

BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Attachment: Public Hearing 16
Discussion**

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: 10.27.09

TO: Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Bob Golton, Co-CBO and Bond Program Manager

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, California (Palo Alto High School)

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE

Budget Trends and Infrastructure

BACKGROUND

On March 31, 2009, the Board of Education approved the master plan for Palo Alto High School prepared by DLM Architects. Pursuant to this effort, staff engaged Environmental Sciences Associates (ESA) to provide environmental studies for the high school campuses.

ESA has prepared a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the master plan project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The project is currently in the review period, and a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been distributed to affected Public Agencies, concerned citizens and interested parties. The review period commenced on October 5, 2009, and is scheduled to end on November 5, 2009.

No significant, unavoidable impacts have been identified. Some potentially significant impacts were identified related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, noise, transportation/traffic, and utilities and services systems. Each of these impacts would be mitigated to a less than significant level if the identified mitigation measures are implemented. PAUSD has agreed to the implementation of the mitigation measures and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

These documents are available for review at (1) the Palo Alto Unified School District Main Office, 25 Churchill, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306, and (2) at <http://pausd.org/community/MeasureA/downloads/schoolmm/CEQA%20Paly%20High%20School%20IS%20Signed.pdf>.

PROPOSAL

After completion of the review period, staff will provide responses to any comments received by reviewing agencies. After compilation of a final Mitigated Negative Declaration, it will be recommended at a future meeting that the Board adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Palo Alto High School master plan.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is necessary at this time.

**PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL MASTER PLAN
NOTICE OF REVIEW PERIOD FOR
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for
50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, California**

To: Public Agencies and Concerned
Citizens/Interested Parties

From: Palo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Project Applicant: Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice: Notice is hereby given that the Palo Alto Unified School District ("PAUSD"), acting as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the subject project. The review period is to end on Nov 5, 2009.

Project Location: The project site is located at 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, California. The parcel is located on the southeast of the intersection of Embarcadero Road and El Camino Real.

Project Description: The proposed project features construction of new buildings and other structures; renovation of some existing buildings; utility and infrastructure improvements; open space and landscaping enhancements; and pedestrian/bicycle/vehicular circulation improvements. Group 1 projects include improvements to athletic fields. Group 2 projects include a two-story, 27-room Classroom Building, and a two-story Media Arts Center. Group 3 includes a new 600-seat theater with support facilities, renovation of the existing Library, a 150-seat lecture hall in Building 300A, and a new Weight Room/Fitness Center. Please refer to the project description for further information on the unfunded Group 4-6 projects.

Potential Environmental Impacts: No significant, unavoidable impacts have been identified. Some potentially significant impacts were identified related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, noise, transportation/traffic, utilities, and services systems. Each of these impacts would be mitigated to a less than significant level if the identified mitigation measures are implemented. PAUSD has agreed to the implementation of the mitigation measures and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Public Review Period: The public review period for the Draft Initial Study extends from October 5, 2009 through November 5, 2009. A public hearing will be held at the PAUSD Board meeting on October 27, 2009 at 6:30 PM.

Location Where Document Can Be Reviewed: PAUSD has prepared a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the subject project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. These documents are available for review at 1) the Palo Alto Unified School District Main Office, 25 Churchill, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306, and 2) on the PAUSD website.

**Comments on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received, *in writing*,
by the end of the review period, November 5, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.**

**Submit comments to Tom Hodges
Palo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill, Building D, Palo Alto, California 94306
Phone: (650) 329-3700 Fax: (650) 327-3588**

For Comments on the Application please contact: Tom Hodges, Program Director, 650-329-3972, thodges@pausd.org