

3.15 CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Construction of the proposed project would be expected to take approximately three years. Construction would be expected to begin in the late summer or early fall of 2009 and the project would be completed and ready for student occupancy by the start of the school year in 2012. Construction activities would normally take place Monday through Friday, although the delivery or installation of certain critical equipment could occur on weekends. Construction activity would generally be conducted between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Occasionally, overtime may be required to complete some time-sensitive tasks.

Construction activities on the project site and construction-related traffic on nearby streets would likely cause temporary disruptive effects on the site and immediate environs. The disruptive effects of the project's construction activities are described below.

3.15.1 Potential Traffic Impacts During Construction

The added construction worker and truck trip generation associated with construction of the new school facility would be expected to temporarily affect street conditions in the immediate area. On-street parking may be partly displaced by construction employee vehicles though the site would likely meet some of the demand. Like other construction-related effects, these effects on traffic and parking conditions would be short-term in duration.

3.15.2 Potential Noise Impacts During Construction

Construction activities generally have short-term noise effects on sensitive sites in the immediate vicinity of the construction site. Effects on community noise levels during construction include noise from construction equipment and noise from construction vehicles and delivery vehicles traveling to and from the site. The level of effect of these noise sources depends upon the noise characteristics of the equipment and activities involved, the construction schedule, and the distance from sensitive receptors. At a typical receptor, the noise levels would be highest during the early phases of construction, when excavation and heavy daily truck traffic would occur. Scheduling the noisiest activities at the least sensitive times of the day would limit their effect on any sensitive uses nearby.

3.15.3 Potential Air Quality Impacts During Construction

Construction-related effects of the project on air quality would be limited to short-term increased fugitive dust and mobile source emissions. Fugitive dust is airborne particulate matter that is "kicked up" by haul trucks, concrete trucks, delivery trucks, and other earth-moving vehicles operating around the construction site and from material blown from uncovered haul trucks. Effective mitigation measures to contain the dust include wetting tires before trucks leave the construction site and covering haul trucks to prevent material from blowing off.

Overall, the project's construction-related effects would be temporary and of a relatively short-term duration; therefore, construction of the proposed project would not result in significant adverse construction impacts.

Due to the complexity of maintaining school operation on the site during construction, the existing PS 133 elementary school would be relocated during construction to a temporary swing space at the St. Thomas Aquinas School located at Fourth Avenue and 8th Street. Prior to the SCA having secured this swing space, the construction plan entailed maintaining school operations for PS 133 in the existing school building while the new school facility is under construction. Under the original construction plan, the existing school building would have been demolished upon completion and student occupancy of the new school facility in 2012 and, following demolition, construction of the outdoor recreation areas and community garden would

have been completed approximately one year later in 2013. Locating the school in a swing space would enable the site's full development in three years, including demolition of the existing PS 133 building and construction of the outdoor recreational spaces and community garden, prior to student occupancy in 2012. The use of the swing space would also avoid the disruptive effects that construction activities could have on the students, as well as eliminate the need for a variety of protective measures that would otherwise be required to protect the existing school building and its occupants during construction. The reduction in the overall construction period would also result in energy saving and would shorten the duration of the temporary disruptive effects from construction on the surrounding community by one year.