital copy of the HABS-like report will be filed with LBUSD, and additional copies may be deposited in the collections of the Long Beach Public Library and Long Beach Heritage Museum, if requested. A digital copy will also be deposited in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC).

- **MM-2: Salvage and Use of Salvaged Materials:** Prior to the commencement of demolition, LBUSD should coordinate with an architectural historian or historic architect who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, the project architect, and the demolition contractor to develop a list of materials that would be salvaged during demolition and a salvage plan which may include architectural history monitoring during demolition. Salvaged items may be reused as a part of the new school project or elsewhere within the school site or LBUSD. Salvaged items may also be incorporated into interpretive displays within the school (if displayed in an appropriate, archival manner) or donated to museums or historical societies or other appropriate organizations.
- **MM-3: Interpretive Exhibit:** The LBUSD should coordinate with an architectural historian who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Standards to create an exhibit about the contributing school buildings that would be displayed in the Washington Middle School library or other well visited location in the school. The exhibit would consist of three panels with each measuring 24" wide and 36" long. The exhibit could include existing or historic photos or plans, along with information about the buildings' history and significance. The Office of Historic Resources (OHR) is provided one round of review and comment on the exhibit.

These mitigation measures preserve the historic significance of the historic resources through documentation, retention of materials, and interpretation to make sure its significance is documented and accessible after demolition.