



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cardiff School Neighbors File Second Lawsuit

CARDIFF BY THE SEA (June 15, 2020) – [Cardiff School District](#) (“District”) is deeply disappointed to announce that the small number of adjacent neighbors who have always opposed the Cardiff School Rebuild Project have filed a second lawsuit in federal district court against the National Park Service (“NPS”), the California Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”) and the District. While the District is still evaluating the lawsuit and its options for responding, the District continues its commitment to the completion of the Project for the benefit of the District’s students and the greater community who use the school’s playfields known as George Berkich Park.

The lawsuit removes any doubt as to the true motivation of these neighbors. An early email from one of the opponents stated, “My neighbors and I paid a significant amount of money for our homes for the current view we have. This project will significantly decrease the value of all our homes with our views being negatively impacted.” The opponents hid their true motive behind the argument that the District would never fulfill its contractual obligations with DPR and NPS to preserve the playfields. When it became clear to them that DPR and NPS viewed the District’s plans as an enhancement to the outdoor recreation area and an approval was imminent, the opponents took every extreme measure to stop the project, including filing a lawsuit. After the opponents caused a nearly two-year delay and an added cost of approximately \$4 million, the District ultimately obtained these approvals and the opponent’s true goal of stopping the Project solely for their personal benefit has become glaringly obvious.

For nearly two years, following the explicit directions of DPR, the District conducted a thorough evaluation and due diligence process including preparing a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report. The District involved multiple additional consultants and submitted requisite supporting documentation. DPR and NPS carefully reviewed all materials, including opposing documents provided by the opponents, and correctly concluded that the Project appropriately adjusts the boundary to the playfield/park areas in a manner that is a benefit to the District and its students as well as the public recreation users who will continue to have access when they are not in use for school purposes.

With this approval, DPR and NPS have recognized that the clear and undisputed facts about the Rebuild Project show that the area that was in question is part of Cardiff School and it has and always will consist of the school's playfields and other outdoor recreation areas. More importantly, these agencies recognized the District's continued commitment to preserving areas of the site for public recreation through the amended boundary map approved by NPS and DPR, which results in a net gain of more than 23,000 square feet of additional area dedicated to public recreation. In spite of these facts, the opponents have elected to selfishly seek to preserve their own personal interests by filing further litigation to halt and/or delay the Project.

The District will now carefully review its options for responding to this lawsuit . In the meantime, the District will remain focused on completing the Project as expeditiously as possible in order to provide its students with a safe and secure 21st-century learning environment as well as the new and improved public recreation spaces for the community.

The Project is currently in a critical phase of construction. The parking lot/drop-off/pick-up area, playfields, accessible walkways, and classrooms being remodeled, must be

completed in August. Any stoppage or delay to construction due to this new lawsuit will preclude Cardiff School from opening for students for the 2020/2021 school year.

###