

DRAFT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Enrollment in the Larkspur School District has steadily increased an average of 5% over the last 5 years, and by fall 2008 will be approximately 1,240 students. This trend indicates the district's enrollment will reach 1,300 to 1,400 students by fall of 2012. With only 2 schools, this means enrollment at each site will exceed 650 students. Neil Cummins Elementary, a K-4 school, will likely continue to exceed 700 students.

Schools demographics in the district demonstrate increasing diversity, requiring additional educational program support. The combined demographic and enrollment forecasts, coupled with the age of our existing buildings, will create a strain on our already crowded facilities, limited by lack of available classroom space. Our educational specifications require more classrooms and flexibility to meet the demands of our community for high student achievement and quality educational programs. Smaller learning environments are more conducive to safety, student learning, and staff collaboration. The existing open schools in the Larkspur School District are too large by these standards. In addition, the site at Marin Primary is too small (acreage) by today's standards. San Clemente School site presents soil and foundational requirements, making new construction or modernization cost-prohibitive.

The Facilities Master Plan Committee, considering modernization and student housing needs in the next five years, recommends completing the modernization of both schools. The Committee recommends the district be reconfigured to allow for three campuses on two school sites. The recommendation for student housing is to restructure the campus at Neil Cummins Elementary, such that an upper and lower campus are created with separate administration. This can be accomplished through the demolition of portables and one aging wing at Neil Cummins (12 classrooms), replacing and rebuilding these rooms, plus building 9 more at a different location on the existing acreage. The estimated cost for completing modernization and new construction at Neil Cummins Elementary and Hall Middle School in 2008 dollars is \$24,000,000.

Financing this project would be accomplished by voter approval of a Bond measure of \$23,000,000 and a hardship grant through the Office of Public School Construction. The following plan details the rationale and specifics of this recommendation and/or the alternative, which is to continue to add portables to accommodate enrollment growth.

RECOMMENDATION

The Facilities Master Plan committee recommends (contingent on securing funding):

- 1) Completing necessary modernization at Neil Cummins Elementary and Hall Middle Schools;
- 2) Constructing new classrooms at Neil Cummins, reconfiguring the buildings to accommodate an upper and lower campus;
- 3) Maintaining the facilities advisory committee to oversee projects and revise and update the Facilities Master Plan.