



# South Campus Plan

## Head-Royce School Planned Unit Development Permit (PUD) Project *DEIR Key Findings*

### DEIR Overview

- The City of Oakland has just released its Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Head-Royce School Planned Unit Development Permit (PUD) Project (also known informally as the South Campus Plan). This independent analysis was developed by the City and a team of environmental consultants with a wide range of expertise.
- The City prepared a DEIR to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which studies topics ranging from noise to air quality. A DEIR analyzes what, if any, project environmental impacts exist, and makes recommendations on how to mitigate those impacts.
- We are pleased to see the DEIR finding that all environmental impacts from the project can be reduced to a level of “less than significant” with standard conditions of approval and mitigation measures. We believe the DEIR’s conclusions point to the thoughtfulness and care that went into developing this proposal.
- The publication of the DEIR kicks off a 45-day comment period during which people can submit written and oral comments to the City, including during upcoming public hearings. We look forward to continuing our conversations about how we can best meet the needs of our students and their families while maintaining a positive quality of life for our neighbors.

## Project Alternatives

- In addition to studying the proposed project, it is standard for a DEIR to analyze several project alternatives. This is the case even where the proposed project results in less than significant impacts, as is this case with the Head-Royce School Planned Unit Development Permit (PUD) Project.
- While the report identifies Alternative 2 as the environmentally superior option, the original project, as well as Alternative 3, are also found to have less than significant impacts. The DEIR concludes that “differences between the proposed Project and the Alternatives are a matter of degree, rather than of reducing or avoiding any significant effect exceeding CEQA thresholds.”

## Study Topics

### AESTHETICS AND LAND USE

- The report finds that with mitigation, new campus-related lighting will have a less than significant impact on the neighborhood. The DEIR also found that the project will have a less than significant impact related to scenic views and building shadows. No significant land use impacts are identified.

### AIR QUALITY, GREENHOUSE GASES, AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- The proposed project is found to have either no or less than significant impacts related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, or biological resources with the implementation of mitigation measures.
- The DEIR concludes that the project’s removal of trees would require compliance with the City’s tree removal permitting process, and would not result in a significant biological impact.

### CULTURAL RESOURCES

- The DEIR finds that three of the buildings on the South Campus qualify as “historic resources” under CEQA, and that the proposed treatment of these buildings will reduce any project impacts to a less than significant level.
- While the project site contains no known other cultural resources, the DEIR recommends standard mitigation measures to address unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources during construction.

### GEOLOGY AND SOILS, STORMWATER RUNOFF, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- The DEIR concludes that the project will not result in significant environmental impacts related to geology and soils, drainage and erosion.
- The project site location does not contain hazardous materials, and as a result does not represent a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

## WATER QUALITY AND WATER SUPPLY

- With mitigation, construction activity will have a less than significant impact on water quality. No significant impacts to water supply are anticipated.

## NOISE

- Construction-related activity will have a less than significant impact on the surrounding community.
- Operational noise impacts from school activities are determined to comply with Oakland's Noise Ordinance, or can be mitigated to do so.

## TRANSPORTATION

- The EIR finds no significant transportation impacts and finds that the project will not result in a significant increase in vehicle miles travelled (VMT), which is a metric reflecting the number of new vehicle miles of automobile travel attributable to a project.

## UTILITIES

- The DEIR found that there is sufficient wastewater treatment capacity, and stormwater drainage facilities to accommodate the proposed project.

## WILDFIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION

- The DEIR finds less than significant environmental impacts related to wildfires and emergency evacuation. The EIR contains recommendations for bolstering the School's Emergency Evacuation Plan, which includes identifying primary and secondary evacuation destinations and planning for evacuation on foot.
- The DEIR recommends an extensive vegetation management plan including planting fire-resistant plants and removing flammable vegetation on a regular basis.
- The DEIR recommends a Fire Safety Plan to outline the fire safety protocols during construction.

