



PLACEWORKS

New Elementary School in Foster City CEQA Review

For

San Mateo-Foster City School District

Public Hearing of the SMFCSD Board, November 16, 2017

New Elementary School in Foster City



CEQA Overview

- » The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the State's primary environmental protection law.
- » CEQA requires that public agencies analyze and disclose environmental impacts of projects that have a physical effect on the environment.
- » SMFCSD has completed CEQA review of the New Elementary School in Foster City in the form of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

What is an EIR?

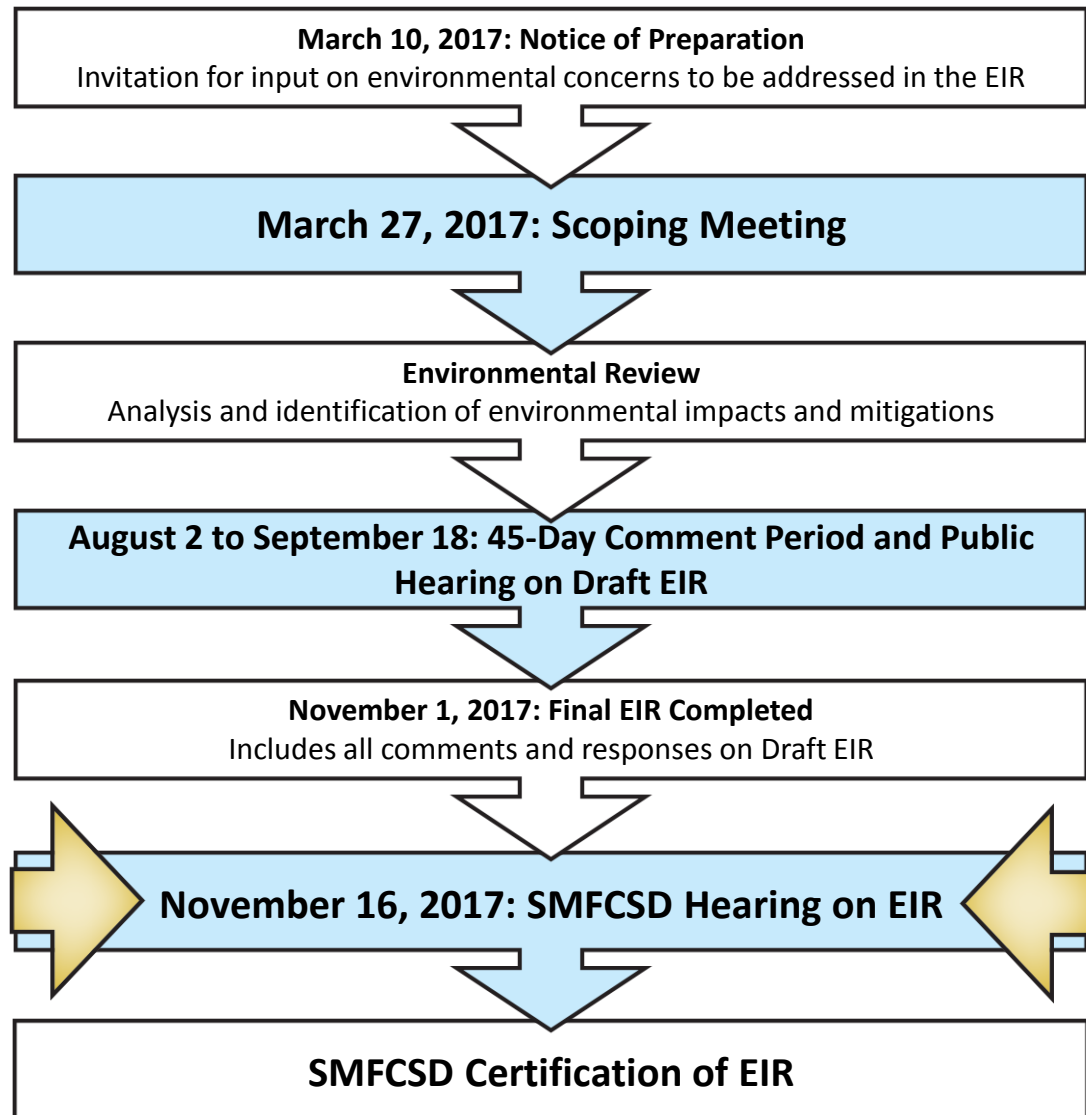
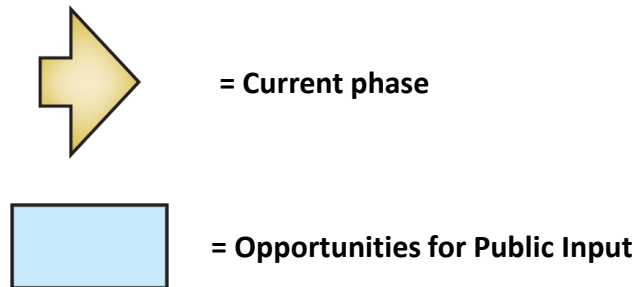
- » **An EIR is an informational document that does not approve or deny a project.**
 - Discloses information about the effects a project could have on the environment
 - Identifies mitigation measures
 - Describes potential alternatives to the proposed project
- » **Where significant environmental impacts are identified, mitigation measures must be considered as part of the project action to avoid or reduce impacts.**
- » **The EIR must be certified by the lead agency (District) prior to project approval.**

An EIR Addresses a Range of Environmental Issues

- » Aesthetics
- » Air Quality
- » Biological Resources
- » Cultural Resources
- » Geology & Soils
- » GHG Emissions
- » Hazardous Materials
- » Hydrology and Water Quality
- » Land use and Planning
- » Noise
- » Population & Housing
- » Fire and Police Service
- » Transportation & Traffic
- » Water Supply



EIR Process



EIR Results: Summary of Threshold Conclusions

Level of Impact	Number of Conclusions	Percent
No Impact (NI)	6	6%
Less than Significant (LTS)	69	76%
Potentially Significant (PS) or Significant (S) mitigated to LTS	14	15%
Significant and Unavoidable (SU)	2	2%
TOTAL	91	100%

EIR Results: Impacts that can be Mitigated

» 14 potentially significant impacts found to be less-than-significant with mitigation:

- *Air Quality*: 4 impacts mitigated by adherence to regional construction best practices.
- *Biological Resources*: 1 impact mitigated by nesting bird survey.
- *Cultural Resources*: 3 impacts mitigated by work stoppage in the event of resource discovery.
- *Geology and Soils*: 2 impacts mitigated by approved Geohazard Report.
- *Hazardous Materials*: 1 impact mitigated by plan for hazardous material handling and removal during construction.
- *Noise*: 3 impacts mitigated by ongoing noise measurements and adherence to construction noise standards.

EIR Results: Unavoidable Impacts

- » **2 Noise impacts found to be significant and unavoidable.**
 - 1 impact of school noise levels on nearby residences could not be fully mitigated by construction of an 8-foot noise barrier.
 - 1 impact of project construction on residences immediately adjacent the school site could not be fully mitigated by noise-reducing construction strategies.

- » **Social, educational, economic and other conditions found to override these impacts.**

Comments Received on Draft EIR During Public Comment Period

- » One comment letter from a local agency
 - City of Foster City
- » Four written or spoken comments from private individuals



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