

April 17, 2009

SENT VIA E-MAIL and HARD COPY

Kimberly Kaufmann-Brisby
City of Sacramento, Development Services Department
Environmental Planning Services
300 Richards Boulevard, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811
Kkaufmann-brisby@cityofsacramento.org

Subject: Sacramento Country Day High School
File Number: P09-007
AQMD Number: SAC200901331

Dear Ms. Brisby:

Thank you for providing the Sacramento Country Day High School project to the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) for review.

This project lies at the intersection of Business 80 (Capitol City Freeway) and Highway 50. These highways are sources of toxic diesel particulate matter and other harmful mobile source air pollutants. Because the proposed project is a school, it is considered a sensitive land use- a place where sensitive individuals who are susceptible to poor air quality spend time. Children are considered sensitive receptors.

This project lies north and downwind of Business 80, meaning that pollutants are carried on the prevailing winds from the freeway toward the project site. In addition, the freeways at this location are elevated; some studies suggest that roadway pollutants emanating from raised roadways do not dissipate as quickly as pollutants from at-grade roadways, leading to increased exposure.

Air pollution studies have reported an association between freeway traffic and respiratory problems. Symptoms include exacerbated asthma and decreased lung function. In addition to respiratory health effects, exposure to toxic diesel particulate matter increases the risk of developing cancer. Further, health studies also show that in those with existing cardiovascular disease, particulate matter exposure can lead to premature mortality from strokes and increased incidence of heart attacks. More recent studies link air pollution exposure to decreased life expectancy, low birth weight and infertility.

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In 2007, the SMAQMD Board of Directors adopted the *Recommended Protocol for Evaluating the Location of Sensitive Land Uses Adjacent to Major Roadways* (Protocol). The Protocol is intended to assist lead agencies in assessing, disclosing, and mitigating potential cancer risk for sensitive receptor projects proposed near major roadways. From the information provided to date, it is highly likely that SMAQMD will recommend that a site-specific Health Risk Assessment (HRA) be performed as part of the environmental review process. The Protocol can be found at <http://www.airquality.org/ceqa/RoadwayProtocol.shtml>.

Please note that state law restricts the siting of schools within 500 feet of the edge of the closest traffic lane, unless it is determined through analysis that after "considering any potential mitigation measures, the air quality at the proposed site is such that neither short term nor long-term exposure poses significant health risks to pupils". This law calls for identifying an alternative site if the health risks are significant.¹ While this law pertains to public, not private schools, it is our hope that the City of Sacramento will seriously take the spirit of the law into consideration.

Additionally, we received a hard copy of the routing packet only. Please send us an electronic copy of this packet.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 916 874 4876 or rdubose@airquality.org if you have any questions. SMAQMD looks forward to working with the City on this project.

Sincerely,



Rachel DuBose
Air Quality Planner/Analyst

Cc: Larry Robinson, Program Coordinator, SMAQMD
Tim Taylor, Division Manager, SMAQMD

¹ Section 17213 of the California Education Code.