



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cardiff School District Receives Approval from the National Park Service for Boundary Adjustment to Cardiff School Playfields

CARDIFF BY THE SEA (April 28, 2020) – [Cardiff School District](#) (“District”) is pleased to announce that, after a lengthy process, it has received final approval from both the California Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) and the National Park Service (NPS) for the District’s proposed boundary adjustment of the Cardiff School playfields. The District had agreed not to move forward with construction of the multipurpose room, parking lot, and pick-up/drop-off area of its Cardiff School campus until this issue was resolved. OGALS approved the adjustment last November and the District was only awaiting the NPS approval.

The layout of the new school calls for a small encroachment onto the school’s playfield area of less than 10 percent. Pursuant to a 1993 Land and Water Conservation grant agreement sought by the City of Encinitas to make improvements to the District-owned playfields for after-hours community use, the proposed changes to the playfields for the project required OGALS’ and NPS’ approval of a boundary adjustment.

The plan will keep the majority of the playfields intact while adding various enhancements to improve functionality for educational programs, as well as student and community use purposes. It will also provide the space necessary to build a safer pick-up/drop-off area for students and a multipurpose room that will be located at the front of the school for increased campus security and access to designated parking.

“We are thrilled to receive final OGALS/NPS approval, and we look forward to delivering a beautiful new school that has been promised to Cardiff voters since 2016,” said Superintendent Jill Vinson.

The District has been working with state and federal officials since learning of the agreement over two years ago through an established “conversion” process to redraw the boundary ahead of the commencement of Phase 2 of the construction project, which includes construction of the multipurpose room and parking/pick-up/drop-off improvements. Construction on Phase 1 of the project has been underway since July 2019, which includes the new classroom buildings.

The boundary adjustment was at the center of a lawsuit filed against the District last year by adjacent neighbors, several of whom expressed early concerns their views were being impacted. The entire construction project was halted in December 2019, at the request of the plaintiffs. In March, the parties reached a settlement, under which the plaintiffs agreed, in exchange for a \$500,000 payment from the District, to dismiss the lawsuit, let construction resume outside the

boundary area, and allow stormwater improvements to be built within the grant boundary while the District awaited final NPS approval.

The lawsuit did not result in any changes to the project design. Numerous delays, including an early redesign to accommodate community concerns, the undertaking of a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) due to the threat of litigation, and the injunction stopping all construction, as well as the legal fees incurred by the District and the settlement payment made to the plaintiffs, have, however, significantly altered the project's timeline, scope, and budget, and final figures are still being assessed. Multiple classroom buildings that were originally planned have had to be tabled for the future, and the construction delay means students will not be able to occupy the new buildings at the start of the school year, as originally scheduled. The adjacent neighbors' continuous lobbying of OGALS and NPS throughout the process also delayed receipt of the final approval of the boundary adjustment.

The District is now focused on the future, which is to continue rebuilding a beloved campus that has been a hub of the Cardiff community for over a century. The new school is now expected to be completely finished in the summer of 2021.

Funding for the rebuild comes primarily from Measure GG, a \$22M bond measure approved by 65.9 percent of Cardiff voters in 2016.

For more information on the project, construction updates, and [360-degree construction photos](#), visit www.cardiffschools.com/measureGG.