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FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
Office of the Chief Facilities Officer

January 7, 2005

Dear Property Owner, Tenant, and/or Area Resident:

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Memorial Area Middle School Project

The San Diego Unified School District (District), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the construction and operation of the proposed Memorial Area Middle School project (Project), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Project. This letter notifies property owners, tenants, and residents that the Draft EIR is available to agencies and members of the public for review and comment.

Project Title: Memorial Area Middle School

Project Applicant: San Diego Unified School District

Project Location: The project entails construction and operation of a new middle school in the Southeastern San Diego Community Planning area of the City of San Diego (Figure 1). The District has selected three alternative sites for the proposed school that are equally analyzed in the Draft EIR (Figure 2). Site A is located north of Ocean View Boulevard between 36th Street and 38th Street. Site B is located east of 43rd Street between Logan Avenue and Keeler Avenue. Site C is located west of 43rd Street between Beta Street and Delta Street.

Project Description: The Project will involve the acquisition of property, demolition of existing structures, and construction and operation of a public middle school for 6th through 8th grade students on one of the alternative sites. The school will be designed to serve 1,500 students and will provide enrollment relief to the existing Memorial Academy Charter School and Gompers Junior High School. School facilities will include permanent classroom buildings, administrative offices, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, and outdoor courtyard and recreational areas. The Project will require road closures within the selected site.

Probable Environmental Effects: The Draft EIR identifies significant environmental impacts to cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, population and housing, noise, and transportation and traffic. Significant and unmitigated impacts have been identified for cultural resources (Alternative A) and for population and housing (all alternatives).

Availability of Document: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the Draft EIR is being made available for a 45-day public review period, which is to commence on January 7, 2005 and end on February 21, 2005. The Draft EIR and the supporting technical appendices are available for review at the San Diego Public Library Central Branch (820 E Street) and Beckwourth Branch (721 San Pasqual Street), the District's Operations & Management Center (4860 Ruffner Street, Room 1), and on the District's website at www.sandi.net/propmm/MemorialMiddle.htm.

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Public Meeting: The District will hold a public meeting to provide an update on the Project and Draft EIR at the Memorial Academy auditorium (2850 Logan Avenue) on Thursday, January 27, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

Comments: The District is accepting written comments regarding the Draft EIR. Written comments regarding the Draft EIR should be directed to District's environmental consultant, Mooney & Associates, c/o Jim Harry, 9903 Businesspark Avenue, San Diego, CA 92131 and **must be received no later than February 21, 2005.** A Final EIR incorporating public input will be prepared for consideration by the District's Board of Education at a future public meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the Draft EIR or the environmental review process for the proposed Memorial Area Middle School, please contact the District's environmental consultant: Mr. Jim Harry, Mooney & Associates, at (858) 578-8964, or the District's Civil/Environmental Engineering Coordinator, Mr. Jim Bray, at (858) 573-5773.

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Sincerely,

R.F. Kiesling
Chief Facilities Officer

RFK:jph