BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

SCHOOL GUIDELINES

New Schools:

School siting warrants particular care. Listed below are requirements under the California Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 13, Environmental Quality (§21000 – §21189.57).

Projects "involving the purchase of a school site or the construction of a new elementary or secondary school" must have an environmental impact report (EIR) or a negative declaration meeting all requirements per PRC §21151.8 and CEQA Guidelines §15186 (a),(c). In addition, the California Department of Education provides specific standards for school site selection per the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 5, §14001 - §14012, which also complies with California Health and Safety Code (HSC), §21372, §22350, §22352, §22358.4, and §22358.5. Beyond CEQA requirements, several guidance documents provide general planning guidance on appropriate school siting decisions.

Proposed Projects Near Schools:

Proposed projects located within ¼ mile of a school that involve the construction or alteration of a facility that might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions, or the handling of an extremely hazardous substance or mixture containing extremely hazardous substances in a quantity equal to or greater than the state threshold quantity specified in subdivision (j) of HSC Section §25532, and that may impose a health or safety hazard to persons who would attend or would be employed at the school, must meet all requirements per CEQA Guidelines §15186 (b)(1)(2). The lead agency must consult with the affected school district or districts regarding the potential impact of the project on the school and notify the affected school district(s) of the project in writing, not less than 30 days prior to approval or certification of the negative declaration or EIR.

For more guidance regarding school siting and design visit:
California Department of Education - Guide to School Site Analysis and Development
Environmental Protection Agency - School Siting Guidelines