



# Eureka City Schools

2100 J Street, Eureka, CA 95501 / Tel: 707-441-2400

## Notice of Preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Report

Date: February 13, 2017  
To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Federal Agencies, Interested Parties and Organizations  
Project: Jay Willard Gymnasium Replacement Project  
Lead Agency: Eureka City Schools  
Contact: Micalyn Harris, Executive Assistant  
NOP Public Review Period: February 13, 2017 - March 14, 2017

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### Purpose of the Notice

The intent of this notice of preparation (NOP) is to inform agencies and interested parties that Eureka City Schools is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Jay Willard Gymnasium Replacement Project in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15082. This NOP provides information about the project and its potential environmental effects and requests that comments be provided on the proposed scope and content of the Draft EIR. An Initial Study for the project has been completed and is available online at <http://www.eurekacityschools.org/bond>.

### Project Location

Eureka High School - 1915 J Street Eureka, California 95501

### Background

Eureka City Schools is proposing to construct a replacement gymnasium on the Eureka High School campus to address concerns regarding the aging state of the existing Jay Willard Gymnasium. The existing gymnasium was constructed in 1948 and retains its 70-year old plumbing system and outdated electrical system breaker boxes. It does not meet current state standards for earthquake safety or American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements.

### Project Description

The proposed project would replace and modernize an existing school gymnasium. It would involve the demolition of the existing gymnasium and construction of a replacement gymnasium to the west of the existing gymnasium. To accommodate the siting of the new gymnasium and facilitate safe

student access, new concrete walkways would also be constructed, and the existing bus lane and parking areas on the project site would be reconfigured. Figure 1 provides an image showing existing conditions at the project site with three areas identified: Area 1 encompasses the existing gymnasium and surrounding parking areas; Area 2 encompasses a paved lot used for recreation and parking and a classroom bungalow and is the proposed site for the replacement gymnasium; Area 3 is the existing bus lane, composed of segments of K Street and Humboldt Street. Figure 2 shows the proposed site plan with the same three areas identified. Figures are included as attachments at the end of this document.

The replacement gymnasium would serve the same student population and accommodate the same uses as the existing gymnasium (i.e., physical education classes, sports events). However, the proposed facility would be smaller in size than the existing facility—approximately 29,940 square feet, rather than 40,075 square feet—and would not provide an indoor pool facility; the pool in the existing gymnasium has been permanently drained and closed since 2009.

### **Potential Environmental Effects**

An Initial Study was prepared for the proposed project (attached) and found that the proposed project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated for all resource areas evaluated under CEQA except for Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources. The EIR will further evaluate the eligibility of the Jay Willard Gymnasium as a historic resource to determine if project impacts to historic resources would be significant. In addition, a request for consultation from the Wiyot tribe has been received by the lead agency and tribal consultation has been initiated. Results of the consultation process will be provided and analyzed in the EIR.

The Draft EIR will propose mitigation to avoid and/or reduce impacts deemed potentially significant, identify reasonable alternatives, and compare the environmental impacts of the alternatives to the impacts of the proposed project. The Draft EIR will also discuss the cumulative impacts of the proposed project in combination with other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects in the area. (14 CCR 15130). Comments provided in response to the NOP and during the ensuing analyses may identify additional environmental resources to be evaluated.

### **Providing Comments**

At this time, Eureka City Schools is soliciting comments on the NOP regarding your views on how the project may affect Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources. This information will be considered when preparing the Draft EIR's discussion of environmental topics, significant effects, mitigation measures, and alternatives. Because of time limits mandated by state law, comments should be provided no later than **March 14, 2017, by 5:00 p.m.**, which ends the 30-day comment period. You may submit comments in two ways: (1) by U.S. mail, or (2) by electronic mail (email).

### **If sending by mail, send comments to:**

Micalyn Harris, Executive Assistant  
Eureka City Schools  
District Office  
2100 J Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

**If sending by email, send comments to:**

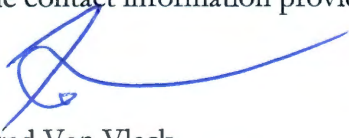
[harrismicalyn@eureka-cityschools.org](mailto:harrismicalyn@eureka-cityschools.org)

Include “NOP Comments - Jay Willard Gymnasium Replacement Project” in the subject line, and the name and physical address of the commenter in the body of the email.

All comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period will be considered and addressed in the Draft EIR, which is anticipated to be available for public review in the spring of 2017.

The NOP, Initial Study, and all public review documents for this project are available for viewing online at <http://www.eureka-cityschools.org/bond>.

Please contact Micalyn Harris if you have any questions about the environmental review process at the contact information provided at the beginning of this NOP.



Fred Van Vleck  
Superintendent, Eureka City Schools

**Attachments**

Figure 1 Project Location

Figure 2 Proposed Site Plan

Figure 1 Project Location



Figure 2 Proposed Site Plan

