

May 2020 | Response to Comments on Mitigated Negative Declaration  
Attachment  
SCH # 2020029070

# DEL MAR HEIGHTS SCHOOL REBUILD PROJECT

Del Mar Union School District

*Prepared for:*

**Del Mar Union School District**

Contact: Chris Delehanty, Executive Director  
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*Prepared by:*

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**From:** Kimberly Hiland-Belding <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** Christopher Delehanty <[cdelehanty@dmusd.org](mailto:cdelehanty@dmusd.org)>  
**Subject:** comment on MND re: Del Mar Heights School Project

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Dear Mr. Delehanty,

Norman Maclean in his non-fiction book, *Young Men and Fire*, analyzes the fire blowup that incinerated 1  
smokejumpers during the Mann Gulch Fire. You might consider reading it sometime.

The 27' MUR on the edge of the Reserve increases the already steep angle a wind-driven fire would use 2  
to approach the school at a tremendous rate of speed. That the MND doesn't even include a Wildfire  
section is mind-boggling at best and disastrous at worst. This design changes the wind pattern through  
the school site, and you do the kids (and their families!) a tremendous disservice to not even consider  
climate change-driven changes to fire.

The Del Mar Heights site already has a dangerous number of students on it at present (see May 2016), 3  
and building both East Pacific Highlands Ranch and Del Mar Heights at their projected capacities is  
irresponsible. Particularly because the district knows exactly how the enrollment will shift and would  
rather save a few bucks and put kids at risk in a too-small high fire risk area rather than return the Del  
Mar Heights site to its originally-designed population.

I also agree that slashing the playfields and blacktop by more than 50% creates a substantial adverse 4  
effect on our public resources and community parks.

I also agree that changes in parking, traffic, and student population driven by the project will create a 5  
substantial adverse effect on community traffic.

I also agree a time evacuation study must be done for the sake of the parents, students, staff, and 6  
Heights community that would need to evacuate the area.

Please confirm receipt.

Thanks,  
Kimberly Hiland Belding  
DMUSD Parent

## Response to Comments from Kimberly Hiland-Belding, dated March 30, 2020

The comment letter from Kimberly Hiland-Belding was inadvertently omitted from the Response to Comments document. As shown below, all comments in this letter were address in the Master Responses. We apologize for the oversight (PlaceWorks).

1. The Board will consider all comments received, including the recommendation to read this book.
2. This is incorrect. Section 3.20, *Wildlifire*, begins on page 121 in the Initial Study.
3. Please refer to Master Response 2.1.6, *Transportation/Emergency Access* and Master Response 2.1.6, *Wildfire*, which address the issue of safety and explain that fire hazards would be reduced by the proposed project over existing conditions.
4. Please refer to Master Response 2.1.5, *Recreation/Green Space* for full review of the projects potential impacts on recreation and green space.
5. Please refer to Master Response 2.1.6, *Transportation/Emergency Access* and Master Response 2.1.7, *Wildfire*, for responses to comments about safety conditions at the site. As explained in these responses, the project would enhance safety features over existing conditions.
6. Please refer to Master Response 2.1.6, *Transportation/Emergency Access*. The proposed project would not increase student capacity over current conditions as explained in Master Response 2.1.1, *Project Description*.
7. Please refer to Master Response 2.1.6, *Transportation/Emergency Access*, which explains that the project would enhance safety conditions at the site by reducing congestion and providing an additional lane along the drop-off/pick-up zone.