



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

DRAFT

**RE: Item Wed21.f.
Appn. No. 5-18-0767
SUPPORT**

February 22, 2019

California Coastal Commission
South Coast Office
200 Oceangate, Suite 1000
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

**RE: CDP APPLICATION NO. 5-18-0767 – CITY OF SANTA MONICA – CIVIC CENTER
MULTIPURPOSE SPORTS FIELD PROJECT**

Dear Chair, Coastal Commissioners, and Coastal Commission Staff,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education to express support for CDP Application No. 5-18-0767, which would permit the City of Santa Monica to replace a surface parking lot in its Civic Center with a multi-purpose sports field and make accessory improvements.

The proposed regulation-size sports field would accommodate the needs of Santa Monica High School, which is located across the street from the Civic Center, along with the needs of the larger community. Due to its proximity, the proposed field will help alleviate the inadequacy of field space at our high school. There is far greater demand for field space on our high school campus than can serve the athletic needs of high school students on the cramped Santa Monica High School site. In addition to serving students, the field will be available for use by the larger community when not in school use. The School District and the City have a strong partnership that maximizes the joint use of school and park sites for the benefit of our community. This field will enhance what we are able to provide for our students and community.

Our School Board has expressed its support to the Santa Monica City Council as it considered its approval of this field and the restroom and other accompanying improvements. Both the school and athletics communities have been looking forward to this field for many years now and have appeared before the School District and the City to support it. The School Board believes that this multi-purpose field and the Early Childhood Lab School (ECLS) that was approved by the Coastal Commission last year are complementary and compatible. We are fortunate to be part of a community in which the needs of young children, school-age children, and adults are all widely supported throughout our community. In recognition of this widespread support, the City has wisely developed a plan that accommodates multiple compatible needs within the Civic Center.

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Board of Education: Oscar de la Torre • Craig Foster • Jon Kean • Maria Leon-Vazquez

Laurie Lieberman • Ralph Mechur • Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

Superintendent: Dr. Ben Drati

On February 21, 2019, our school board voted unanimously to direct me to send this letter to express our enthusiastic support of the City's application to the Coastal Commission.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati
Superintendent, SMMUSD

CC:

Jack Ainsworth, Executive Director, CCC South Central Coast/Los Angeles
Steve Hudson, District Director, CCC South Central Coast/Los Angeles
Marlene Alvarado, Coastal Staff Analyst
Rick Cole, City Manager, City of Santa Monica
Susan Cline, Public Works Director, City of Santa Monica
Rebecca Abano, City Architect, City of Santa Monica
Karen Ginsberg, Community & Cultural Services Director, City of Santa Monica
David Martin, Planning & Community Development Director, City of Santa Monica
SAMOHI PTSA Civic Center Task Force