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FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
Office of the Chief Facilities Officer

September 17, 2004

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

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Construction and Operation of the Proposed Memorial Area Middle School

San Diego Unified School District will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the construction and operation of the proposed Memorial Area Middle School. The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to solicit input from agencies and community members regarding the scope and content of the proposed EIR.

On November 3, 1998, the Proposition MM bond measure was passed by 78 percent of San Diego voters. Proposition MM provides \$1.51 billion toward needed repairs and upgrades at our neighborhood schools, as well as construction of new schools to serve students throughout the San Diego Unified School District. The new Memorial Area Middle school is being planned as a middle school in the general area of Southcrest, Mountain View, Mount Hope or Shelltown. It will ease overcrowding at Memorial Academy charter school.

As a result of community input, the school district has identified three prospective sites (Sites A, B, and C) for the proposed middle school, as shown on the attached figure and described below.

Prospective Project Locations: **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 Title: Memorial Area Middle School
Project Applicant: San Diego Unified School District

Project Description: The proposed project will involve the construction and operation of a public middle school for sixth- through eighth-grade students. The school will provide enrollment relief to the existing Memorial Academy charter school. The proposed school will be designed to serve 1,500 students. School facilities will include permanent classroom buildings, administrative offices, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, and outdoor courtyard and recreational areas.

Probable Environmental Effects: An NOP and Environmental Initial Study (IS) has been sent to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and submitted to agencies and the public for a 30-calendar-day review period. Based on the IS prepared for the project, implementation of the project may result in significant environmental impacts in the following environmental areas: air quality, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, population and housing, and transportation/traffic. Issues identified as potentially significant will be fully analyzed by technical reports or focused studies and will be comprehensively addressed in the EIR that is to be prepared for the project.

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How To Get Copies of the NOP/IS: Copies of the NOP/IS are available for review at the San Diego Public Library Central Branch (820 E Street), the San Diego Public Library Beckwourth Branch (721 San Pasqual Street), the San Diego Unified School District's Maintenance and Operations Center Annex (4860 Ruffner Street, Room 1), and on the school district's website at www.sandi.net/propmm/MemorialMiddle.htm.

Written Comments: The school district is accepting written comments from agencies and members of the public regarding the scope and content of the Draft EIR for the project. **All comments must be received in writing no later than October 18, 2004.** Please send comments to the school district's environmental consultant: Mr. Jim Harry, c/o Mooney & Associates, 9903 Businesspark Avenue, San Diego, CA 92131.

The environmental review process gives all interested community members, property owners, and tenants an opportunity to comment on the project and to speak at community meetings and at a public hearing before the San Diego Unified School District's Board of Education prior to the certification of the environmental report. The school district wants to involve as many property owners, tenants, and interested community members in the process as possible in order to ensure that the selection of the proposed new middle school site is done in an open and collaborative manner.

If you have any questions regarding the environmental review process for the proposed Memorial Area Middle School, please contact the school district's environmental consultant: Mr. Jim Harry, Mooney & Associates, at (858) 578-8964, or the school district's civil/environmental engineering coordinator, Mr. Jim Bray, at (858) 573-5773.

Sincerely,

R.F. Kiesling
Chief Facilities Officer

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Attachment