

**Clovis Unified School District**  
**Responses to Comments Received**  
**MINNEWAWA-INTERNATIONAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT**  
**Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**February 25, 2019**

This document presents the Clovis Unified School District's responses to the comments received on the Minnewawa-International Elementary School Project Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration during the 30-day public review period from December 28, 2018 to January 28, 2019. The response to each letter is presented below. Each of the comment letters received is attached for reference.

**Letter dated January 3, 2019, from the County of Fresno Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, Deep Sidhu, R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Specialist**

The District acknowledges the comments made by the Fresno County Department of Public Health and many of them (bullets 4 through 9) reflect existing regulations that the District must comply with. Responses to bullets 1, 2 and 3 regarding potential noise impacts are as follows:

Bullet 1 indicates concern about the school site being exposed to high noise levels from major streets. The site has frontage on two planned collector streets, Minnewawa and International Avenues. The Clovis General Plan EIR indicates that a significant increase in noise levels on Minnewawa is not predicted as noise levels within 100 feet of the roadway centerline would only increase from an existing 61.0 dBA CNEL to a predicted 63.6 dBA CNEL at plan buildout. International Avenue is a discontinuous collector, which would not carry enough traffic to create noise issues. School buildings within Clovis Unified's new schools are typically set back a substantial distance from roadways such that potential noise from the roadways is not an issue.

Bullet 2 indicates concern about short term construction noise. Mitigation Measures N-1, N-2 and N-3 address this and will reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

Bullet 3 indicates concern with the potential for the school to expose nearby residents to elevated noise levels through the use of amplification equipment and crowd noise during athletic and special events. As is the case for its most recent elementary school planned for the east side of Locan Avenue, north of Shields Avenue, the District does not plan to use amplification equipment for on-site recreational activities. In addition, elementary schools generally do not have large crowds at athletic events. It is noted that this site has only one common boundary with adjacent land (east side) that is not separated by collector streets (Minnewawa and International Avenues) or a large canal (Enterprise Canal on the south side). This would limit the effect of noise generating activities on adjacent properties, and the large size of the school site (22.7 acres) would provide for substantial design flexibility to minimize any noise impacts.

**Email dated January 17, 2019, from the California Department of Transportation, District 6, Jamaica Gentry, Transportation Planner**

The email from Caltrans directs the District to refer to their letter dated March 27, 2018. This letter is complimentary to the school project location as it is located within the Heritage Grove Master Plan area of the City of Clovis, which integrates fully with the City's trail and transit networks. Caltrans recommends the project consider providing internal amenities to encourage bicycle use such as bike parking and/or bike lockers, security, and preservation and maintenance implements (e.g. a community air pump or tire patches).

**Responses to Comments Received on Minnewawa-International Elementary School Project Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (continued)**

The project is not anticipated to be constructed for at least five years; hence, there is no preliminary site plan and many details of the project have not been determined. However, the District acknowledges the importance of safe bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and will incorporate appropriate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and amenities into the final design of the project.



**County of Fresno**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
David Pomaville, Director  
Dr. Sara Goldgraben, Health Officer

January 3, 2019

Clovis Unified School District  
Kevin Peterson (via e-mail)  
Assistant Superintendent, Facility Services  
1450 Herndon Avenue  
Clovis, CA 93611

Dear Mr. Peterson:

**SUBJECT:** Clovis Unified School District; Minnewawa and International Elementary School Project

**LOCATION:** Clovis, CA, APN(s) 580-080-16s, -02s

The Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division has completed a review of the Request for Preliminary Comment for the proposed project and offers the following comments for consideration:

- The location of the proposed school site is adjacent to major thoroughfares. Construction and layout of the facility should take this into consideration during the design phase in an effort to reduce potentially significant noise impacts from traffic along the thoroughfares.
- Appropriate measures should be incorporated into the construction phase of the project to minimize potentially significant short-term localized noise impacts to noise sensitive receivers caused by the operation of construction equipment. Construction specifications for the project should require that all construction equipment is maintained according to the manufacturers' specifications, and that noise generating construction equipment is equipped with mufflers. In addition, consideration should be given to limiting noise-generating construction activities to daytime hours.
- The proposed project has the potential to expose nearby residents to elevated noise levels through the use of outdoor sound amplification equipment and crowd noise during athletic and special events. Consideration should be given to the layout and design of the facilities to provide shielding of sound amplification and noise generating items from the surrounding neighborhoods.
- As a measure to protect groundwater, all water wells (not intended for use) and septic systems within the property shall be properly destroyed by an appropriately licensed contractor. Contact the Department of Public Health, Water Surveillance Program at (559) 600-3357 for more information.
- If any underground petroleum storage tank(s) are discovered during construction activities, the applicant/property owner shall apply for and secure an Underground Storage Tank Removal Permit from the Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division. Contact the Certified Unified Program Agency at (559) 600-3271 for more information.

Kevin Peterson  
Clovis USD  
January 3, 2019  
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- Prior to issuance of building permits for the swimming pool, the applicant shall submit complete pool facility plans and specifications to the Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, for review and approval. And prior to operations, the applicant shall apply for and obtain a permit to operate a Public Swimming Pool from the Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division. A permit, once issued, is nontransferable. Contact the Recreational Health Program at (559) 600-3357 for more information.
- Prior to issuance of building permits for proposed food facilities, the applicant shall submit complete food facility plans and specifications to the Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, for review and approval. And prior to operations, the applicant shall apply for and obtain a permit to operate a food facility from the Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division. A permit, once issued, is nontransferable. Contact the Consumer Food Protection Program at (559) 600-3357 for more information.
- Facilities proposing to use and/or store hazardous materials and/or hazardous wastes shall meet the requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), Division 20, Chapter 6.95, and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5. Any business that handles a hazardous material or hazardous waste may be required to submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan pursuant to the HSC, Division 20, Chapter 6.95 (<http://cers.calepa.ca.gov/> or <https://www.fresnocupa.com/>). The default State reporting thresholds that apply are: >55 gallons (liquids), >500 pounds (solids), >200 cubic feet (gases), or at the threshold planning quantity for extremely hazardous substances. Contact the Certified Unified Program Agency at (559) 600-3271 for more information.
- All hazardous waste shall be handled in accordance with requirements set forth in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5. This Division discusses proper labeling, storage and handling of hazardous wastes.

If I can be of further assistance, feel free to contact me at (559) 600-3271.

Sincerely,



Deep Sidhu, R.E.H.S.  
Environmental Health Specialist  
Environmental Health Division

**From:** [Kevin Peterson](#)  
**To:** [Scott Odell](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: SCH# 2018031050 - Minnewawa-International Elementary School Project  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 6:21:51 PM

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FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Gentry, Jamaica@DOT" <[Jamaica.Gentry@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Jamaica.Gentry@dot.ca.gov)>  
**Date:** January 17, 2019 at 1:05:38 PM PST  
**To:** "[state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov)" <[state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov)>  
**Cc:** "[kevinpeterson@cusd.com](mailto:kevinpeterson@cusd.com)" <[kevinpeterson@cusd.com](mailto:kevinpeterson@cusd.com)>, "Navarro, Michael@DOT" <[michael.navarro@dot.ca.gov](mailto:michael.navarro@dot.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** SCH# 2018031050 - Minnewawa-International Elementary School Project

**\*\* THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK. This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL \*\***

Good afternoon,

For Caltrans' comments on the Minnewawa-International Elementary School Project (SCH# 2018031050), please refer to our letter dated 03/27/2018 which was submitted electronically on that date.

Best regards,  
*Jamaica Gentry*  
Associate Transportation Planner  
Caltrans - District 6  
P: (559) 488-7307

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****DISTRICT 6**

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*Making Conservation a  
California way of life.*

March 27, 2018

FRE-180-7.247  
Pre-application Review  
Minnewawa-International Elementary School  
SCH #2018031050

Mr. Kevin Peterson, Assistant Superintendent  
Clovis Unified School District  
1450 Herndon Avenue  
Clovis, CA 93611

Dear Mr. Peterson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed Minnewawa-International Elementary School project. The project site is 22.7 acres of property in the southeast quadrant of the intersection of Minnewawa Avenue and International Avenue in Clovis. The project proposes to serve up to 750 students grades TK-6, and will employ approximately 50 persons.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient multi-modal transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The project will contribute to this mission as part of the Heritage Grove Master Plan. The Heritage Grove plan integrates fully with the City's trail and transit networks. The proposed school site varies slightly from the community plan, yet is served both by a neighborhood boulevard (with bike lanes) and by the community's thematic street or academic boulevard (with a segregated bike path). Coordination with the trail system makes the chosen site ideal for an elementary school, especially because separating bike/pedestrian travel from car traffic is safer and more comfortable for inexperienced travelers. Also, the project site will be surrounded by medium-density residential zones and away from commercial development making non-vehicular travel to and from the school an attractive option. For this reason Caltrans recommends the project consider providing internal amenities to encourage bicycle use such as bike parking and/or bike lockers, security, and preservation and maintenance implements (e.g. a community air pump or tire patches). Caltrans recognizes and supports Clovis' efforts in multi-modal transportation planning and thoughtful community design in which education maintains importance.

Questions about these comments can be directed to me at (559) 488-7307.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jamaica Gentry".

JAMAICA GENTRY  
Transportation Planner  
Transportation Planning - North