

Mira Mesa Community Planning Group

11975 Thomas Hayes Lane
San Diego, CA 92126-1157



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March 6, 2008

Ms. Melanie Johnson
BRG Consulting, Inc.
304 Ivy Street
San Diego, CA 92101-2030

RE: Draft EIR for Mason/Hage Area elementary school (SCH No. 2002061063).

Dear Ms Johnson:

The Mira Mesa Community Planning Group has the following comments on the draft EIR for the Mason/Hage area elementary school.

The proposed elementary school on the Maddox site at the corner of Gold Coast Drive and Parkdale Avenue is an important component of the Mira Mesa Community Plan. The 1980 update to the Community Plan in fact describes the school as "under construction". This site was graded flat for an elementary school by Pardee Construction Company in 1980 when they built the houses in the surrounding area. The site previously consisted of a ridge top between two canyons, and it required extensive cut and fill to create the level site. Because of funding limitations and priorities, the school was not built at that time and will now finally be built using funds from Proposition MM. Had the school been built within a few years after grading, there would have been no significant environmental issues associated with the site. The DEIR notes that a Negative Declaration for the project was approved by the School Board in 1979. However, because the land consists of nearly flat and typically impermeable Mira Mesa soil, vernal pools began to form after that time. Now, according to the EIR the School District will be required to pay for expensive mitigation measures and also possibly preserve some of the site as a vernal pool preserve.

We feel that consideration should be given to the fact that this site was graded specifically for an elementary school over 20 years ago, that all of the biological resources discussed in the DEIR have formed or moved onto the site since that time, and that the elementary school is a very important component of the Mira Mesa Community

Plan. Consequently, we believe that only the minimum amount of mitigation should be required for this project.

Sincerely,



Ted Brengel
Chairman
Mira Mesa Community Planning Group

cc: San Diego City Councilmember Brian Maienschein (attn: Khoa Nguyen)
San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy (attn: Marilyn Delacruz)