



12/9/2020

VIA EMAIL

Kim Williams, Planning Manager  
Facilities and Planning Department  
Elk Grove Unified School District  
9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Room 206  
Elk Grove CA 95624

**RE: Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Laguna Ridge East Elementary School  
(SCH # 2020110182)**

Dear Ms. Williams:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Laguna Ridge East Elementary School. WALKSacramento has been commenting on development projects and providing technical assistance for Safe Routes to School programs and projects in the Sacramento region for over 15 years.

Section 3.17 Transportation/Traffic d) Traffic Hazards discusses the safety impacts of the preliminary site plan related to pick-up and drop-off traffic, both on the school site and on Lousada Drive and Poppy ridge Road. Mitigation Measure TRANS-1 would require that "During school planning, design and administration, the EGUSD will give detailed consideration to site plan provisions for on- and off-site light vehicle, bus and pedestrian circulation in consultation with the City of Elk Grove." The mitigation measure also requires that during the design process specific consideration will be given to on-site pedestrian routes and facilities, off-site pedestrian safety and crossing treatments, parking regulation and signage, crossing control program, and monitoring and adaptive management.

We are pleased to see that MM TRANS-1 will require thorough planning, design and administration to reduce safety impacts. However, operation of the school will create additional safety impacts beyond those identified in the traffic hazards section. North of the school site, Lousada Drive has sidewalks only on the developed east side and Poppy Ridge Road west of the school site has no sidewalks on either side. The environmental setting discussion in Section 3.17 indicates the project site frontages on Lousada Drive and Poppy Ridge Road will be improved in conjunction with the project.

The lack of sidewalks on the school-side of Lousada Drive and Poppy Ridge Road will create additional safety impacts not identified in the MND. Off-site safety and crossing treatments and crossing control programs may not adequately reduce the traffic hazards to schoolchildren and their family members walking to and from school. The lack of complete bikeways on Poppy Ridge Road – there appears to be an existing bike lane on only the north side – will contribute to wrong way riding in the bike lane. Further, without sidewalks on Poppy Ridge Road, pedestrians will also use the bike lane for travel in both directions.

We do not know what the attendance area of Laguna Ridge East will be, but it seems probable that students living north of Whitelock Parkway in Madeira East Village may be enrolled at the

school. This seems likely not only because the distance from the center of Madeira East Village to the school site is about a half-mile, but the distance to the existing elementary school, Zehnder Ranch, is more than a mile with the Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School/Cosumnes Oaks High School complex creating a significant barrier to walking and biking.

Laguna Ridge East students living in Madeira East Village will have to cross Whitelock Parkway to get to the school. The intersection of Whitelock Parkway at Lousada Drive is currently unsignalized and unsafe for pedestrians to cross, although the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan stipulates the intersection is to be signalized with funds from the City's Roadway Fee Program.

We request that additional mitigations be incorporated in MM TRANS-1 to reduce the safety impacts of planned but not yet constructed sidewalks and intersection signals on primary routes to Laguna Ridge East Elementary School.

WALKSacramento 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. The benefits include improved public health and physical fitness, better air quality, a stronger sense of cohesion and safety in neighborhoods, and more sustainable communities and local economies.

Sincerely,

Chris Holm  
Project Manager