

**Date:** January 4, 2013  
**To:** Board of Education, Mendota Unified School District  
**From:** BCA Architects  
**Subject:** Preliminary Environmental Assessment of School Site C  
**cc:** District Staff

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### **Staff Report**

## **Mendota Unified School District Board of Education Meeting**

**January 9, 2013**

### **Summary/Recommendation:**

The Mendota Unified School District ("MUSD") Board of Education ("Board") is being requested to conduct a public hearing on a Preliminary Environmental Assessment for the New Elementary School No. 3, to be located on Site C. The Preliminary Environmental Assessment, dated December 12, 2012, concluded that Site C has not been significantly impacted by historical agricultural practices, including the use of any pesticides.

The MUSD Board needs to have a Public Hearing on this matter.

### **Project Description:**

MUSD is proposing to construct and operate a pre-k/Kindergarten through Sixth Grade elementary school ("Project") in the City of Mendota. The proposed site for the elementary school will be on approximately 15.2 acres of land, Site C. The proposed Project site is located on the north side of Bass Avenue, east of Barboza Street in the City of Mendota, Fresno County, California.

### **Evaluation of Site C by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control:**

Pursuant to Section 17213.1 of the California Education Code, and as a condition of receiving State funding for a new school, Site C was evaluated as a potential school site by an environmental assessor under contract with MUSD. The consultant prepared a Phase I Environmental Assessment, dated August 8, 2012. This document determined that, because of the occurrence of historical agricultural practices on the site, there may be a Recognized Environmental Concern. Specifically, the Recognized Environmental Concern involved the possible use of pesticides on the property. This determination required a Phase II evaluation.

MUSD's consultant proceeded with this evaluation, also known as a Preliminary Environmental Assessment ("PEA"), under the oversight of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control ("DTSC") and pursuant to an Environmental Oversight Agreement. The results of the PEA concluded that there is no concern involving pesticides or arsenic in the soils of Site C. Specifically, the PEA states, "the Project Site has not been significantly impacted by historical agricultural practices." [PEA, p. 9-1.] DTSC has concurred with the findings of the PEA report and will issue a letter of "No Further Action" required upon completion of the 30-day public notice period.

**Public Hearing:**

It is recommended that the MUSD Board conduct a public hearing to hear any verbal comments on the information and contents contained in the Preliminary Environmental Assessment of December 12, 2012.

**Recommended  
Action:**

The MUSD Board conducts this public hearing.