A-5  Escondido Union School District

A-5-1 The comment states the Escondido Union School District review Section 3.5 of the Draft EIR and associated Technical Study, specifically, Appendix X, School District Analysis. The County acknowledges the comment as an introduction to comments that follow. This comment is included in the Final EIR for review and consideration by the decision-makers prior to a final decision on the project. No further response is required or necessary.

A-5-2 The comment questions the assumptions behind a six-acre school site and whether that acreage is within the guidelines of usable acreage per the California Department of Education Guide to School Site Analysis and Development. The comment states the District looks forward to exploring options and feasibility for a future school. The County acknowledges the District’s interest in the project’s proposed school site. As it relates to the proposed size of the project’s school site, please see Response to Comment A-7-8.

A-5-3 The comment requests the Draft EIR confirm the capacity of the proposed school site to serve K-8 students based on the California Department of Education guidelines. The comment further requests the Draft EIR confirm the capacity if the proposed school site is revised to serve only K-5 students. As outlines in Response to Comment A-5-2, in the scenario of only K-5, the number of students would drop from approximately 672 to 506. The guidance for a school of approximately 500 students recommends approximately 6.6 acres presuming a single-story education building.

A-5-4 The comment requests the Final EIR be updated to include information the March 27, 2017 Escondido Union School District fee study, in particular student generation rates. The County agrees the Final EIR should be updated to use the most recent information available. Accordingly, Appendix FF has been updated to reflect the April 27, 2017 EUSD Board-approved information as requested. Please refer to Section 3.5 of the Final EIR, in particular Table 3.5-2, Student Generation for the Proposed Project. The analysis has been revised to reflect the updated information, which increase the number of K-8 students from 579 to 672; however, the conclusion regarding impacts to schools remains less than significant as the increase does not trigger additional facilities, the construction of which would result in impacts to the environment.

A-5-5 The comment questions how the proposed school site acreage could be increased if required, or if there is an alternative location for the proposed school. If the school is required to be relocated in the future, such a change would be an amended to the proposed Tentative Map and Preliminary Grading Plan, and would require additional review, including potentially additional environmental review, at that time. However,
such an alternative school site location is not part of the pending proposal and analysis.

A-5-6 The comment states that any School Mitigation Agreement(s) should be negotiated in a timely manner to ensure school districts have enough time to approve and, if necessary, implement any needed facilities improvements. The County acknowledges the comment and notes that it does not raise an environmental issue within the meaning of CEQA. This comment is included in the Final EIR for review and consideration by the decision-makers prior to a final decision on the project. No further response is required or necessary.

A-5-7 The comment requests blasting operations be conducted at times when classes are not in session and states the noise and vibration of blasting would interrupt instruction and tested. The County understands the comment and notes that the construction of the school is anticipated to occur after the project Site has been graded and the construction activities in question, namely blasting, has ceased. Accordingly, no impacts to schools are anticipated as a result of blasting. The Draft EIR further evaluates potential for vibration in Section 2.10, Noise. Please refer to Section 2.10.3.3, Groundborne Vibration.

A-5-8 The comment provides a contact person for any questions regarding the comments. The County acknowledges the comment and notes it provides concluding remarks that do not raise new or additional environmental issues concerning the adequacy of the Draft EIR. For that reason, the County provides no further response to this comment.