

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

May 17, 2024

Christy Wong
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 S. Beaudry Ave, 21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

May 10 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: James A. Garfield High School Major
Modernization Project: Mitigated
Negative Declaration (MND)
GTS # 07-LA-2024-04510
SCH # 2024040744
Vic. LA 60/PM R3.959
LA 710/PM 24.262
LA 5/PM 12.971

Dear Christy Wong:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. The proposed Project is designed to address the most critical physical concerns of the buildings and grounds at Garfield HS through building replacement, renovation, and modernization to provide facilities that are safe, secure, and better aligned with the current instructional program. The proposed Project includes demolishing two permanent buildings and two portable buildings, demolishing a second-story pedestrian bridge, constructing a staff parking lot, and constructing a new permanent building that provides adequate learning spaces and support areas. Additionally, the proposed Project includes upgrading and replacing aging utilities and infrastructure, Internet Protocol (IP) convergence, and new landscaping and hardscaping. Limited modernization of existing structures including accessible facilities consistent with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and seismic retrofit pursuant to California Assembly Bill 300 would also be implemented. The PEA-E and SRP present the findings of the site assessment investigations performed for this proposed Project. The campus is not on any of the lists compiled under Government Code Section 65926.5. The Los Angeles Unified School District is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The closest state facilities are SR-60, I-710, and I-5. After reviewing the project's documents, Caltrans has the following comments:

To meet the goals and objectives of community placemaking and safe urban design, Caltrans encourages the Lead Agency to incorporate multi-modal infrastructure along and within the school boundaries for people walking, riding bicycles, and riding transit. This

infrastructure should include ADA-compliant design, adequate sidewalks, high visibility crosswalks, class IV bike lanes, and bike parking to best create a fully accessible Complete Street.

Caltrans will require an Encroachment Permit for work performed within the State Right-of-way. Caltrans recommends that large-size truck travel be limited to off-peak commute hours. Caltrans requires a permit for any heavy construction equipment and or materials that require the use of oversized transport vehicles on State highways.

Caltrans recommends that the Project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jaden Oloresisimo, the project coordinator, at Jaden.Oloresisimo@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2024-04510.

Sincerely,

Anthony Higgins for

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse