ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR:

Rocking Horse Ridge II Transfer of Territory

Prepared by:

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Contact:

Wendy Benkert, Ed.D Secretary to the County Committee 200 Kalmus Drive Costa Mesa, CA 92626 714.966.4211

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Introduction

1.1 BACKGROUND

1. Project Title:

Rocking Horse Ridge II Transfer of Territory

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

Orange County Committee on School District Organization 200 Kalmus Drive Costa Mesa, CA 92626

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:

Wendy Benkert, Ed.D. Secretary to the County Committee 714-966-4229

4. Project Location:

The petition area is the northern portion of the unincorporated community of Rocking Horse Ridge II located in North Tustin, California that currently falls under the jurisdiction of the Orange Unified School District (OUSD). Rocking Horse Ridge II is a single access gated community.

The OUSD encompasses all or part of the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and Villa Park.

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

Orange County Committee on School District Organization 200 Kalmus Drive Costa Mesa, CA 92626

6. General Plan Designation: Not applicable

7. Zoning: Not applicable

8. Description of Project (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to, later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary):

A group of citizens from the northern portion of the unincorporated community of Rocking Horse Ridge II, a gated community located in North Tustin, ("Petitioner") want to transfer inhabited territory from the Orange Unified School District ("OUSD") to the Tustin Unified School District ("TUSD").

According to the petition submitted to the Orange County Superintendent of Schools for consideration by the Orange County Committee on School District Organization ("County Committee") the area to be transferred consists of 150 homes with 102 school age children; 43 currently attend OUSD schools, 15 currently attend TUSD and 44 currently attend private schools. The Petitioners stated the request for changing the boundaries of the school districts was based on shared community interests and a 2009 Sphere of Influence Report prepared by the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission ("OC LAFCO").

The "project" involves only the environmental consequences of changing the school boundaries as described previously and in the petition. Under the current boundary alignment, current (and future) students within the transfer area attends OUSD schools and under the proposed transfer of territory, they would attend TUSD schools. The project does not involve the acquisition of real property or the construction of any physical improvements. Zoning and general plan designations are not applicable to the project.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting (Briefly describe the project's surroundings):

The petition area is currently located within the jurisdiction of the OUSD. The OUSD serves approximately 30,000 students in 38 school sites in grades kindergarten through 12th, and encompasses all or part of the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and Villa Park.

The TUSD, located south of the petition area, serves approximately 23,000 students in 27 school sites in grades kindergarten through 12th, and encompasses all or part of the cities of Tustin, Santa Ana, and Irvine.

10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

The Orange County Committee on School District Organization ("County Committee") has the primary approval authority over the proposed petition and, as such, is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This review evaluates only the potential environmental impacts of this transfer of territory, which would have the effect of shifting the schools attended by the students living within the transfer area from schools located in OUSD to schools located in TUSD.

Education Code Section 35753(a) establishes the criteria to be used by the County Committee in making its decision on the appropriateness of this petition. These criteria are outside the purview of CEQA and will not be addressed in this study.

This review has been prepared in accordance with CEQA Guidelines to determine if the transfer of territory could have a significant impact on the environment. This analysis will provide the County Committee with information to document the potential impacts of the proposed transfer and determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), a Negative Declaration, or a Negative Declaration with mitigation measures.

The Committee held public hearings in both OUSD and TUSD on March 14, 2012 pursuant to Education Code Section 35705 and 35705.5. All documents are available for viewing and/or downloading on the Committee's website at http://www.ocde.us/CCSDO/Pages/default.aspx.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked that is a "Potentially Significant Imp			
Aesthetics Biological Resources	Agricultural and F Cultural Resource	s \square	Air Quality Geology / Soils
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards & Hazard	=	Hydrology / Water Quality
Land Use / Planning	☐ Mineral Resource	s 📙	Noise
Population / Housing	Public Services	С	Recreation Mandatory Findings of
☐ Transportation / Traffic	Utilities / Service	Systems	Significance
1.3 DETERMINATION (TO	BE COMPLETED BY	THE LEAD AGENO	YY)
On the basis of this initial evaluation	1:		
I find that the proposed NEGATIVE DECLARATE	= =	have a significant ef	fect on the environment, and a
	nis case because revision	ns in the project have b	n the environment, there will not seen made by or agreed to by the prepared.
I find that the propose ENVIRONMENTAL IMP		_	on the environment, and an
unless mitigated" impact o earlier document pursuant	n the environment, but a to applicable legal stand is as described on attach	at least one effect 1) hat lards, and 2) has been a ed sheets. An ENVIRO	npact" or "potentially significant s been adequately analyzed in an addressed by mitigation measures DNMENTAL IMPACT REPORT I.
potentially significant eff DECLARATION pursuant	ects (a) have been and to applicable standards, DECLARATION, incli	alyzed adequately in and (b) have been avouding revisions or miti	on the environment, because all an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE ided or mitigated pursuant to that gation measures that are imposed
Signature:		Date:	
Printed Name: Wendy Benkert		For: Secretary, Orange Co District Organization	ounty Committee on School

1.4 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors, as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analyses Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9)	The expla	anation of each issue sho	uld identify:					
	a) the si	ignificance criteria or thr	eshold, if any, used	to evaluate each q	uestion; and			
		b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.						
	·		·	-	-			

Environmental Checklist

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporat ed	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1.	AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				Х
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				Х
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				Х
a)	AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES. significant environmental effects, lead agencies may reassessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Depimpacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining which significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer that and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon responsible to California Air Resources Board. Would the project: Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of	efer to the Cali ot. of Conservat nether impacts to information co at land, including	ifornia Agricultuion as an option to forest resour ompiled by the Co the Forest and	iral Land Evalua nal model to use ces, including t alifornia Departm Range Assessme	ation and Site e in assessing imberland, are ent of Forestry ent Project and
-,	Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?				X
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				Х
c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				Х
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				Х
e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				Х
III.	AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criter pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following the control district may be relied upon to make the following the control of th				agement or air
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<i>J</i>			Х
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	_			Х
c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				Х

			Less Than Significant With		
	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Mitigation Incorporat ed	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	•			X
e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				Х
IV.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				Х
b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				Х
c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				Х
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				Х
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				Χ
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				Χ
V. (CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?				Х
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?				Х
c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				Х
d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				Х
VI.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				Х
	i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
	ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				Χ
	iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				Х
	iv) Landslides?				Х
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				Χ

		Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporat	Less Than Significant	No
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	Impact	ed	Impact	Impact X
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				Х
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				Х
VII	. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the proj	ect:			
a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?				Х
b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				Х
VII	I. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. V	Vould the project	:		
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				Х
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				Х
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				Х
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				Х
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				Х
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				Х
g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				Х
h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				Х
IX.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the	project:			
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				Х

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporat ed	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				Х
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site				X
d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				X
e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				Х
f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				Χ
g) 	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				Х
i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				Х
j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				Χ

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporat ed	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Χ.	LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a)	Physically divide an established community?				Χ
b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				Х
c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				Χ
VΙ	MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource	İ	l		
,	that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?				Х
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				Х
ΧII	I. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a)	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				Х
b)	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				Х
c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				Х
d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				Х
XII	II. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project				
a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				Х
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				Х
c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				Х
ΧI	V. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in subsection new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for rof which could cause significant environmental impacts, in other performance objectives for any of the public services	new or physically n order to mainta	altered governm	ental facilities, th	e construction
a)	Fire protection?				Х
,	Police protection?	1			X

	Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporat ed	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Schools?				Χ
d)	Parks?				Χ
e)	Other public facilities?				Х
X۱	. RECREATION.				
a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				Х
b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				Х
X۱	I. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project				
a)	Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?				Х
b)	Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				X
c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				Х
d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				Х
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?				Х
f)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				Х
g)	Result in inadequate parking capacity? (OPTIONAL: Removed from 2010 CEQA Guidelines.)				Х

			Less Than Significant With		
		Potentially Significant	Mitigation Incorporat	Less Than Significant	No
VI	Issues	Impact	ed	Impact	Impact
	II. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would th	e project:	T	T -	
a) 	Exceed waste water treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				Х
b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or waste water treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				Х
c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				Х
e)	Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				Х
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				Х
g)	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				Х
ΧV	III. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	=			
a)	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				Х
b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)				X
c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				Х

Petition For Transfer of Territory

PETITION FOR TRANSFER OF TERRITORY

To the Superintendent of Schools of Orange County:

Pursuant to *Education Code* 35700, Subdivision (a), the undersigned, constituting at least 25 percent (25%) of the registered electors residing in the territory proposed to be transferred that is currently in the Orange Unified School District, petition that the boundaries of the Orange Unified School District be changed to eliminate from the Orange Unified School District the territory hereinafter described. The undersigned persons petition that the described territory be transferred to and included within the Tustin Unified School District.

The property to be transferred is described as follows:

The northern portion of the unincorporated community of Rocking Horse Ridge II (RHR II), North Tustin 92705 which includes the following streets: 1001-1165 Timberline Lane, 9752-10011 Sunderland Street, 9852-9946 St. Mary's Circle, 9832-9862 Chesterfield Circle, 9812-9832 Oxbridge Circle, 9641-9741 Norfolk Drive, 1012-1042 Chantilly Circle, 1042-1086 Castlerock Lane, 9662-9772 Ravenscroft Road, 9706-9772 Willow Glenn Circle, 9851-9861 Cowan Heights Dr, 9861 Foxrun Rd, and 9841-9922 Sunrise Ln. See the attached maps of this territory (Exhibit A - C). The southern portion of this gated community currently falls within the Tustin Unified School District Boundaries.

The undersigned request the changes in the respective boundaries of the school districts for the following reasons:

1. LAFCO's determination of the Sphere of Influence Boundaries. Our entire neighborhood is situated in the 4,600 acre unincorporated North Tustin area. On June 17th, 2009, "Local Agency Formation Commission" (LAFCO) members voted after a public hearing to re-draw the sphere of influence lines to correspond to a "modified school district boundary". Prior to the vote, the sphere of influence line did not follow the school boundaries but the staff report concluded that "most families develop a community of interest with the other families through their neighborhood schools and related activities like sports". The reason the term "modified" was used in the school boundary determination was that the LAFCO staff also concluded that the entire Rocking Horse Ridge II gated community should be added within the Tustin school boundary line as they stated that a gated community should not be divided into two school districts. The staff report determined

that Rocking Horse Ridge II fell within the Tustin sphere of influence for a number of reasons including the following:

- a. The entire neighborhood is situated in the boundaries covered by the North Tustin Advisory Council and the Foothill Community Association, the local political advisory groups that protect the rights and interests of "North Tustin" residents.
- b. Many children already attend Tustin Unified schools as Orange Unified School District allows interdistrict transfers to Tustin Unified upon request. Note though that interdistrict transfer permits are granted year-to-year depending on enrollment.
- c. The primary sports organizations in which children of Rocking Horse Ridge II participate are based in Tustin.

Clearly, the LAFCO Staff Report and the resolution adopted after public hearings (Exhibit D) make a strong statement that the Rocking Horse Ridge II community ought to be **unified** in terms of school district residence and concluded that Rocking Horse Ridge II in its entirety should be in the Tustin sphere of influence. Attached as Exhibit D, is the LAFCO Staff Report, dated June 17th, 2009 (pages 2-5), which specifically discusses RHR II and the recommended "modified school boundary".

2. Unification of entire Rocking Horse Ridge II Community. Our gated community with its single entrance is sliced into two separate school districts. Although we are all members of the same RHRII Homeowners Association and use the same entrance, pool, tennis courts, community parks and clubhouse, our children end up at separate elementary, middle and high schools. So, while we may attend the same community holiday and birthday parties, our lives go in different directions during the school year as the kids are often split up from some of their good friends for schooling. This is an incredible rarity and the chief petitioners are not aware of another master planned gated community in Southern California that has children getting on two different public school buses in the morning headed to different locations

The petition meets the *Criteria To Change School Districts Per Education Code Section* 35753 as follows:

- The reorganized districts will be adequate in terms of the number of pupils enrolled.
 - RHR II only has 102 school-aged children, of which only 43 students currently attend an OUSD school.
- 2. The districts are each organized on the basis of a substantial community identity.
 - RHR II strongly identifies with the Tustin Sphere of Influence, as supported by the LAFCO decision on June 17, 2009.

- LAFCO decision concluded that all of RHR II falls within the Tustin Sphere of Influence and references a modified school district boundary for the entire community.
- 3. The proposal will result in an equitable division of property and facilities of the original district or districts.
 - The transfer of the 43 students that currently attend OUSD schools will not require any division of property and facilities within the district.
- The reorganization of the districts will preserve each affected district's ability to
 educate students in an integrated environment and will not promote racial or
 ethnic discrimination or segregation.
 - There currently are 43 OUSD students in RHR II, this is .14% of the total OUSD enrollment (approx. 30,000 students) and .19% of the total TUSD enrollment (approx. 23,000 students). Statistically, these numbers are insignificant, and will have no effect on demographic composition of either school district.
- 5. Any increase in costs to the state as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization.
 - The unification of RHRII will have no cost to the state.
- 6. The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound educational performance and will not significantly disrupt the educational programs in the districts affected by the proposed reorganization.
 - There currently are 43 OUSD students in RHR II, this is .14% of the total OUSD enrollment (approx. 30,000 students) and .19% of the total TUSD enrollment (approx. 23,000 students). Statistically, these numbers are insignificant, and will have no effect on educational programs of either school district.
- 7. Any increase in school facilities costs as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization.
 - The transfer of only 43 students will require no new facilities costs.
- 8. The proposed reorganization is primarily designed for purposes other than to significantly increase property values.
 - The purpose of the transfer is to unify the neighborhood, such that all school children within RHR II go to the same schools, and to implement the LAFCO decision to include all of RHR II in the Tustin Sphere of Influence.

- The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound fiscal management and not cause a substantial negative effect on the fiscal status of the proposed district or any existing district affected by the proposed reorganization.
 - There currently are 43 OUSD students in RHR II; this is .14% of the total OUSD enrollment (approx. 30,000 students) and .19% of the total TUSD enrollment (approx. 23,000 students). Statistically, these numbers are insignificant, and will have no effect on the fiscal status of either school districts.

10. Any other criteria as the board may, by regulation, prescribe.

Not Applicable

Area of Election:

In the event that the County Committee approves the transfer, but Orange Unified School District does not consent to the transfer, we, the petitioners, believe the election area should be limited to the Rocking Horse Ridge II Community.

Bond Disclosure:

Over the past decade, voters living within TUSD have approved two bond measures that benefit TUSD, Bond Measure G and Bond Measure L. These bonds help to pay for upgrades to campuses within TUSD and to improve technology in the classrooms. The bond assessments are included with property taxes for TUSD residences, and are approximately \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed property value. As of this date, OUSD does not have such a Bond Measure.

Addendum: Exhibit A – Regional Map

Exhibit B - Aerial Map

Exhibit C - Rocking Horse Ridge Estates II Boundary Lines

Exhibit D - LAFCO Report w/ Attachment 4 (Approved Resolution)

Exhibit E - 2010-2011 Rocking Horse Ridge II Student Census

The Chief Petitioners for the purpose of receiving notices and so forth are:

- Tom Kenny, 9922 St. Mary's Circle, North Tustin, CA 92705
- 2. Robert Winters, 9706 Willow Glenn Circle, North Tustin, CA 92705

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.

EXHIBIT A: Regional Map



EXHIBIT B: Aerial Map

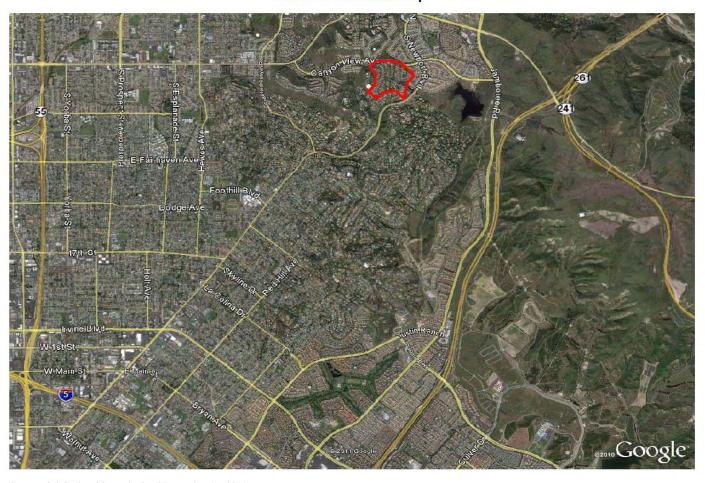


EXHIBIT C: Rocking Horse Ridge Estates II Boundary Lines

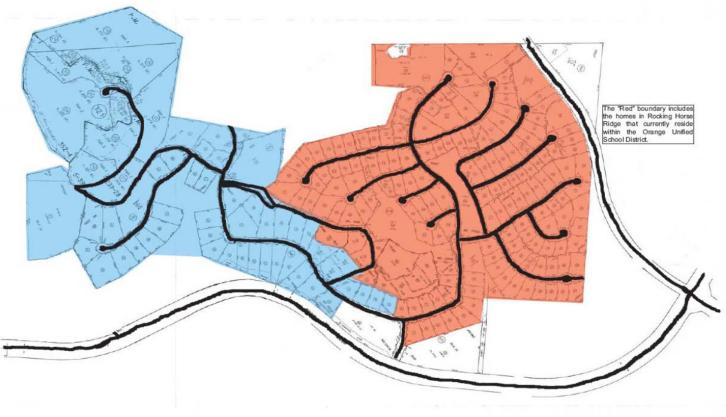
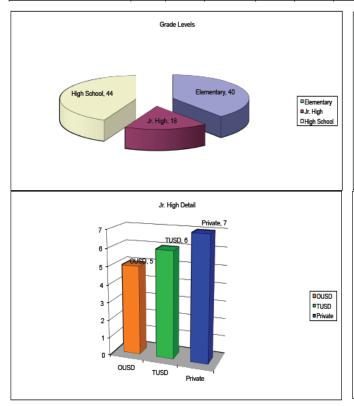
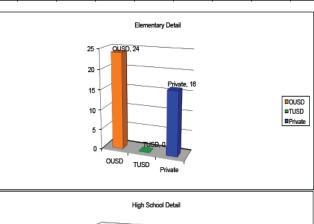
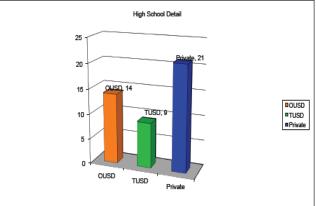


EXHIBIT E - 2010-2011 Rocking Horse Ridge II Student Census

	# of	Total School Age	Elementary:								Hũgh.			
Street	Homes	Children	Elementary	OUSD	TUSD	Private	:SrcHögite:	OUSD	TUSD	Private	Acboos	OUSD	TUSD	Private
Timberline	28	12	y	1		1			1		8	4		5
Norfolk	14	15	9	5		3	3 3	1		2	4			4
Castlerock	18	9	3 8 2	1		2	2	0		2	A			4
Chantilly	10	7					3	1	2		4	3		1
Ravenscroft	13	6	2			2	2		1	1			1	1
Willow Glenn	12	7	3	2		1				1	3	1		2
Oxbridge	3	2	6				200000000000000000000000000000000000000		1		2000000001		1	
Chesterfield	4	0	Q				Q				Q			
St. Mary's	11	13	8	7		1	3	2	1		2	2		
Sunderland	37	31	14	8		6	2	1		1	15	4	7	4
Total	150	102	40	24	0	16		5	6	7	44	14	9	21







CEQA Documents		

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

c/o ORANGE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
200 KALMUS DRIVE
P.O.BOX 9050
COSTA MESA, CA
92626-9050
(714)966-4000
www.ocde.us/CCSDO

1st Supervisorial District JO-ANN PURCELL JAMES REED

2nd Supervisorial District MEG CUTULI VIRGINIA WILSON

3rd Supervisorial District KARIN FREEMAN CAROLYN MCINERNEY

4th Supervisorial District BARBARA MICHEL ROBERT SINGER

5th Supervisorial District
SHEILA BENECKE
VICE-CHARPERSON
SHELIA HENNESS
CHARPERSON

Member-At-Large DEAN MCCORMICK

Secretary to the Committee WENDY BENKERT, Ed.D.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PREPARE NEGATIVE DECLARATION

In accordance with Title 14, California Administrative Code, Sections 15070 to 15075, inclusive, you are hereby notified of the preparation of a Negative Declaration for a proposed transfer of inhabited territory from the Orange Unified School District to the Tustin Unified School District. The area being petitioned for transfer is the northern portion of the unincorporated community of Rocking Horse Ridge II located in North Tustin, California that currently falls under the jurisdiction of the Orange Unified School District.

The Environmental Checklist used to determine that this transfer of territory will not have a significant effect on the environment pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act is on file in the office of the Orange Unified School District, 1401 North Handy Street, Orange; the Tustin Unified School District, 300 South "C" Street, Tustin; the Orange County Superintendent of Schools, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa; and the website of the Orange County Committee on School District Organization at http://www.ocde.us/CCSDO.

YOU WILL THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing to take testimony on the effect of the proposed transfer upon the environment will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 during a special meeting of the Orange County Committee on School District Organization, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa. The adoption of the Negative Declaration will come before the Orange County Committee on School District Organization following the close of the public hearing.

Date: March 19, 2012

Orange County Committee on School District Organization

Wendy Benkert, Ed.D. Secretary to the Committee

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

c/o ORANGE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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SHELIA HENNESS
CHAIRPERSON

Member-At-Large DEAN MCCORMICK

Secretary to the Committee WENDY BENKERT, Ed.D.

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to the procedures of the Orange County Committee on School District Organization ("County Committee") for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, the County Committee has completed an environmental review for the project described below:

Project Information:

Project: Rocking Horse Ridge II Transfer of Territory

Project Location: The petition area is the northern portion of the

unincorporated community of Rocking Horse Ridge II located in North Tustin, CA that currently falls under the jurisdiction of the Orange Unified School District (OUSD). The OUSD serves approximately 30,000 students in 38 school sites in grades kindergarten through 12th, and encompasses all or part of the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and

Villa Park.

Project Lead Agency: Orange County Committee in School District

Organization

Project Description: A group of citizens from the northern portion of the unincorporated community of Rocking Horse Ridge II

located in North Tustin, California ("Petitioner") has petitioned the County Committee to transfer inhabited territory from the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) to the Tustin Unified School District

(TUSD).

The petition area is currently located within the jurisdiction of the Orange Unified School District. The OUSD serves approximately 30,000 students in 38 school sites in grades kindergarten through 12th, and encompasses all or part of the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and Villa Park. The Tustin Unified School District, located adjacent to the petition area, serves approximately 23,000 students in 27 school sites in grades kindergarten through 12th, and encompasses all or part of the cities of Tustin, Santa Ana, and Irvine.

The "project" as defined for this environmental review involves only the environmental consequences of changing the school boundary as described above. Under the current boundary alignment, students within the transfer area attend OUSD schools and under the proposed modification, they would attend TUSD schools.

Existing Conditions:	The current district bo transfer area to attend s	undary line requires students living in the schools in OUSD.
Summary of Impacts:	Attached is the Environ of territory petition.	mental Checklist and a copy of the transfer
Availability of Document	s:	
		Environmental Checklist are on file at the s Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.
Lead Agency Determinat	ion:	
On the basis of this initial e	valuation:	
I find that the propose and a NEGATIVE DECLAR	ed project COULD NOT ha RATION will be prepared.	ave a significant effect on the environment,
there will not be a significa	int effect in this case becau	ave a significant effect on the environment, use revisions in the project have been made GATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be
I find that the propose ENVIRONMENTAL IMPAC	ed project MAY have a sign of REPORT is required.	gnificant effect on the environment, and an
significant unless mitigate adequately analyzed in an been addressed by mitigat	d" impact on the environing earlier document pursuar tion measures based on the ENTAL IMPACT REPORT	potentially significant impact" or "potentially ment, but at least one effect 1) has been into applicable legal standards, and 2) has be earlier analysis as described on attached is required, but it must analyze only the
because all potentially sign NEGATIVE DECLARATIO mitigated pursuant to tha	nificant effects (a) have be N pursuant to applicable t earlier EIR or NEGATIV	ave a significant effect on the environment, en analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or standards, and (b) have been avoided or VE DECLARATION, including revisions or sed project, nothing further is required.
Kenty Benkut		3/19/12
Signatur		Date
Wendy Benkert		Secretary, Orange County Committee on School District Organization
Printed Name		For

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613 SCH# For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Project Title: Rocking Horse Ridge II Transfer of Territory Lead Agency: Orange County Committee on School District Organization Contact Person: Wendy Benkert Phone: (714) 966-4229 Mailing Address: 200 Kalmus Drive City: Costa Mesa County: Orange Zip: 92626 City/Nearest Community: Orange/Tustin Project Location: County:Orange Cross Streets; Newport Blvd. and Canyon View Ave. Zip Code: 92705 Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): " W Total Acres: Assessor's Parcel No.: Multiple parcels Waterways: None Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: None Airports; None Railways: None Document Type: CEQA: NOP □ Draft EIR □ NOI NEPA: Other: Joint Document Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document Draft EIS (Prior SCH No.)_ Neg Dec Other: Mit Neg Dec Other: FONSI Local Action Type: General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation Redevelopment General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit Community Plan ☐ Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other:School Development Type: Residential: Units Acres Office: Sq.ft. Acres **Employees** ☐ Transportation: Type Commercial:Sq.ft. Mining: Acres Employees_ Mineral Industrial: Sq.ft. Power: Type MW Educational: Waste Treatment: Type MGD Hazardous Waste: Type Recreational: ■ Water Facilities: Type Project Issues Discussed in Document: ✓ Aesthetic/Visual ✓ Fiscal Recreation/Parks ✓ Vegetation ✓ Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding 7 ✓ Water Quality Schools/Universities Air Quality ✓ Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater Archeological/Historical ✓ Geologic/Seismic Wetland/Riparian Sewer Capacity ✓ Growth Inducement ✓ Biological Resources ✓ Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ✓ Coastal Zone ✓ Land Use ✓ Cumulative Effects Land Use ✓ Noise Solid Waste ✓ Drainage/Absorption ✓ Population/Housing Balance ▼ Toxic/Hazardous ✓ Public Services/Facilities ✓ Economic/Jobs ✓ Traffic/Circulation Other: Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation: Portion of an inhabited community in Orange Unified School District. Zoning and General Plan Designation are not applicable. Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary) Petitioners from the northern portion of the unincorporated community of Rocking Horse Ridge II located in North Tustin, California want to transfer inhabited territory from the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) to the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD). The southern portion of the gated community currently falls within the TUSD. The transfer of territory would shift school attendance boundaries from OUSD to TUSD jurisdiction. The "project" as defined for this environmental review involves only the environmental consequences of changing the school district attendance boundaries as described previously.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Revised 2008

Reviewing Agencies Checklist		
Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distr If you have already sent your document to the agency plea		
Air Resources Board	Office of Emergency Services	
Boating & Waterways, Department of	Office of Historic Preservation	
California Highway Patrol	Office of Public School Construction	
Caltrans District #	Parks & Recreation, Department of	
Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	Pesticide Regulation, Department of	
Caltrans Planning	Public Utilities Commission	
Central Valley Flood Protection Board	Regional WQCB #	
Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	Resources Agency	
Coastal Commission	S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.	
Colorado River Board	San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy	
Conservation, Department of	San Joaquin River Conservancy	
Corrections, Department of	Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy	
Delta Protection Commission	State Lands Commission	
Education, Department of	SWRCB: Clean Water Grants	
Energy Commission	SWRCB: Water Quality	
Fish & Game Region #	SWRCB: Water Rights	
Food & Agriculture, Department of	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	
Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	Toxic Substances Control, Department of	
General Services, Department of	Water Resources, Department of	
Health Services, Department of		
Housing & Community Development	Other:	
Integrated Waste Management Board	Other:	
Native American Heritage Commission		
Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead ager	ncy)	
Starting Date March 19, 2012	Ending Date April 18, 2012	
Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):		
Constitute Firms		
Consulting Firm:		
Address:City/State/Zip:	Address: City/State/Zip:	
Contact:	Phone:	
Phone:	_	
Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Re	Date: 3/19/12	
radion, died. decidi 21003, Fublic Resources Code. Re	sierence. Section 2 i lot, Fubilic Nesoulces Code.	

Natural Resources Agency



No Effect Determination Request



This form may be used to request a "No Effect" Determination (NED) from the California Department of Fish and Game (Department) pursuant to Title 14 Section 753.5(c)(1)(A) of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

When using this form, please submit it along with aerial photographs (if available) or topographic and/or planimetric maps and an electronic or paper copy of the environmental document and attachments to the Department's Regional Office which serves your project's location.

A list of contacts for submittal of the NED request forms can be found at the following website: www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/CEQA. The use of this form is optional. Any written request containing the information specified in 14 CCR § 753.5(c)(1)(A) may be used to request a NED.

ook g 755.5(o)(1)(A) may be used to request a NED.					
Applicant Name and Address: Orange County Committee on School District Organization	Date Submitted:	03/19/12			
	Phone Number:	(714) 966-4229			
Email: wbenkert@ocde.us	Fax Number:	(714) 662-3570			
Contact Person and Address:	CEQA Lead Agenc	y:			
Wendy Benkert	OC Committee on School District Oraganizat				
200 Kalmus Drive Costa Mesa, CA 92626	Phone Number:	(714) 966-4229			
Email: wbenkert@ocde.us	Fax Number:	(714) 662-3570			
Project Name: Rocking Horse Ridge II Transfer of Territory					
SCH Number and/or Local Agency ID number:	CEQA Document Type:				
N/A	Negative Declara	tion			
The petition area is the northern portion of the unincorporated community of Rocking Horse Ridge II located in North Tustin, California that currently falls under the jurisdiction of the Orange Unified School Use "Comment" section on next page if more room is needed. Brief Project Description: (Include details on the type of project, e.g. new construction [with square footage], demolition of existing buildings, adaptive reuse of existing buildings, zoning amendments, general plan amendments, conditional use for sale of alcoholic beverages, etc.) A group of citizens from the northern portion of the unincorporated community of Rocking Horse Ridge II located in North Tustin, California ("Petitioner") has petitioned the Orange County Committee on School District Organization to transfer inhabited territory from the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) to the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD). The transfer involves changing the school boundaries for current (and future) students within the transfer area currently attending OUSD schools to attend TUSD schools. Use "Comment" section on next page if more room is needed. Justification of No Effect Determination [Explain how the proposed project has no effect on fish and wildlife consistent with 14 CCR § 753.5(d)]: The project involves only the consequences of changing the school district boundaries. The project does not involve the acquisition of real property or the construction of any physical improvements.					

Environmental Review and Permitting 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1260 Sacramento, California 95814

FG CEQA 866 (Rev 12/04/10) Save As Print Clear

Use "Comment" section on next page if more room is needed.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME No Effect Determination Request



COMMENTS (Continued from previous page)

Project Location: (Include street address, city, county, lat/long, range/township/section, or other description that clearly indicates the location of the project site.)

encompasses all or part of the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and Villa Park. The Tustin Unified School District, located south of the petition area, serves approximately 23,000 students in 27 school sites in grades kindergarten through 12th, and encompasses all or part of the cities of Tustin, Santa Ana, and Irvine.

District (OUSD). The southern portion of the gated community currently falls within the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD). The petition area is currently located within the jurisdiction of the Orange Unified School District. The OUSD serves approximately 30,000 students in 38 school sites in grades kindergarten through 12th, and Go To P1 COMMENTS (Continued from previous page) Brief Project Description: (Include details on the type of project; e.g. new construction [with square footage], demolition of existing buildings, adaptive reuse of existing buildings, zoning amendments, general plan amendments, conditional use for sale of alcoholic beverages, etc.) Go To P1 COMMENTS (Continued from previous page) Justification of No Effect Determination [Explain how the proposed project has no effect on fish and wildlife consistent with 14 CCR § 753.5(d)]:

Go To P1

Environmental Review and Permitting

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1260

Sacramento, California 95814

FG CEQA 866 (Rev 12/04/10)

References

5.1 PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Joe Sorrera Assistant Superintendent, Business Services and CBO Orange Unified School District

Anthony Soria Chief Financial Officer Tustin Unified School District

Bob Winters Chief Petitioner

5.2 WEB SITES

Orange County Committee on School District Organization www.ocde.us/CCSDO

Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) www.ocde.us

Google Maps www.maps.google.com

California Department of Education (CDE) www.cde.ca.gov

Division of the State Architect (DSA) www.dsa.ca.gov/

5.3 LEAD AGENCY

Wendy Benkert, Ed.D. Secretary to the Orange County Committee on School District Organization

Rosalee Hormuth Manager, Business Services Orange County Department of Education