



Motion to ask CD# 5 and #10 to request LAUSD use the renovations at Shenandoah Elementary School and Alexander Hamilton High School to look for and replace any lead pipes at these campuses

Agenda Item: *To Be Filled in by Exec Committee*

Date: June 16, 2022

Proposed By: Education Committee

Include motion in Consent Agenda? Yes

Background

The physical campus at both Shenandoah Elementary School and Alexander Hamilton High School are more than fifty years old and in need of massive renovation and/or replacement. LAUSD has recognized this and has begun multi-year renovations at both sites which will make both sites viable for generations of students.

As to the building of new facilities there is no possibility of problems with lead pipes in the plumbing. However, the plans for each school call for a mix of new buildings and renovation of some existing buildings. It is the existing buildings that are of concern to us. At community meetings last year, the LAUSD team said that the investigation as to the existence of lead pipes in buildings being renovated was not a part of the plan authorized by the LAUSD Board.

Our Neighborhood Council Board is concerned over the age of buildings being renovated. They were built in an era when lead pipes were an acceptable building material. Current science and medicine have shown that lead pipes have the potential of producing hazardous conditions for humans.

As buildings are being torn up for renovation, this is the perfect time to finally determine the existence or non-existence of lead pipes. Any lead pipes found should be replaced immediately. It needs to be factored into the calculus of looking for lead pipes that to complete a set of two projects, having a construction period in excess of three years with a combined budget in excess of \$200,000,000, where the end result is two schools with potential medical hazards that could make each campus unusable until remediation.

Given that the financial condition of LAUSD is significantly better this year than it was when both projects were approved, we want LAUSD to review the plumbing in all buildings being renovated on these two campuses and replace all lead pipes found.

Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council will forward the proposed letter to Councilman Paul Koretz (CD#5) and to Councilman Herb Wesson, Jr. (CD#10) asking them to write to LAUSD requesting that the LAUSD modify the renovation of existing buildings at Shenandoah Elementary School and Alexander Hamilton High

Michael Lynn
President

Ken Blaker
Vice-President

Terrance Gomes
Treasurer

Baila Romm
Secretary

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836
Los Angeles, CA 90035

P: (310) 295-9920
F: (310) 295-9906
E: info@soronc.org

soronc.org



School to include the search for lead pipes and the replacement of these pipes if they are found..

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For:

Against:

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$-0-
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

1. There is no greater obligation for LAUSD than the protection of students and staff.
2. The renovation is a perfect opportunity to look for these hazards because the building will not be occupied during the renovation.

Arguments against:

1. There will be an increase in cost from what the original projects were expected to cost.

DRAFT



Proposed Letter:

Date: _____

The Honorable Paul Koretz
Council District # 5
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable Herb Wesson, Jr.
Council District # 10
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 420
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Construction Projects at Shenandoah Elementary School and Alexander Hamilton High School

Dear Councilmembers:

These two LAUSD Campuses are showing their age. Last year LAUSD recognized the condition of both campuses and authorized replacement of some buildings and significant renovation of the remaining buildings. These two projects will cost well over \$200,000,000 but will result in two modern campuses. We applaud this decision and look forward to the completion of the projects.

However, we have one concern as regards safety of the campuses for students, teachers, and staff. Both campuses date back well over 50 years. During this period lead pipes were commonly used. There is no danger as to any building replaced with a new building. There is the potential for danger as to any building undergoing renovation if that building's plumbing is not inspected for lead pipes. We ask you to write to the Board at LAUSD and request that the projects be modified to look for lead pipes at all existing buildings on these campuses being left "as-is" or undergoing renovation. If lead pipes are discovered, they should be replaced prior to that building being reopened to students, teachers, or staff.

It is our position that the primary concern has to be safety and not just cost. Undoubtedly this will result in higher costs than what was originally projected. Offsetting the cost factor are the following factors:

- Replacement of lead pipes during the rebuilding project will have the least impact on learning and would have the lowest cost impact.
- Replacement would be mandatory under Federal, State and Local building codes.
- Any person negatively effected by exposure to lead has a potential lawsuit against LAUSD.



- Ignoring the potential hazard could create yet another potential situation where millions of dollars and multiple years of construction resulted in a campus that was uninhabitable.
- The strong economic recovery from Covid has resulted in significant unanticipated revenue streams for LAUSD that were unanticipated when these two projects were initially approved.

Please convey our concerns to the Board at LAUSD and request that they modify these two projects to keep the students, teachers, and staff safe.

Sincerely

Michael Lynn
President

DRAFT