



City of Malibu

Bruce Lee Silverstein, Mayor

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July 11, 2023

Submitted via Email to SouthCentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov

California Coastal Commission (CCC)
South Central Coast District
89 S. California Street, #200
Ventura CA 93001

RE: Malibu Middle and High School (MMHS) Campus Specific Plan Local Coastal Program Amendment (LCPA No. 21-002), Agenda Item 18a for Wednesday, July 12, 2023 CCC Meeting

Honorable Commissioners:

At its Regular meeting on July 10, 2023, the Malibu City Council voted unanimously to respectfully request that the Commission deny the one-year time extension request to act on LCPA No. LCP-4-MAL-22-043-1 for the MMHS Campus Specific Plan, as included in Item No. 18a on the July 12, 2023 CCC agenda, and instead direct CCC staff to place the item on a CCC agenda as soon as possible.

The Specific Plan will be implemented in four phases over the next 10 to 15 years. The Specific Plan and associated coastal development permit application for Phase 1 of the campus plan are being funded by a general obligation bond which was passed in November 2018. According to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD), a one-year extension to act on the LCPA results in a significant construction cost increase for Phase 1 and has the potential to render the project financially infeasible to implement. Phase 1 includes a new high school building, restoration of the environmentally sensitive habitat area (ESHA) and associated development.

In October 2018, the SMMUSD embarked on several public engagement efforts, which included local community charrettes/workshops, several public hearings during the environmental review process, interagency coordination meetings that involved staff from the SMMUSD, the City of Malibu, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Army Corps of Engineers and the CCC. Moreover, while the City conducted its formal review of the draft LCPA, additional coordination meetings were held with the City of Malibu and the CCC staff to streamline the process.

Although the staff report indicates additional time is needed to analyze the amendment, City staff believes the interagency coordination meetings held with CCC staff has afforded a level of familiarity with the project that renders a one-year time extension unnecessary. The MMHS campus is in dire need of facility improvements and the project has already incurred costly delays because of the Woolsey Fire and the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only does the one-year extension to act on the LCPA affect the implementation of Phase 1, but it also affects the latter phases of the Specific Plan.

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City staff remains committed to working with CCC staff to expedite the CCC's consideration of this item. Any assistance you can provide to expedite this process is much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Bruce Lee Silverstein
Mayor

cc: Honorable Members of the Malibu City Council
Steve McClary, City Manager
Richard Mollica, Planning Director