

Memorandum

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Date: April 19, 2023

To: Courtney Holowach, City of San Diego Development Services
Department

Cc:

From: Hunter Stapp, Project Manager, HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
Joanne Dramko, AICP, Principal Noise Specialist, HELIX Environmental
Planning, Inc.

Subject: Cumulative Construction Noise Evaluation for the Sharp Metropolitan Medical
Campus Modernization and Improvement Project

HELIX Proj. No.: 02450.00001.001

Message:

In July 2021, HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) prepared an Acoustical Analysis Report for the Sharp Metropolitan Medical Campus Modernization and Improvement Project (Project). The analysis within Section 4.1 of the report assessed potential construction noise impacts at off-site sensitive receptors (patients) located at the Nelson Pavilion at Rady Children's Hospital, adjacent to the Project site. Potential noise impacts were considered for both demolition of existing structures and construction of new structures proposed as part of the Project. Noise levels were conservatively estimated for equipment operating at the closest portion of proposed work areas to the Nelson Pavilion. Additionally, the noise level estimates conservatively did not take into account intervening structures located between proposed Project work areas at the Nelson Pavilion that would act as a partial barrier to the construction noise. The analysis determined that noise levels from Project construction would not exceed the 75 A-weighted decibel (dBA) 12-hour average noise level (L_{EQ} [12-hour]) standard set forth in the City of San Diego (City) Municipal Code (refer to Section 4.1 and Table 5 of the 2021 Acoustical Analysis Report).

Subsequent to the completion of the 2021 report, it has been determined that there is potential for construction activities for the proposed Project and improvements at Rady Children's Hospital to occur simultaneously, which could potentially result in combined construction noise affecting sensitive receptors. However, noise from the proposed Project is not anticipated to substantially contribute to potentially combined noise levels at the off-site sensitive receptors located at the Nelson Pavilion, as discussed below.

Memorandum (cont.)

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As mentioned above, noise levels from Project construction were determined to be below the applicable 75-dBA L_{EQ} (12-hour) standard, assuming construction would occur at the closest portion of work areas to the off-site sensitive receptors (a distance of approximately 200 feet; refer to Figure 3 of the 2021 Acoustical Analysis Report) and not considering the presence of structures located between the Project's work areas and off-site receptors. However, in practice, most construction equipment would likely move around the site and occur at distances greater than 200 feet from the Nelson Pavilion. In addition, structures located between Project work areas and the Nelson Pavilion, including the Frost Street Parking Garage, MRI Building, Central Energy Plant Building, and Rady Children's Hospital: Education Office Building, would act as barriers blocking some Project-generated construction noise from reaching Nelson Pavilion, thus providing substantial noise attenuation at these off-site sensitive receptors. Distance combined with intervening structures would result in Project-generated noise levels much reduced from those conservatively presented in the Acoustical Analysis Report. Such noise levels are not anticipated to result in a 3-dBA increase (which is considered a perceptible increase and occurs from a doubling of sound energy) at sensitive receptors at the Nelson Pavilion over the more localized construction noise generated by the improvements proposed at Rady Children's Hospital. Furthermore, hospital patient facilities (where sensitive receptors are located) are enclosed buildings (i.e., windows cannot be opened) of steel and concrete construction that provide significant reduction (15 dBA minimum) in exterior-to-interior noise. As such, the proposed Project would not substantially contribute to a cumulative construction noise impact at off-site sensitive receptors located at Rady Children's Hospital.