# FINAL INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL AQUATIC CENTER PROJECT LONG BEACH, CA (Los Angeles County)

Prepared for:

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Facilities Development and Planning Branch 2425 Webster Avenue Long Beach, CA 90810



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## SECTION 1.0 – INTRODUCTION

On March 18, 2021, the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD or District) issued a Notice of Availability and Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) and distributed a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Woodrow Wilson High School Aquatic Center Project (Proposed Project) to public agencies and the general public. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 21091 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15073, a 30-day public review period for the Draft IS/MND was provided from March 18, 2021 to April 17, 2021. THE DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION WILL REVIEW THE FINAL INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR ADOPTION ON JUNE 23, 2021, AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING LOCATED AT 1515 HUGHES WAY, LONG BEACH, CA 90810.

## 1.1 AVAILABILITY OF THE NOI AND DRAFT IS/MND

The NOI was posted for review at the following locations:

- Long Beach Unified School District Business Office located at 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach
- Wilson High School Administration located at 4400 East 10th Street, Long Beach
- At the perimeter of the Proposed Project construction site at Ximeno and Bennet Avenues.

The NOI and the Draft IS/MND were available for review at the following locations:

The District's website at: <u>http://lbschoolbonds.net/wilson-aquatic.cfm</u>

In addition, agencies and members of the public were invited to reach out to Ferdows Fazeli for an electronic copy or hard copy of the Draft IS/MND.

## SECTION 2.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

## 2.2 PROJECT PURPOSE

The Initial Study analyzed the proposed Woodrow Wilson High School (Wilson HS) Aquatic Center Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would develop an aquatic center to replace the existing indoor pool at Wilson HS, and provide a regulation size pool for water polo games or swim meets. Long Beach Unified School District (District) is the lead agency for the Proposed Project. The Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, §15000 et seq.) and it was determined that preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) would be appropriate under CEQA.

## 2.2 PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

## 2.2.1 Project Location, Setting, and Surrounding Uses

The Proposed Project would be constructed on the western portion of the Woodrow Wilson High School (Wilson HS) campus, located at 4400 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Long Beach, in the County of Los Angeles (Project Site) as shown in Figure 1: Project Site. The campus is bordered by East 10<sup>th</sup> Street to the north, Park Avenue to the east, East 7<sup>th</sup> Street to the south, and Bennett Avenue to the west, with Ximeno Avenue running in between the main campus and the western area of the campus with portable classrooms and sports facilities.

The Project Site is located on approxiamtely 1.6 acres on the west portion of campus, bordered by Bennett Avenue to the west, Ximeno Avenue to the east, tennis courts to the north, and portable classrooms to the south. The Project Site is zoned instituational (I) and the site is surrounded by the same zoning to the north, east, and south (City 2016). Residential uses (zoned R-3-S) are located just west of the Project Site as shown in Figure 2: Zoning.

Further from the Project Site are commercial and residential uses to the north and south, a recreational park to the east, and residential uses to the west.

## 2.2.2 Existing Conditions

Wilson HS is an existing 28-acre school that was originally built in 1924 and was restored between 1934 and 1953 after an earthquake caused damage to the campus. A new science building was built in 1990 and portable buildings were added between 1960 and 2016. The auditorium building was recently renovated in 2017, and a new synthetic turf field, rubberized track, and two concession stands were installed in 2017. The school currently accommodates high school students from grades 9-12, with an enrollment of approximately 3,500 students. The site currently includes five multi-story classroom buildings, one multi-story auditorium building, one multi-gymnasium/natatorium building, three single-story multi-purpose buildings, and thirty eight (38) portable classroom buildings. The campus currently contains an indoor pool located in the gymnasium/natatorium which is in the center of the main portion of campus east of Ximeno Avenue. The indoor pool was built in 1949; it is a small pool approximately 75 feet by 67 feet containing five 7-foot wide swim lanes and a 22-foot wide warm-up pool. New Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant bleachers with the capacity of 300 spectators were installed at the Natatorium in 2017. The pool is no longer regulation size for water polo games or swim meets — 25

meters for a "short course" and 50 meters for a "long course". Therefore, the boys' water polo team practices at the Belmont Pool. The girls' swim team still uses the existing pool on campus.

The Project Site currently contains six basketball courts and four volleyball courts. The Project area also includes a generator and electrical boxes, all fenced in by six-foot-tall metal fencing.

## 2.3 PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following objectives would be met with development of the Proposed Project:

- Develop a pool for competitive uses and events at the Wilson HS Campus.
- Create additional parking for aquatic events.
- Develop a fully functioning aquatic center with offices, lockers, restrooms, and a ticket and concession stand.

## 2.4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Project includes the construction of a new aquatics facility that would include the following main facilities:

- An outdoor, Myrtha Brand, swimming pool that is 51.5 meters long by 25 yards wide, with a 1.5 meter-wide bulkhead. The plan is to have an approximately 30 foot deck surrounding the pool. The size of deck may become slightly smaller depending on final size of the buildings. The depth of the pool at the shallow end will be 4 feet, increasing to 7 feet 6 inches at the deep end of the pool.
- Bleachers with a capacity for up to approximately 500 spectators, and shade coverings over the bleachers
- 4 Stadium lights
- LED scoreboard with integrated sound system throughout the complex
- Parking with 20 to 25 stalls including ADA stalls
- A 10-foot tall concrete masonry unit (CMU) wall enclosure, where needed
- Surveillance cameras for security purposes
- Equipment storage enclosure/room

The aquatic center itself will also include:

- A snack bar/ticket booth
- Inclusive ADA complaint changing/locker rooms to accommodate 150 students with ADA compliant restrooms and showers
- Two team rooms
- Inclusive restrooms will be accessible from both the pool area and the locker room
- Coaches'/Physical Education (P.E.) teacher office with a restroom and a shower
- Laundry room
- Two chemical storage rooms, which should be easily accessible by truck for deliveries
- A mechanical room and an electrical room
- A pool attendant office including a restroom and shower
- An equipment storage enclosure/room
- Outdoor shower heads

A layout of the Proposed Project is shown in Figure 3: Site Plan. In addition the pool temperature shall be maintained at 78-82 degrees Fahrenheit for the competitive users, but the heating system shall be capable of 86 degrees Fahrenheit for all other pool users. The basis of the design for the pool heater is Lochinvar Aquas indirect gas fired pool boilers.

## 2.4.1 Event Schedule

The following pool users are expected to use the High School pools in LBUSD, which would include the new Wilson Aquatic Center:

- i. High School water polo and swimming
  - 1. 3 levels of girls' polo and swimming
  - 2. 3 levels of boys' polo and swimming
- ii. Physical Education (P.E.) Classes Range in size but can be as large as 54 students and a few instructors. The lessons will be held during school hours.
- iii. Parks and Recreation Learn to swim programs
- iv. Special Olympics
- v. Private groups Rentals
- vi. YMCA Summer swim programs
- vii. Special needs programs for high school students

The Aquatic Center will be in use routinely, for the most part, with the exception of a few days in a year. Below is a sample schedule based on a normal school year with athletics and physical education:

## **School Days - Physical Education Classes**

When school is in session (Sept - June), P.E. Classes will typically use the pool Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8 AM - 1 PM. While it may not be every day, P.E. classes will be in the pool on at least 90% of the days school is in session.

## Fall (Aug - Nov) – Boy's Water Polo Season

Practices or games will occur between the hours of 1 PM - 8 PM (Monday - Friday). There will be some occasional Saturday practices and games, but the majority of the practices and games will occur during the week. Wilson HS typically has 2-3 games each week during the season.

## Winter (Nov - Feb) – Girl's Water Polo Season

Practices or games will occur between the hours of 1 PM - 8 PM (Monday - Friday). There will be some occasional Saturday practices and games, but the majority of the practices and games will occur during the week. Wilson HS typically has 2-3 games each week during the season.

## Spring (Feb-May) - Boys/Girls Swim Season

Practices or Swim Meets will occur between the hours of 1 PM - 8 PM (Monday - Friday). There will be some occasional Saturday practices and meets, but the majority of the practices and meets will occur during the week. Wilson HS typically has 1-2 swim meets each week during the season.

## Summer (June-Aug) - Water Polo Summer Camps

During the summer months, boys and girls water polo will run summer camps. The practices occur typically between the hours of 7 AM - 2 PM with some occasional off-season games conducted in the evenings between the hours of 4 PM - 8 PM. The majority of the practices and games occur Monday through Friday.

## Other Group Activities

Permitting outside groups activities will be accommodated when they do not conflict with the needs of the school water polo and swim teams. These typically happen on Saturday or Sunday. More local youth (age 5-13) club water polo and swim teams may reaching out to use the facility once it is built since there will be no other facility like it in the City with the exception of the Cabrillo High School Aquatic Center and the Belmont Pool. When the District has permitted these groups in the past for weekend use it has typically occurred between the hours of 8 AM - 6 PM.

## 2.5 CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

The Proposed Project construction is expected to begin in June 2022 and be completed in September 2023.

Construction equipment to be used during construction of the Proposed Project may include the following items:

- Loaders
- Pick-up trucks
- Backhoes
- Water Truck
- Crane
- Asphalt paver
- Bulldozers
- Fork Lifts
- Concrete trucks/mixer
- Dump trucks

## 2.5.2 Demolition and Excavation

The existing basketball courts on the site would be demolished and the area would be excavated to allow for installing of the proposed pool. The total amount of soil excavation anticipated to occur is 10,974 cubic yards, with approximately 5,130 cubic yards of export, approximately 742 cubic yards of import, and approximately 5,102 cubic yards of soil that will be recompacted and used at the Project Site. Any waste material needing to be disposed of at a permitted disposal facility will be transported by an appropriately licensed contractor/waste hauler. Typical facilities that District contractors use include the Azusa Waste Management landfill and the Simi Valley Waste Management Landfill. The District hired Leighton Consulting and performed waste pre-characterization sampling of site soil (Appendix D) on November 24, 2020 in accordance with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material (DTSC 2001). Based on a comparison of soil analytical results to federal and state waste characterization criteria, the samples will likely be classified as non-hazardous. Some landfills may require segregation of soil or additional analyses for acceptance and the contractor would verify acceptance criteria with the individual landfill prior to transport.

## 2.5.2 Staging Areas

Construction trailers and staging areas will be located at the campus, likely on the paved areas east of Ximeno Avenue.

## 2.5.3 Construction Best Management Practices

The District will require its construction contractor to comply with all applicable rules and regulations in carrying out the construction of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would also comply with the District's Construction best management practices (BMPs), which are established and refined as part of the District's current building efforts.

**Construction Traffic**: The District will require its contractors to submit a worksite traffic control plan to the City of Long Beach for review prior to construction. The plan will show the location of any haul routes, road closures, detours, construction hours, protective devices, warning signs, and access to abutting properties.

**Construction Air Emissions**: The District will require its construction contractors to comply with all applicable South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) rules (i.e., Rule 403, Fugitive Dust [2003]) and regulations in carrying out construction activities. To reduce the potential for significant hazardous emissions during a removal action, the District or its contractor will:

- Maintain slow speeds with all vehicles;
- Load impacted soil directly into transportation trucks to minimize soil handling;
- During dumping, minimize soil drop height into transportation trucks or stockpiles;
- During transport, cover or enclose trucks transporting soils, maintain a freeboard height of at least 12 inches, and repair trucks exhibiting spillage due to leaks;
- Place stockpiled soil in areas shielded from prevailing winds;
- During active demolition and debris removal, apply water every 4 hours to the area within 100 feet of the structure being demolished to reduce vehicle trackout;
- Use a gravel apron to reduce mud/dirt trackout from unpaved truck exit routes;
- During demolition activities, apply water to disturbed soils, both after demolition is completed and at the end of each day of cleanup;
- Prohibit demolition activities when wind speeds exceed 25 miles per hour;
- Implement the following for construction combustion equipment:
  - a. The operator will ensure the use of Tier 2 vehicles or the equivalent alternative fueled or catalyst equipped diesel construction equipment, where practicable, including all off-road and portable diesel-powered equipment.
  - b. The operator will ensure that idling time will be minimized by either shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes as a maximum.

**Construction Noise**: The District will require the construction contractor to keep properly functioning mufflers on all internal combustion and vehicle engines used in construction. The District will require its construction contractor to provide advance notice of the start of construction to include all noise sensitive receptors, businesses, and residences adjacent to the Project Site and specifically when and where construction activities will occur and provide contact information for filing noise complaints. During construction activities, the construction contractor will, to the extent feasible, locate portable equipment and will store and maintain equipment away from the adjacent residents; will require all mobile or stationary internal combustion engine powered equipment or machinery be equipped with exhaust and air intake silencers in proper working order; and will require all construction equipment be properly maintained with operating mufflers and air intake silencers as effective as those originally installed by the manufacturer. The District will require its construction contractors to comply with all applicable noise ordinances.

**Cultural Resources**: The District will require that the construction contractor, in the event a cultural resource (i.e., historic or prehistoric artifact, fossilized shell, or bone) is discovered during ground-disturbing activities, stop all work within the immediate area and notify the District, and that the find be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be potentially significant, the archaeologist, in consultation with the District's Facilities Development and Planning Branch, will develop a treatment plan. All work in the immediate vicinity of the unanticipated discovery will cease until the qualified archaeologist has evaluated the discovery or the treatment plan has been implemented.

**Hazardous Materials Management**: The District will require its construction contractor to remediate hazardous materials at the Project Site under supervision of the District. The potential hazards are generally limited to asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint, and fluorescent light tubes and ballasts.

## 2.5.4 Project Design Features

## Project Design Feature 1:

The Project applicant shall construct a 10-foot high concrete masonry unit (CMU) wall along the west property line of the Project Site that is adjacent to Bennett Avenue. Other than the two entry gates that shall be constructed of a solid material, such as minimum 24 gauge sheet metal or another solid material that provides a minimum sound transmission class (STC) rating of 25 STC, the wall shall be free of any cut-outs or openings.

Figure 1 - Project Site

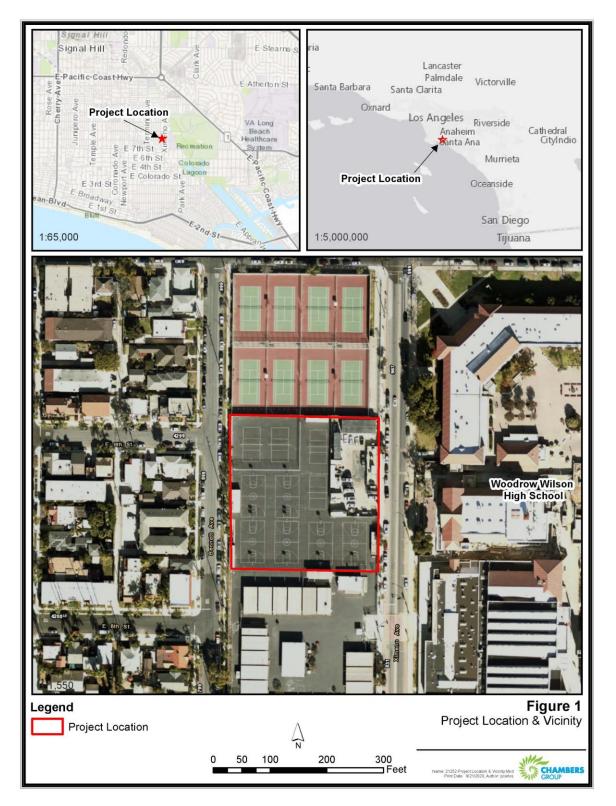
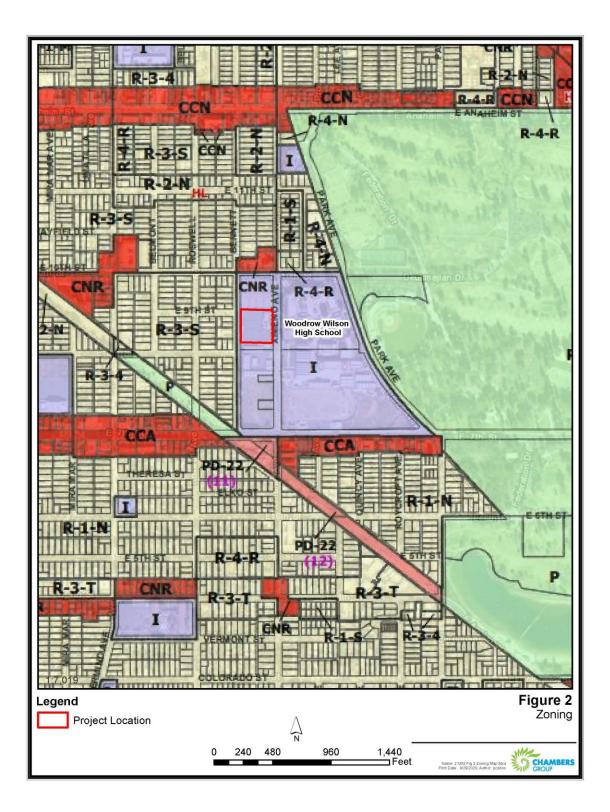
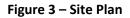
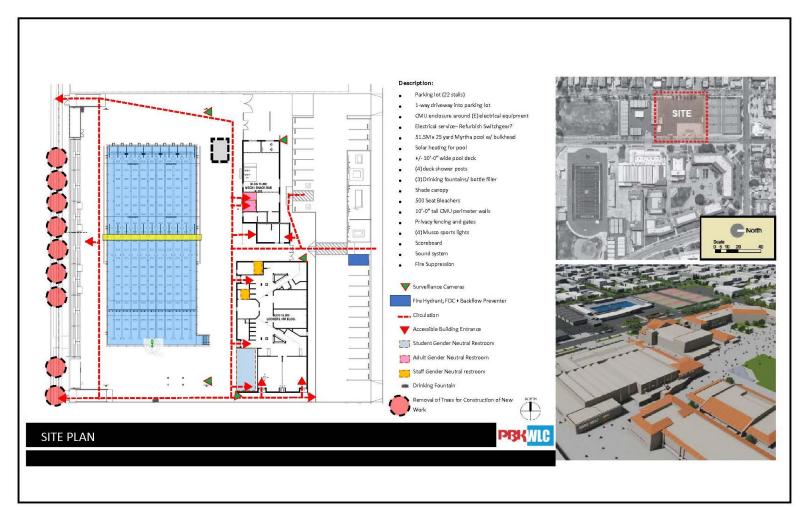


Figure 2 - Zoning







## Figure 3 Site Plan



## 2.6 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Reviewing Agencies include those agencies that do not have discretionary powers but may review the Mitigated Negative Declaration for adequacy and accuracy. Responsible Agencies have discretionary approval authority for a project. Potential Reviewing Agencies and Responsible Agencies include the following:

#### 2.6.1 Responsible Agencies

#### State of California

- Department of Education
  - School Facilities Planning Division
- Department of General Services
  - Office of Public School Construction
  - o Division of the State Architect
- Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA)

#### **Regional Agencies**

- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
- Los Angeles County Department of Health

#### **Local Agencies**

• City of Long Beach Fire Department

#### 2.6.2 Reviewing Agencies

- City of Long Beach
- Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and tribes requesting consultation

#### 2.6.3 Permits and Approvals

The following permits may be required prior to construction of the Project.

- SCAQMD Rule 201/203 Permit to Construct/Permit to Operate or Rule 222 registration for the natural gas fire pool water heaters
- RWQCB Compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit

## SECTION 3.0 – FINDINGS

An Initial Study has been prepared to assess the Proposed Project's potential impacts on the environment and the significance of those impacts and was incorporated in the Draft MND. Based on this Initial Study, it has been determined that the Proposed Project would not have any significant impacts on the environment once all proposed mitigation measures have been implemented. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

- No potential was found for adverse impacts on Agriculture, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, and Recreation associated with the Proposed Project.
- Potential adverse impacts resulting from the Proposed Project were found to be less than significant in the following areas: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gases, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Transportation, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.
- Full implementation of the proposed mitigation measures included in this MND would reduce potential project-related adverse impact on Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Noise, and Tribal Cultural Resources, to a less than significant level.

#### SECTION 4.0 – MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures have been incorporated into the scope of work for the Proposed Project and will be fully implemented by the District to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts identified in this MND. These mitigation measures will be included in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) prepared for this Proposed Project.

- **MM-BIO-1:** A nesting bird pre-construction survey will be conducted by a Qualified Biologist and submitted to the District three days prior to demolition and/or vegetation removal activities during nesting bird season (February 15 through August 31). Should nesting birds be found, an exclusionary buffer will be established by a Qualified Biologist. The buffer may be up to 500 feet in diameter depending on the species of nesting bird found. This buffer will be clearly marked in the field by construction personnel under guidance of the Qualified Biologist, and construction or clearing will not be conducted within this zone until the Qualified Biologist determines that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active. Nesting bird habitat within the Project site will be resurveyed during bird breeding season if a lapse in construction activities lasts longer than seven days.
- **MM-BIO-2:** Project-related activities likely to have the potential to disturb suitable bird nesting habitat shall be prohibited from February 15 through August 31, unless a Project Biologist acceptable to the District surveys the Project area prior to disturbance to confirm the absence of active nests. Disturbance shall be defined as any activity that physically removes and/or damages vegetation or habitat or any action that may cause disruption of nesting behavior such as loud noise from equipment and/or artificial night lighting.
- **MM CUL-1:** LBUSD shall retain the services of a qualified cultural resources firm and require that all initial ground disturbing work be monitored by an archaeologist. The archaeological consultant shall provide a supervising cultural resources specialist and a cultural resources monitor present at the Project construction phase kickoff meeting.
- **MM CUL-2:** Just prior to commencing construction activities and thus prior to any ground disturbance in the Proposed Project Site, the supervising cultural resources specialist and cultural resources monitor shall conduct initial Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training to all construction personnel, including supervisors, present at the outset of the Project construction work phase, for which the lead contractor and all subcontractors shall make their personnel available. This WEAP training will educate construction personnel on how to work with the monitor(s) to identify and minimize impacts to cultural resources and maintain environmental compliance, and be performed periodically for new personnel coming on to the project as needed.
- **MM CUL-3:** The contractor shall provide the supervising cultural resources specialist and cultural resources monitor with a schedule of initial potential ground disturbing activities. A minimum of 48 hours will be provided to the archaeological consultant of commencement of any initial ground disturbing activities such as vegetation grubbing or clearing, grading, trenching, or mass excavation.

As detailed in the schedule provided, a cultural resources monitor shall be present onsite at the commencement of ground-disturbing activities related to the Project. The cultural resources monitor, in consultation with the supervising cultural resources specialist, shall observe initial ground disturbing activities and, as they proceed, make adjustments to the number of cultural resources monitors as needed to provide adequate observation and oversight.

All monitors will have stop-work authority to allow for recordation and evaluation of finds during construction. The cultural resources monitor will maintain a daily record of observations as an ongoing reference resource and to provide a resource for final reporting upon completion of the Project.

The supervising cultural resources supervisor, cultural monitor, and the lead contractor and subcontractors shall maintain a line of communication regarding schedule and activity such that the cultural monitor is aware of all ground disturbing activities in advance in order to provide appropriate oversight.

- **MM-CUL-4:** If cultural (or paleontological) resources are discovered, construction shall be halted within 50 feet of any cultural artifacts or features or paleontological finds, and within 100 feet of any human remains and shall not resume until a qualified archaeologist can determine the significance of the find and/or the find has been fully investigated, documented, and cleared.
- **MM CUL-5:** At the completion of all ground disturbing activities, the archaeological consultant shall prepare a Cultural Resources Monitoring Report summarizing all monitoring efforts and observations, as performed, and any and all prehistoric or historic archaeological finds, as well as providing follow-up reports of any finds to the South Central Coastal Information Center, as required.
- **MM N-1:** The LBUSD shall restrict any swimming or water polo competitions from occurring in the Aquatics Facility between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. This restriction shall not apply to swim and water polo practices and other non-intensive uses of the Aquatics Facility.
- **MM TCR-1:** Retain a Native American Monitor/Consultant: Prior to the commencement of any ground disturbing activity at the Project site, the Project applicant shall retain a Native American Monitor (Tribal Monitor) that is a documented lineal descendant from an ancestral tribe (Tribe) of the Project area. A copy of the executed contract shall be submitted to the Lead Agency prior to the issuance of any permit necessary to commence a ground-disturbing activity. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure the proper scheduling of the Tribal Monitor with a minimum of 48 hours' notice. If the Tribal Monitor does not arrive on time or without prior warning of absence, the work may proceed IF an archaeological monitor is also present at the site. The Tribal Monitor will only be present on-site during the construction phases that involve ground-disturbing activities, and shall have the authority to temporarily halt or divert construction equipment if a potential find is made. Ground disturbing activities are defined by the Tribe as activities that may include, but are not

limited to, pavement removal, potholing or auguring, grubbing, tree removals, boring, grading, excavation, drilling, and trenching, within the Project area. The Tribal Monitor will complete daily monitoring logs that will provide descriptions of the day's activities, including construction activities, locations, soil, and any cultural materials identified. The on-site Tribal monitoring shall end when all ground-disturbing activities on the Project Site are completed, or when the Tribal Representatives or Tribal Monitor have indicated that all upcoming ground-disturbing activities at the Project Site have little to no potential for impacting Tribal Cultural Resources. Upon discovery of any Tribal Cultural Resources, construction activities shall cease in the immediate vicinity of the find (not less than the surrounding 50 feet) until the find can be assessed. If the find is archaeological in nature, a qualified archaeologist must inspect it and work with the Tribal monitor to determine appropriate evaluation methods. All Tribal Cultural Resources unearthed by Project activities shall be evaluated by the Tribal monitor and a qualified archaeologist. If the resources are Native American in origin, the appropriate ancestral Tribe may be offered once the finds have been properly documented and analyzed by the archaeological team. The tribe will determine the correct treatment of the artifacts. The artifacts could be used for educational, cultural and/or historic purposes. Preservation in place (i.e., avoidance) is the preferred manner of treatment. If preservation in place is not feasible, treatment may include implementation of archaeological data recovery excavations to remove the resource along with subsequent laboratory processing and analysis.

- **MM TCR-2:** Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects: Native American human remains are defined in PRC 5097.98 (d)(1) as an inhumation or cremation, and in any state of decomposition or skeletal completeness. Funerary objects, called associated grave goods in PRC 5097.98, are also to be treated according to this statute. Health and Safety Code 7050.5 dictates that any discoveries of human skeletal material shall be immediately reported to the County Coroner and excavation halted until the coroner has determined the nature of the remains. If the coroner recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American or has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, he or she shall contact, by telephone within 24 hours, the NAHC and PRC 5097.98 shall be followed. If avoidance and preservation in place is not a feasible option, a treatment plan will be prepared to outline culturally appropriate procedures for recovery and ultimate disposition of the remains and associated items. This plan shall be prepared with close coordination of all consulting tribes with ancestral ties to the Project site.
- **MM TCR-3:** Resource Assessment & Continuation of Work Protocol: Upon discovery of human remains, the tribal and/or archaeological monitor/consultant will immediately divert work at minimum of 100 feet and place an exclusion zone around the discovery location. The monitor/consultant(s) will then notify the Tribe, the qualified lead archaeologist, and the construction manager who will call the coroner. Work will continue to be diverted and the find protected while the coroner determines whether the remains are human and subsequently Native American. The discovery is to be kept confidential and secure to prevent any further disturbance. If the finds are determined to be Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC as mandated by state law who will then appoint a Most Likely Descendent (MLD).

## SECTION 5.0 – CIRCULATION

On March 18, 2021, the District issued a NOI and distributed the Draft IS/MND for the Proposed Project to public agencies and the general public. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 21091 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15073, a 30-day public review period for the Draft IS/MND was provided from March 18, 2021 to April 17, 2021.

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education will review the Final IS/MND for adoption on June 23, 2021, at its regularly scheduled Board meeting located at 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810.

In addition, during the extended 30-day public review period, the following comments were received from the following agencies and organizations members of the public.

Comment Letter No.	Commenting Agency or Organization	Date of Comment
1	Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians/Kizh Nation	March 18, 2021
2	California Department of Transportation	March 26, 2021

During the public review comment period, the following comments were received from the following members of the public.

Comment Letter No.	Commenter	Date of Comment
3	Geraldine Aron – Paleo Solutions	March 24, 2021

## SECTION 6.0 – RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 (b) outlines parameters for submitting comments and reminds persons and public agencies that the focus of review and comment of negative declarations should be, "on the proposed finding that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. If persons and public agencies believe that the project may have a significant effect, they should: (1) Identify the specific effect; (2) Explain why they believe the effect would occur, and; (3) Explain why they believe the effect would be significant."

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 (c) further advises, "Reviewers should explain the basis for their comments, and should submit data or references offering facts, reasonable assumptions based on facts, or expert opinion supported by facts in support of the comments. Pursuant to Section 15064, an effect shall not be considered significant in the absence of substantial evidence." Section 15204 (d) also states, "Each responsible agency and trustee agency shall focus its comments on environmental information germane to that agency's statutory responsibility." Section 15204 (e) states, "This section shall not be used to restrict the ability of reviewers to comment on the general adequacy of a document or of the lead agency to reject comments not focused as recommended by this section."

In accordance with Public Resources Code 21092.5 (b) of the CEQA Guidelines, the lead agency shall notify any public agency which comments on a negative declaration of the public hearing or hearings, if any, on the project for which the negative declaration was prepared. If notice to the commenting public agency is provided pursuant to Section 21092, the notice shall satisfy the requirement of this subdivision.

#### Comment Letter #1 - (Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation)

GABRIELENO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS - KIZH NATION Historically known as The San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians recognized by the State of California as the aboriginal tribe of the Los Angeles basin Adopt Mitigative Declaration Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration March 18, 2021 Project Name: Woodrow Wilson High School Aquatic Center Project We have received your Notice of the Adopt Mitigative Negative Declaration for the Woodrow Wilson High School Aquatic Center Project. Our Tribal Government would like to be consulted if any ground disturbance will be conducted for this project. Comment Sincerely, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians/Kizh Nation (1844) 390-0787 Office

Andrew Salas, Chairman Albert Perez, treasurer I Nadine Salas, Vice-Chairman Martha Gonzalez Lemos, treasurer II Dr. Christina Swindall Martinez, secretary Richard Gradias, Chairman of the council of Elders

POBox 393 Covina, CA 91723

www.gabrielenoindians@yahoo.com

gabrielenoindians@yahoo.com

1-1

## RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 1 – (GABRIELEÑO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS – KIZH NATION)

#### **Response to Comment 1-1:**

Thank you for providing your comment on the IS/MND that was submitted for public review. As part of the CEQA process, and in compliance with Assembly Bill 52, the District has consulted with the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation on this Project.

A phone consultation was conducted between Chairman Andy Salas and Matthew Teutimez from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation and District staff on December 16, 2020 to initiate tribal consultation. On January 7, 2021, confidential documents as well as proposed mitigation measures were received by the District for review and consideration. On January 27, 2021, the District followed up with the tribe by sending suggested revised mitigation measures. An additional email follow up was attempted by the District on February 24, 2021 inquiring the status of the review of the suggested mitigation measures and noted when the IS/MND would be going to public review. No response or feedback has been received from the tribe.

Pursuant to PRC 21080.3.1(d), each tribal government or representative was given 30 days upon receipt of the AB 52 notification letter to provide a request for consultation on the Project. No additional responses or requests were received as of April 20, 2021. The District, as lead agency, has fulfilled its obligations under AB 52 to engage in tribal consultation with all other tribal governments.

#### Comment Letter #2 – (California Department of Transportation)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7 – Office of Regional Planning 100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16 LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 PHONE (213) 897-0475 FAX (213) 897-1337 TTY 711 www.dot.ca.gov



March 26, 2021

Ferdows Fazeli Long Beach Unified School District 2425 Webster Avenue Long Beach, CA 90810

> RE: Woodrow Wilson High School Aquatic Center Project – Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) SCH # 2021030365 GTS # 07-LA-2021-03529 Vic. LA-1/PM: 2.914

Dear Ferdows Fazeli:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced MND. The Project proposes to develop an aquatic center to replace the existing indoor pool at Woodrow Wilson High School and provide a regulation size pool. Construction of the proposed Project's main facilities will include an outdoor swimming pool, bleachers, locker rooms/offices, restrooms, showers, stadium lights, LED scoreboard, parking stalls, wall enclosures, surveillance cameras, and an equipment storage enclosure/room. The proposed Project will be in use routinely with exception of a few days in the year, as well as accommodating outside group activities that do not conflict with the needs of the school's water polo and swim teams. The Long Beach Unified School District is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Comment 2-1

The project is located approximately 3,000 feet from State Route 1 (SR-1), 1 mile from State Route 19 (SR-19), and 2 miles from Interstate 405 (I-405) in Los Angeles County.

From reviewing the MND, Caltrans concurs with the following: "The proposed Project would provide a competition size pool at the existing school, which would lower the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for student athletes practicing and competing in home swim meets. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant."

The following information is included for your consideration.

Comment 2-2 The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Furthermore, Caltrans encourages Lead Agencies to implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies that reduce VMT and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. For more TDM options, please refer to:

 The 2010 Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), available at <u>http://www.capcoa.org/wpcontent/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf</u>, or

> Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.

Ferdows Fazeli March 26, 2021 Page 2 of 2

 Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference (Chapter 8) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), available at <u>https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/index.htm.</u>

Comment 2-2 cont.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Mayra Jimon, the project coordinator, at Mayra.Jimon@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2021-03529.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson

MIYA EDMONSON IGR/CEQA Branch Chief cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment."

## **RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 2 – (CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION)**

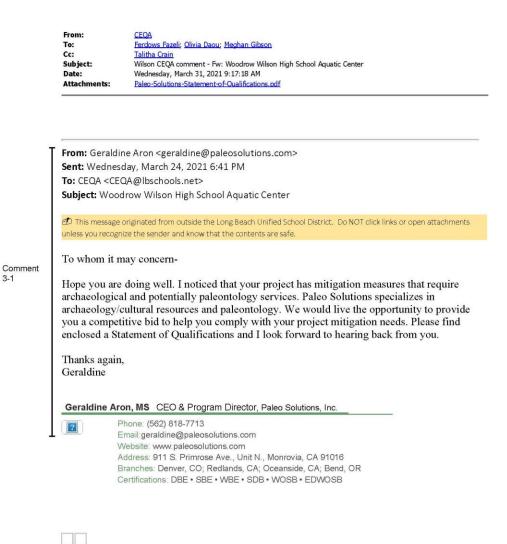
#### **Response to Comment 2-1:**

Thank you for providing your comment on the IS/MND that was submitted for public review. This comment provides an overview of the Project Description. The agency concurs with the statement that the Proposed Project would provide a competition size pool at the existing school, which would lower the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

#### **Response to Comment 2-2:**

The comment encourages and refers lead agencies to implement the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). These strategies will be taken into consideration by the Proposed Project, as appropriate. However, as noted in the Draft MND, no mitigation measures for transportation impacts are required.

#### **Comment Letter #3 – Geraldine Aron**



## **RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 3 – (GERALDINE ARON)**

#### **Response to Comment 3-1:**

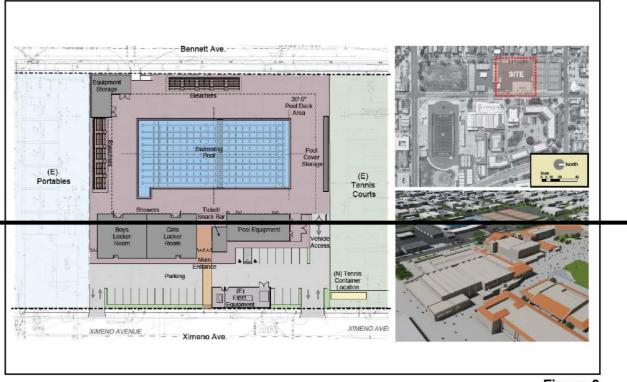
Thank you for providing your comment on the IS/MND that was submitted for public review. Your comment and services are noted. The comment does not address the adequacy of the CEQA document.

## SECTION 7.0 – REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This errata section identifies changes made to the Draft MND to correct or clarify the information contained in the document. Changes made to the Draft MND are identified here in strikeout text to indicate deletions and **bold italics** to signify additions.

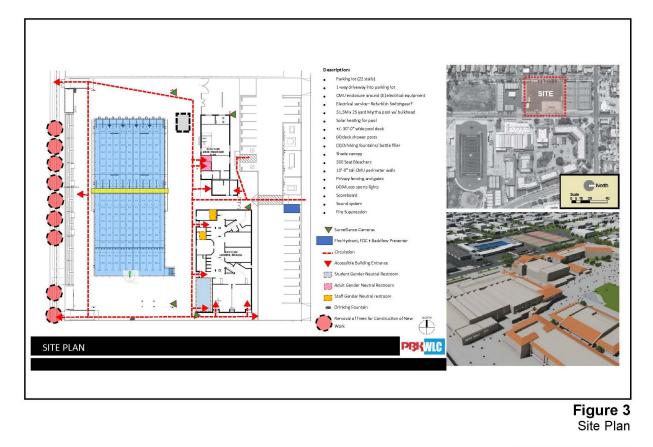
#### Figure 3: Site Plan

Figure 3: Site Plan has been updated to reflect the most updated site plan of the Proposed Project. These changes are focused on the design of the Proposed Project and do not include significant changes that would alter the results of the environmental analyses of the Draft MND.











The addition of this information does not constitute as substantial revisions in that there is no new significant environmental impacts or new mitigation that is required to avoid a significant environmental impact.

#### SECTION 8.0 - MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This document, along with the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration; and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), constitute the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Woodrow Wilson High School Aquatic Center Project.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the District has independently reviewed and analyzed the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project and finds that the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the District. The District, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program set forth therein (Appendix A).

1/1 .7

Signature

Date

David Miranda

Printed

Executive Director - Facilities

6.24.21

Title

**APPENDIX A – Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program** 

## MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

## WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL AQUATIC CENTER PROJECT LONG BEACH, CA (Los Angeles County)

#### LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Facilities Development and Planning Branch 2425 Webster Avenue Long Beach, CA 90810



Prepared by:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC. 5 Hutton Centre Drive, Suite 750 Santa Ana, California 92707 (949) 261-5414

May 2021

#### MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Public Resources Code, Section 21081.6 (Assembly Bill 3180) requires that mitigation measures identified in environmental review documents prepared in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are implemented after a project is approved. Therefore, this Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared to ensure compliance with the adopted mitigation measures during the construction phase of the Woodrow Wilson Aquatic Center Project.

The Long Beach Unified School District (District) is the agency responsible for implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the MND. This MMRP provides the District with a convenient mechanism for quickly reviewing all the mitigation measures including the ability to focus on select information such as timing. The MMRP includes the following information for each mitigation measure:

- The phase of the project during which the required mitigation measure must be implemented;
- The phase of the project during which the required mitigation measure must be monitored; and
- The enforcement agency.

The MMRP includes a checklist to be used during the mitigation monitoring period. The checklist will verify the name of the monitor, the date of the monitoring activity, and any related remarks for each mitigation measure.

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM Woodrow Wilson High School Aquatic Center Project								
	Phase	Phase	Agency	Mitigation	Initial	Date	Remarks	
Biological Resources								
<b>MM BIO-1</b> : A nesting bird pre-construction survey will be conducted by a Qualified Biologist and submitted to the District three days prior to demolition and/or vegetation removal activities during nesting bird season (February 15 through August 31). Should nesting birds be found, an exclusionary buffer will be established by a Qualified Biologist. The buffer may be up to 500 feet in diameter depending on the species of nesting bird found. This buffer will be clearly marked in the field by construction personnel under guidance of the Qualified Biologist, and construction or clearing will not be conducted within this zone until the Qualified Biologist determines that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active. Nesting bird habitat within the Project site will be resurveyed during bird breeding season if a lapse in construction activities lasts longer than seven days.	Pre-construction	Pre-construction	District	Less than Significant				
<b>MM BIO-2:</b> Project-related activities likely to have the potential to disturb suitable bird nesting habitat shall be prohibited from February 15 through August 31, unless a Project Biologist acceptable to the District surveys the Project area prior to disturbance to confirm the absence of active nests. Disturbance shall be defined as any activity that physically removes and/or damages vegetation or habitat or any action that may cause disruption of nesting behavior such as loud noise from equipment and/or artificial night lighting.	During construction	During construction	District	Less than Significant				
Cultural Resources								
<b>MM CUL-1</b> : LBUSD shall retain the services of a qualified cultural resources firm and require that all initial ground disturbing work be monitored by an archaeologist. The archaeological consultant shall provide a supervising cultural resources specialist and a cultural resources monitor present at the Project construction phase kickoff meeting.	During Construction	During Construction involving ground disturbing activities	District	Less than Significant				
<b>MM CUL-2:</b> Just prior to commencing construction activities and thus prior to any ground disturbance in the Proposed Project Site, the supervising cultural resources specialist and cultural resources monitor shall conduct initial Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training to all construction personnel, including supervisors, present at the outset of the Project construction work phase, for which the lead contractor and all subcontractors shall make their personnel available. This WEAP training will educate construction personnel on how to work with the monitor(s) to identify and minimize impacts to cultural resources and maintain environmental compliance, and be performed periodically for new personnel coming on to the project as needed.	Pre-construction	Pre-construction	District	Less than Significant				

	MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM									
	Woodrow Wilson High School Aquatic Center Project									
Mitigation Measure			Enforcement Level of Agency Significance After		Verification of Compliance					
				Mitigation	Initial	Date	Remarks			
<b>MM CUL-3:</b> The contractor shall provide the supervising cultural resources specialist and cultural resources monitor with a schedule of initial potential ground disturbing activities. A minimum of 48 hours will be provided to the archaeological consultant of commencement of any initial ground disturbing activities such as vegetation grubbing or clearing, grading, trenching, or mass excavation.	During Construction	During Construction involving ground disturbing activities	District	Less than Significant						
As detailed in the schedule provided, a cultural resources monitor shall be present onsite at the commencement of ground-disturbing activities related to the Project. The cultural resources monitor, in consultation with the supervising cultural resources specialist, shall observe initial ground disturbing activities and, as they proceed, make adjustments to the number of cultural resources monitors as needed to provide adequate observation and oversight.										
All monitors will have stop-work authority to allow for recordation and evaluation of finds during construction. The cultural resources monitor will maintain a daily record of observations as an ongoing reference resource and to provide a resource for final reporting upon completion of the Project.										
The supervising cultural resources supervisor, cultural monitor, and the lead contractor and subcontractors shall maintain a line of communication regarding schedule and activity such that the cultural monitor is aware of all ground disturbing activities in advance in order to provide appropriate oversight.										
<b>MM CUL-4:</b> If cultural (or paleontological) resources are discovered, construction shall be alted within 50 feet of any cultural artifacts or features or paleontological finds, and within .00 feet of any human remains and shall not resume until a qualified archaeologist can letermine the significance of the find and/or the find has been fully investigated, locumented, and cleared.	During Construction	During Construction involving ground disturbing activities, in the event of discovery	District	Less than Significant						
<b>MM CUL-5:</b> At the completion of all ground disturbing activities, the archaeological consultant shall prepare a Cultural Resources Monitoring Report summarizing all monitoring efforts and observations, as performed, and any and all prehistoric or historic archaeological inds, as well as providing follow-up reports of any finds to the SCCIC, as required.	Post- Construction	Post- Construction	District	Less than Significant						
Noise										
<b>MM N-1:</b> The LBUSD shall restrict any swimming or water polo competitions from occurring n the Aquatics Facility between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. This restriction shall not apply to swim and water polo practices and other non-intensive uses of the Aquatics Facility.	During Operations	During school operations	District	Less than Significant						
Tribal Cultural Resources										

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM								
	Woodrow Wilson High School Aquatic Center Project Implementation Monitoring Enforcement Level of Verification of Complian							
Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement Agency	Significance After Mitigation	Initial	Date	Remarks	
<b>MM TCR-1:</b> Retain a Native American Monitor/Consultant: Prior to the commencement of any ground disturbing activity at the Project site, the Project applicant shall retain a Native American Monitor (Tribal Monitor) that is a documented lineal descendant from an ancestral tribe (Tribe) of the Project area. A copy of the executed contract shall be submitted to the Lead Agency prior to the issuance of any permit necessary to commence a ground-disturbing activity. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure the proper scheduling of the Tribal Monitor with a minimum of 48 hours' notice. If the Tribal Monitor does not arrive on time or without prior warning of absence, the work may proceed IF an archaeological monitor is also present at the site. The Tribal Monitor will only be present on-site during the construction phases that involve ground-disturbing activities, and shall have the authority to temporarily halt or divert construction equipment if a potential find is made. Ground disturbing activities are defined by the Tribe as activities that may include, but are not limited to, pavement removal, potholing or auguring, grubbing, tree removals, boring, grading, excavation, drilling, and trenching, within the project area. The Tribal Monitor will complete daily monitoring logs that will provide descriptions of the day's activities, including construction activities, locations, soil, and any cultural materials identified. The on-site Tribal Cultural Resources. Upon discovery of any Tribal Cultural Resources, construction activities shall case in the immediate vicinity of the find (not less than the surrounding 50 feet) until the find can be assessed. If the find is archaeological in nature, a qualified archaeologist must inspect it and work with the Tribal monitor to determine appropriate evaluation methods. All Tribal Cultural Resources unearthed by project activities shall be evaluated by the Tribal monitor to determine appropriate evaluation methods. All Tribal Cultural Resources unearthed by project activit	and During Construction	During Construction involving ground disturbing activities	District	Less than Significant				
<b>MM TCR-2:</b> Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects: Native American human remains are defined in PRC 5097.98 (d)(1) as an inhumation or cremation, and in any state of decomposition or skeletal completeness. Funerary objects, called associated grave goods in PRC 5097.98, are also to be treated according to this statute. Health and Safety Code 7050.5 dictates that any discoveries of human skeletal material shall be immediately reported to the County Coroner and excavation halted until the coroner has determined the nature of the remains. If the coroner recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American or has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, he or she shall contact, by telephone within 24 hours, the NAHC and PRC 5097.98 shall be followed. If avoidance and preservation in place is not a feasible option, a treatment plan will be prepared to outline culturally appropriate procedures for recovery and ultimate disposition of the remains and associated items. This plan shall be prepared with close coordination of all consulting tribes with ancestral ties to the Project site.	Construction	During Construction involving ground disturbing activities, in the event of discovery	District	Less than Significant				

	MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM Woodrow Wilson High School Aquatic Center Project								
Mitigation Measure	Implementation	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement Agency	Level of Significance After Mitigation	Verification of Compliance				
	Phase				Initial	Date	Remarks		
<b>MM TCR-3:</b> Resource Assessment & Continuation of Work Protocol: Upon discovery of human remains, the tribal and/or archaeological monitor/consultant will immediately divert work at minimum of 100 feet and place an exclusion zone around the discovery location. The monitor/consultant(s) will then notify the Tribe, the qualified lead archaeologist, and the construction manager who will call the coroner. Work will continue to be diverted and the find protected while the coroner determines whether the remains are human and subsequently Native American. The discovery is to be kept confidential and secure to prevent any further disturbance. If the finds are determined to be Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC as mandated by state law who will then appoint a Most Likely Descendent (MLD).	Construction	During Construction, in the event of discovery	District	Less than Significant					