



August 14, 2006

Anne Hersch
Planning Department
City of Rancho Cordova
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Re: Design Review for Goddard School (Project RC-06-246)

Dear Ms. Hersch:

WALKSacramento is pleased to offer comments on the Design Review for the Goddard School proposal to build a school for early childhood development and a future office pad on 2 acres. We are excited by the timing of this project, and hope that as a result the sidewalk gap north of Navigator Elementary will be corrected soon.

WALKSacramento is a member of the Partnership for Active Communities, an Active Living by Design project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Partnership is working to support increased physical activity, such as walking and bicycling in local neighborhoods, as well as helping to create community environments that support walking and bicycling. One way that the Partnership is doing this is through the review of proposed development projects in Natomas and Rancho Cordova. The benefits of such active environments include improved physical fitness, less motor vehicle traffic congestion, better air quality, and a stronger sense of cohesion and safety in local neighborhoods.

After reviewing the projects' site plans and drawings, and inspecting the project sites and the surrounding neighborhood, we offer the following additional comments and recommendations:

1. Close existing sidewalk gap first: WALKSacramento encourages the developer to install an 8' wide sidewalk connecting the neighborhood to Navigator Elementary as soon as possible. The existing sidewalk in

front of the school is 8' which is appropriate considering that it will serve many children who need the extra width to encourage them to stay out of the roadway and because there is no buffer between the sidewalk and the roadway. We hope that an 8' sidewalk can be built very soon to serve the neighborhood's children since Navigator just opened.

In order for this connection to be successful, the existing sidewalk to the north of the adjacent Lift Station driveway needs to be improved. As currently built, the sidewalk curves out to the roadway before it reaches the Lift Station driveway. The sidewalk needs to continue all the way to the driveway so that children do not have to enter the roadway to access the sidewalk in front of the Goddard School site. We strongly encourage that this also be corrected as soon as possible by the developer or the City.

2. Maintain walkways across driveway entrances: The sidewalk should be defined and built across the two driveway entrances. This will help prevent drivers from entering at excessive speeds and is especially important considering that many children will be crossing the driveways on a regular basis. Driveways should be designed with the shortest curb radii and width permitted by the City in order to also encourage low speeds. For clarification, please see Attachment "A", an illustration from the 2006 Federal Highway Administration's Pedestrian Safety Planning Course.
3. Include an additional internal connection: There is a designated pedestrian path across the parking lot on the north end of the project. We recommend adding an additional walkway along the south end of the parking lot. It could be placed at the very southern edge of the property and therefore would avoid the parking lot all together, which would be desirable for parents walking their young children to this facility from the south. All internal paths and walkways should be at least 6' wide to provide adequate space for users traveling in opposing directions as per the City's Design Guidelines.
4. Bicycle Parking Rack Selection: It is great to see that the developer has included covered bicycle parking in a very convenient location. We recommend installing racks that support the whole bike and enable the user to lock the frame and wheel with a cable or U-shaped lock. The bicycle advocacy group which covers Rancho Cordova, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA), recommends four rack designs, shown in Attachment "B", which can also be found on their website at www.sacbike.org/sacbiking.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and recommendations. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Scott Clark or me at (916) 446-9255 or via email at sclark@walksacramento.org or ageraghty@walksacramento.org.

Sincerely,

Anne Geraghty
Executive Director

Cc: Rob Hedrick, WRG Design
Rob Everett, MBD Development
Gene Mildren, Mildren Design Group
Denise Burns, Navigator Elementary
Mark Thomas, City of Rancho Cordova
Rich Bell, Active Living by Design
Jeane Borkenhagen, Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District
Traci Canfield, Sacramento Regional Transit
Teri Duarte, Sacramento County Department of Health
Rebecca Garrison, 50 Corridor TMA
Walt Seifert, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA)
Sharon Sprowls, Odyssey
Paul Zykofsky, Local Government Commission