

3.1 AESTHETICS

The purpose of this chapter is to identify and evaluate key visual and aesthetic resources in the vicinity of the project site and to determine the degree of visual and aesthetic impacts that would be attributable to the proposed project. The analysis describes the potential aesthetic effects of the proposed project on the existing landscape and built environment, focusing on the compatibility of the proposed project with existing conditions and its potential effects on visual resources.

3.1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

VISUAL CHARACTER

Visual character can be defined in terms of the overall visual impression formed by the relationship or contrast between perceived visual elements of the built urban environment existing in the potentially impacted area. Elements contributing to this visual impression may include the following:

- The nature and quality of buildings
- The cohesion of the area's collective architecture
- The compatibility between uses and activities with the built environment
- The quality of streetscape, including roadways, sidewalks, plazas, parks and street furniture
- The nature and quality of private property landscaping that is visible to the general public

Visual character functions as a point of reference in assessing whether the proposed project's features would appear to be compatible with the existing built environment. In general, evaluation of visual character is determined by the degree of contrast that could potentially result between the proposed project and the existing built environment. Contrast is assessed by considering the consistency of the following features of the proposed project with those of the existing built environment:

- Scale or the general intensity of development comprised of the height and set back of buildings
- Massing or the volume and arrangement of buildings
- Open space or the set back of buildings and amount of pedestrian spaces

Project Site

Figures 3.1-1 through 3.1-5 illustrate the existing visual character of the project site. The project site currently includes approximately 18 permanent buildings and 32 portable classrooms. The existing permanent buildings were constructed in the 1930s and 1940s, with some additions completed in the 1950s through the 1990s. The existing permanent buildings are of small- to medium scale, except for the Auditorium building, which appears to be a larger-scale building. The outdoor athletic facilities on the

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campus include a track and football field with bleachers that seat 5,000 people, as well as baseball and practice fields, and five tennis courts.

The majority of the buildings on the project site are one to two stories in height, with the exception of the Science Building. Although the Auditorium building located in the northern portion of the project site is only two stories, it is the tallest building on the project site at approximately 60 feet tall (Figure 3.1-1). The Auditorium building is visible from adjacent roadways and residents, and stands out as a memorable, but not unique, visual feature of the project site primarily due to its height and the large-scale mural exhibited on its exterior walls.

As shown in Figure 3.1-2, the Science Building, which is located in the central portion of the campus, is three stories tall and does not add visual interest to the project site. The visual character of the project site is inconsistent and exhibits a low level of visual cohesion due to the mix of the older Mediterranean Revival style buildings with Modern and utilitarian style buildings.¹ However, as shown in Figure 3.1-3, the presence of mature trees adjacent to the project site walkways adds some visual interest to the project site. Some of the trees and landscaping on the project site are visible to viewers off-site, particularly along Atlantic Avenue where the school buildings are set back from the street by a parking lot and landscaped areas including grass and several mature trees. In addition, as shown in Figure 3.1-3, the older buildings on the project site have a higher level of visual quality (e.g., ceramic-tiled and gable rooftops) than the modern-looking buildings.

Figure 3.1-4 shows an existing view of the Cafeteria and adjacent quad including lunch tables for students. This view is a typical and representative view of the existing campus, which does not include any unique visual features. Figure 3.1-5 shows an existing west-facing view of the northern portion of the project site. The Auditorium is visible, as well as the directly adjacent backyard areas of the single-family residential properties located north of the project site. Although the presence the ceramic-tiled, older school buildings, as well as landscaping pedestrian walkways and mature trees individually add a higher quality of visual character to the project site, overall, the collective visual character of the project site is not unique or memorable due to the noticeable lack of cohesion of buildings styles and quality.

¹ PCR Services Corporation. *Historic Resources Assessment for David Starr Jordan High School*. March 2013.



FIGURE 3.1-1
EXISTING VIEW OF PROJECT SITE AUDITORIUM LOOKING NORTH



FIGURE 3.1-2
EXISTING VIEW OF PROJECT SITE THREE-STORY SCIENCE BUILDING LOOKING EAST

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FIGURE 3.1-3
EXISTING VIEW OF PROJECT SITE WALKWAY AND CLASSROOMS LOOKING NORTHWEST



FIGURE 3.1-4
EXISTING VIEW OF PROJECT SITE CAFETERIA AND QUAD LOOKING SOUTH



FIGURE 3.1-5
EXISTING VIEW OF NORTHERN PORTION OF PROJECT SITE LOOKING WEST

Surrounding Setting

Figures 3.1-6 through 3.1-13 illustrate the existing visual character of the project area. The area surrounding the project site is a developed urban area of the City consisting of a mix of single- and multi-family residences, commercial properties, and open space/park uses. Primarily one-story single family residential properties built in the 1940s are located directly adjacent and north of the project site (see Figure 3.1-5).² These residences front Coolidge Street, an east-west oriented cul-de-sac located north of the project site, while their backyard areas are directly adjacent to the project site northern property line.

Figure 3.1-6 shows a view of the project site and commercial uses along Atlantic Avenue. Several of the existing project site buildings, including the Auditorium, as well as existing landscaping are visible from Atlantic Avenue. Atlantic Avenue includes a landscaped median with a blue metal fence that stands out as a memorable, but not a unique, visual feature along the street. Typical commercial strip malls are located on the east and west side of Atlantic Avenue, just south of its intersection with Artesia Boulevard. As shown on Figure 3.1-7, modest two- to three-story multi-family residential buildings are located on the west side of Atlantic Avenue, across the street from the project site. These residential buildings were built primarily in the 1950s and 1960s.³ In addition, directly adjacent to these multi-family residential buildings, Atlantic Avenue branches off into a frontage road that serves as parking for the apartment

² Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor, Property Assessment Information System. 2013. Website: <http://maps.assessor.lacounty.gov/mapping/viewer.asp>. Accessed: August 4, 2013.

³ Ibid.

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residences. This frontage road, as well as the landscaped median within the center of Atlantic Avenue, functions as a visual buffer between some of the multi-family residences and the project site. However, other residents and pedestrians along Atlantic Avenue appear to have a more direct view of the project site. Figure 3.1-8 shows a view of the project site (Cafeteria) from the multi-family residential buildings located near the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Aloha Circle. Figure 3.1-9 shows a view of Houghton Park from multi-family residential frontage road along the west side of Atlantic Avenue. This park is located directly south of the project site. As shown, Houghton Park has numerous mature trees that add visual interest to this portion of the street, and that interrupts and/or blocks views of the project site.

Modest and primarily one-story single-family residences are located along the roadways south, east, and north of the project site. Figure 3.1-10 shows a view of Houghton Park and the single-family residences located south of the park along Harding Street. These residences were built in the 1940s and 1950s.⁴ The residents and pedestrians along Harding Street do not have direct views of the project site due to the numerous mature trees that are located within Houghton Park, which block and/or interrupt the view. Figure 3.1-11 illustrates the visual character of the existing single-family residential properties located on the east side of Myrtle Avenue, across the street from the project site. These residences were built in the 1930s and 1940s.⁵ Numerous residential properties and pedestrians have direct views of the project site from the east side of Myrtle Avenue (Figure 3.1-12). Figure 3.1-13 shows a view of Artesia Boulevard looking west toward Atlantic Avenue. This view includes portions of single-family residential properties, a landscaped street median, as well as strip mall commercial uses. In addition, the 60-foot-tall Auditorium building is visible on the left side of the view, which includes a large-scale and colorful mural (American flag) on the exterior of the building facing north toward Artesia Boulevard. Overall, the visual character of the project area does not include any visual resources or unique visual features.

⁴ Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor, Property Assessment Information System. 2013. Website: <http://maps.assessor.lacounty.gov/mapping/viewer.asp>. Accessed: August 4, 2013.

⁵ Ibid.



FIGURE 3.1-6
EXISTING VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE LOOKING SOUTH



FIGURE 3.1-7
EXISTING VIEW OF MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCES ON ATLANTIC AVENUE LOOKING SOUTH

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FIGURE 3.1-8
EXISTING VIEW OF PROJECT SITE FROM MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCES ON ATLANTIC AVENUE
LOOKING EAST



FIGURE 3.1-9
EXISTING VIEW OF PARK AND PROJECT SITE ON ATLANTIC AVENUE LOOKING NORTH



FIGURE 3.1-10
EXISTING VIEW OF PARK AND SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES ON HARDING STREET LOOKING EAST



FIGURE 3.1-11
EXISTING VIEW OF SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES ON MYRTLE AVENUE LOOKING NORTH

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FIGURE 3.1-12
EXISTING VIEW OF PROJECT SITE FROM MYRTLE AVENUE RESIDENCES LOOKING SOUTH



FIGURE 3.1-13
EXISTING VIEW OF AUDITORIUM FROM ARTESIA BOULEVARD LOOKING EAST

SHADE AND SHADOWS

Shadows are cast in a clockwise direction from west/northwest to east/northeast, from the morning to afternoon hours, during the various solar periods of the year: Spring Equinox (March 20), Summer Solstice (June 21), Autumn Equinox (September 22), and Winter Solstice (December 21). Generally, the shortest shadows are cast during the Summer Solstice and grow increasingly longer until the Winter Solstice. During the Winter Solstice, the sun is lower in the sky and shadows are at their maximum coverage lengths. Shadow-sensitive uses generally include routinely useable outdoor spaces associated with residential, recreational, or institutional land uses; commercial uses, such as pedestrian-oriented outdoor spaces or restaurants with outdoor eating areas; nurseries; and existing solar collectors/panels.

Due to the relatively dense arrangement of existing buildings within the campus and surrounding project area, shadow effects on shadow-sensitive uses may currently exist. However, the single-family residential properties located directly north of the project site and along Myrtle Avenue do not currently receive a high amount of shadow coverage in the afternoon due to the lack of tall buildings and structures located adjacent to these residences. Some shading of these residential properties, as well as Houghton Park may currently receive a small amount of shadow coverage from existing trees and other tall vegetation on those properties.

The existing buildings on the project site, except for the Auditorium building, do not substantially shade any adjacent shadow-sensitive properties because of the large setback of the school buildings. The 60-foot-tall Auditorium building is located approximately 33 feet south of the northern project site boundary and directly adjacent single-family residential back yard areas. This project site building is located nearer to adjacent residences than any other existing building on the project site. And although the northern portion of the building is stepped down and is shorter than the middle and southern portion of the building, it is possible that shadows from the Auditorium currently cross over the northern property line for a period of time each day, particularly during the Winter Solstice.

LIGHT AND GLARE

The project site is located within a highly urbanized area of Long Beach with nearby residential, commercial, and open space/recreational uses, as well as SR 91 and I-710, major transportation corridors. A high level of ambient nighttime lighting exists in the project area due to building security, vehicular, freeway, and pedestrian lighting. Approximately 25-foot-tall parking lot lights are currently located within the parking and drop-off areas along Atlantic Avenue, as well as within the parking lot located on the northern portion of the project site directly adjacent to single-family residential properties. Several of the parking lot lighting standards located within the northern parking lot are installed nearly at the northern property line. Approximately 15-foot-tall pedestrian lighting is located throughout the project site along portions of the walkways. Ten approximately 70-foot-tall light poles with lighting fixtures are provided for the existing track and football field near the central portion of the project site. In addition, there is currently a high level of ambient night lighting on the project site due to the security lighting provided at strategic locations on the campus. This and other existing lighting on the project site may currently spill over onto the single-family residential properties located north and/or east of the project

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site. Approximately 30-foot-tall vehicular street lighting is provided on a majority of streets in the project area. In addition, several light poles with lighting fixtures, approximately 70 feet tall, are located within Houghton Park to light the baseball/softball fields. Some of the light poles and fixtures that face towards the east may cause a spillover of light onto Myrtle Avenue and the single-family residential properties that are located approximately 82 feet east of the ball fields on the east side of Myrtle Avenue.

The majority of existing structures within the project area are comprised of non-reflective materials, such as concrete, wood, and plaster. Glare may result from sunlight reflecting off glass, plastic awnings, or other structural features of commercial buildings located on Atlantic Avenue. The existing lighting on the project site and within Houghton Park may currently result in glare effects if light-sensitive receptors have a direct line-of-sight to the light fixtures while they are in operation.

3.1.2 REGULATORY SETTING

LOCAL

Citywide policies on scenic vistas focus on protecting views of the City's natural resources, as well as views along significant streets and boulevards. The City of Long Beach General Plan Scenic Routes Element, adopted in 1975, proposed five scenic route systems within the City. Neighborhood aesthetics and character are addressed in several City policies, especially those contained in the Urban Design Analysis, Conclusions and Policy Directions Section of the Land Use Element and several in the Conservation and Scenic Routes elements. These issues are further addressed in the City's Zoning Ordinance through a range of development standards that are applied by district. In addition, the North Long Beach Strategic Guide for Redevelopment identifies comprehensive strategies for the overall revitalization and redevelopment of the North Long Beach Project Area. These strategies suggest and prescribe changes in land use, specific development projects, changes in regulatory controls, and changes in public services. The North Long Beach Design Guidelines apply to North Long Beach including the project site, and are intended to serve as a guide for property owners and developers who are planning new development projects or renovation of existing structures in North Long Beach and for City of Long Beach Redevelopment Agency and Planning staff who review those projects. The Design Guidelines implement the design principles in the North Long Beach Strategic Guide.

Policies and design standards related to aesthetics that are applicable to the proposed project are discussed below. This subsection primarily focuses on those requirements most applicable to the design of the proposed project for the purpose of assessing whether any inconsistency with these standards creates a significant impact on the City's visual resources.

City of Long Beach General Plan Conservation Element

Presented below are policies from the City's Conservation Element that would be applicable to the proposed project:

- To create and maintain a productive harmony between man and his environment through conservation of natural resources and protection of significant areas having environmental and aesthetic value.
- To identify and preserve sites of outstanding scenic, historic, and cultural significance or recreational potential.

City of Long Beach General Plan Scenic Routes Element

The Scenic Routes Element was adopted by the Long Beach City Council in 1975. The Scenic Routes Element is an optional element that identifies goals and policies to protect and enhance aesthetic resources within the City. The Scenic Routes Element serves as a comprehensive plan for the development and protection of a system of scenic routes and corridors and identifies scenic assets of historical, cultural, recreational, industrial and aesthetic importance. This Element depicts scenic routes, which may have merit for inclusion in a designated system and establishes criteria and design standards to protect the scenic corridors. None of the scenic routes identified by the City are located near the project site.

3.1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

As part of the Initial Study (see Appendix A), it was determined that the proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista or substantially damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway. Accordingly, these issues are not further analyzed in this EIR.

Pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project would have a significant effect on aesthetic resources if it would:

- Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings; and/or
- Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING VISUAL IMPACT

The extent of the potential impact from a particular visual change is subjective and depends upon the degree of alteration, the scenic quality of the area disturbed, and the sensitivity of the viewers. The degree of alteration refers to the extent of change, including changes to the building height, landscaping, and setback. Scenic quality is often indicated by a city's special zoning and planning overlay zones, but

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can also be assessed based on the vividness or memorability of the view, and intactness and unity of the elements within the view. These terms are defined as follows:⁶

Vividness	the memorability of the visual impression received from contrasting landscape elements as they combine to form a striking distinctive visual pattern.
Intactness	the integrity of visual order in the natural and man-built landscape, and the extent to which the landscape is free from visual encroachment.
Unity	the degree to which the visual resources of the landscape join together to form a coherent, harmonious visual pattern. Unity refers to the compositional harmony or inter-compatibility between landscape elements.

Because of the location of the project site, the proposed project would be visible to several different groups of people. To assess their potential response to the proposed project, it is important to identify and categorize different types of viewers depending on their sensitivity to change in the landscape. Viewer groups who currently experience the project site include Jordan High School students, faculty, and staff; local residents; patrons and employees of local commercial businesses and Houghton Park, and motorists passing the project Site. Viewer sensitivity varies depending on the location of the viewer at the time the view is experienced, the duration of that view, the typical activities being undertaken while the view is experienced, and the number of viewers in the sensitive viewer group. A description of each viewer group follows, in order from the most to least sensitive viewer groups.

- The students, faculty, and staff of Jordan High School experience views of the project site as they approach and leave school/work, and as they walk throughout the campus daily. Although these students, faculty, and staff may potentially be interested in the external visual quality or aesthetics of the facility in which they learn and work, they are considered to have less personal investment in the visual appearance of the site and its vicinity. This is primarily because they would typically continue to attend and work at the school despite the aesthetics of the buildings. However, it is acknowledged that some of these viewers, who may have attended school or worked in the project area for several years, may have an interest in the visual character of the campus. The students, faculty, and staff at Jordan High School would have a moderate to low sensitivity to the changes at the project site.
- The single-family residential uses located directly north of the project site and along Myrtle Avenue currently have views of the project site. In addition, the some of the multi-family residential buildings located along Atlantic Avenue have views of the project site. Private direct views of the project site are experienced from the single-family residences located directly north of the project site, the single-family residences located along Myrtle Avenue, and some of the second and third floor multi-family apartment residences along Atlantic Avenue. Some of these views are interrupted by trees located within the public parkway along Myrtle Avenue and Atlantic Avenue, as well as the fence that divides the project site

⁶ U.S. Department of Transportation. *Visual Impact Assessment for Highway Projects*. 1988.

from the single-family residences directly to the north. The sensitivity of these residential viewers is considered to be moderate to high.

- Patrons and employees of Houghton Park and the commercial businesses along Atlantic Avenue are considered less sensitive viewers because they would typically continue to patronize and work at the park and commercial businesses despite the aesthetics of the buildings on the project site. In addition, these viewers have less personal investment in the visual appearance of the surrounding buildings. However, it is acknowledged that some of these viewers, who may have patronized or worked in the project area for several years, may have an interest in the visual character of the campus. Patrons and employees at these locations would have a low sensitivity to changes at the project site.
- Motorists pass the project site along Atlantic and Myrtle Avenues. Motorists are generally considered to be the least sensitive of the viewers identified here as views are fleeting and temporary as they pass the project site. This is particularly the case for Atlantic Avenue where the highest volume of traffic travels at higher speeds. The traffic signal at Atlantic Avenue and Aloha Circle, located west of the project site, may result in a longer duration of views. However, motorists are considered the least sensitive of the viewer groups considered in this analysis. Nonetheless, it is acknowledged that some of these viewers, who may have driven through the project area for several years, may have a minor interest in the visual character of the project site.

It is possible to acknowledge a visual change as potentially adverse, but not significant, because either viewers are not sensitive or the scenic quality of the surrounding area is not high.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

AES-1 *The proposed project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings during construction. The impact would be less than significant.*

Construction

The construction period of the proposed project would involve the demolition of existing buildings, construction of new buildings, and the renovation/interior remodeling of other existing buildings. Interim housing would be placed on the eastern portion of the project site. The interim housing, as well as other buildings on the project site would be in operation during the construction period.

During the construction period, the visual character of the project site would change substantially from existing conditions. Construction areas would be busier than at present, with truck movements carrying materials on- and off-site, and work crews and construction equipment moving around the project site. Demolition and construction activities would be visible from nearby roadways and surrounding residential properties. This short-term condition would create a temporary visual distraction typically associated with construction activities. The construction would be phased over an approximately 14-year

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period, depending on the availability of funding. Therefore, the construction zone would rotate throughout the campus during the course of construction of all six project phases.

The altered visual character of the project site during the proposed demolition, construction, and renovation/interior remodeling activities would primarily be visible to the single-family residences located on the east side of Myrtle Avenue; the single-family residential back yard areas adjacent and north of the project site; the multi-family residential buildings located on the west side of Atlantic Avenue; the students, faculty, and staff at Jordan High School; patrons and employees of Houghton Park and the commercial businesses located in the project area; and motorists traveling along Atlantic and Myrtle Avenues.

The single-family residences located on the east side of Myrtle Avenue would have direct views of the proposed demolition, construction, and renovation activities on the project site. These residential viewers are considered to be moderate to highly sensitive to changes in visual character because they are located approximately 60 feet east of the project site and would have direct views of the demolition, construction, and renovation activities from their front yards and front doors/windows of their homes. In addition, these residents would have direct views of the main point of construction truck access to the project site along Myrtle Avenue. The single-family residents located adjacent and north of the project site would have direct and indirect views of the project site during the demolition, construction, and renovation activities from their back yard areas. This view would be interrupted due to the presence of trees and other vegetation within several private backyards. These single-family residences located adjacent and north of the project site are considered to be moderate to highly sensitive to changes in visual character. Some of the second and third floor multi-family apartments located along Atlantic Avenue may have direct and/or indirect views of the construction activities at the project site. Some of these views may be screened by existing landscaping and intervening development. These multi-family residential viewers are considered to be moderate to highly sensitive to changes in visual character on the project site. However, at the start of the construction period, at least eight-foot-tall fencing and screening would be installed at the perimeter of the project site to limit views of construction activities. With the installation of this screening as part of the project less than significant impacts are anticipated regarding the changes in the visual character of the project site during the proposed construction activities, from the perspective of the single- and multi-family residential properties surrounding the project site.

The students, faculty, and staff at Jordan High School, are considered to have a low to moderate sensitivity to changes in visual character. The students, faculty, and staff that populate various portions of the campus would have both direct and indirect views of the proposed demolition, construction, and renovation/interior remodeling activities. Several of the existing buildings on the campus, as well as the interim housing, would be in use during the construction period. As such, students, faculty, and staff would have direct and indirect views of the new construction from inside existing buildings on the project site and from the various quad areas and walkways. The students, faculty, and staff on the campus would experience a substantial change in visual character during the construction period of the proposed project. However, the sensitivity of these viewers to visual changes on the project site is moderate to low. This is primarily because they would typically continue to attend and work at the school despite the aesthetics of the campus during the construction period. As such, less than significant impacts would be anticipated

related to the changes in the visual character of the project site during the proposed construction activities, from the perspective of the students, faculty, and staff.

The patrons and employees of Houghton Park and the commercial land uses in the project area would primarily experience views of the construction activities on the project site as they approach and leave their commercial destination or place of work. Those viewers who are within Houghton Park may have views of the construction activities while in the park because of its location directly adjacent to and south of the project site. However, there are many trees and other vegetation located near the northern property line of the park that would interrupt views from the park to the construction activities on the project site. The employees of project land uses would not be highly sensitive to visual changes occurring on the project site during the construction period. In addition, patrons of the project area land uses may be more sensitive than the employees, but nevertheless would not likely change their patronage due to visual changes taking place on the project site during the construction period. Project construction would modify the visual character of the project area for patrons and employees. However, because this viewer group would have a low sensitivity to visual changes and have less personal investment in the visual appearance of the project site, the visual impact would be less than significant.

Passing motorists would primarily experience the visual character of the proposed construction activities while driving along the roadways adjacent to the project site. A majority of the passing motorists who would have a line-of-sight to the project site would be traveling along either Atlantic Avenue or Myrtle Avenue. In addition, motorists would view the project site from the signalized intersection at Atlantic Avenue and Aloha Circle. There is a potential for motorists stopped at this intersection to have longer periods of time to experience the change in the visual character of the project site during the construction period. However, this viewer group is considered to have a low sensitivity to visual changes on the project site as they are likely passing through the project area to reach their destination and do not necessarily have a personal investment in the visual character of the project site. Therefore, visual character impacts for passing motorists would be less than significant.

The residents located along Myrtle and Atlantic Avenues, as well as the students, faculty, and staff that attend school or work on the project site are considered to have a higher level of sensitivity to the changes in visual character during the construction period of the proposed project than the project area patrons, employees, and passing motorists. During the proposed project construction, the project site would stand out as a memorable or remarkable feature in the landscape from the perspective of the residents and campus students, faculty, and staff. The construction impact on visual character for these groups would only occur during the construction period of the proposed project and would be less than significant.

Operations

At the completion of construction, approximately five new, two story buildings would be located in the northern portion of the project site. These new buildings would be set back at least 60 feet from the northern property line and the adjacent single-family residential properties to the north. Currently, there are one-story portables and other one-story classroom buildings located as near as 52 feet from the northern property line of the project site. Although the new buildings would be taller than the existing

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buildings at this location of the project site, they would also have a larger setback length, which would help to reduce any potential visual intrusion that could occur from the perspective of the single-family residences directly to the north. In addition, there are trees and other vegetation located within these private back yard areas that would function as screening. Similar to existing conditions, the single-family residences located on the east side of Myrtle Avenue would have direct views of the proposed project to the west. The new classroom buildings located within the northern portion of the project site would be one-story taller than the existing portables that are located at this location, and directly visible to the Myrtle Avenue residences. However, they would not be located any further east on the project site toward the residences. The new buildings would have a similar setback length to the eastern property line as the existing portables. The proposed project would construct new, modern-looking structures that would not be taller than two stories, one-story taller than the surrounding single-family residences, but at a similar height to the multi-family residential buildings located on the west side of Atlantic Avenue. There is no unifying theme or character to the existing development that surrounds the project site and the proposed project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Several landscape trees on the project site would require removal and/or relocation with the proposed project, which would temporarily impact the visual character of the project site. However, the removed trees are not known to be protected. New landscape trees are proposed near the classroom buildings and parking areas. The species and maturity of the trees were selected in accordance with the LBUSD's approved tree list. The students, faculty, and staff who attend classes and work at the project site would not be significantly impacted by the visual character of the proposed project. From the perspective of these viewers, the proposed project may result in a beneficial visual change with the presence of new and modern buildings in which to attend classes and work. The patrons of Houghton Park would also not be significantly impacted by the visual character of the proposed project. They would continue to patronize the park regardless of the project site's visual characteristics. In addition, views of the proposed project from the park would continue to be interrupted and/or blocked by the numerous mature trees in the park and at the park's northern boundary (adjacent to the project site's southern boundary). Therefore, the long-term visual impact of the proposed project would be less than significant.

Generally, shadow lengths are the longest during the winter season when the period of daylight is shortest. In particular, the shortest day of the year occurs on the Winter Solstice, which typically falls on or around December 21. Conversely, shadow lengths are the shortest during the summer when the period of daylight extends more than 12 hours. The longest day of the year occurs on the Summer Solstice, which typically falls on or around June 21. The direction of the shadows cast move with the sun throughout the day, resulting in different variations in the length of shadow projections at different times of the day and seasons of the year. Shadows are projected in a westerly direction during the morning hours when the sun rises from the east; shadows move northerly during the late morning and early afternoon hours. Finally, shadows are cast in an easterly direction during the late afternoon to early evening hours when the sun sets in the west. Significant shadow impacts are determined when proposed project shadows would cover a shadow-sensitive use for more than approximately three hours. Shadow-sensitive uses include routinely useable outdoor spaces associated with residential, recreational, or institutional land uses; commercial uses, such as pedestrian-oriented outdoor spaces or restaurants with outdoor eating areas; nurseries; and existing solar collectors/panels.

The shadow sensitive uses that are located in close proximity to the project site include the backyard areas of the single-family residential properties directly north of the project site. Five new two-story buildings would be located within the northern portion of the project site. These new buildings, although one-story taller than the existing buildings at this location, would be set back at least 60 feet from the northern property line. The new buildings would be at least eight feet further south of the northern property line than the existing buildings. However, as with the shadows created by the existing campus buildings, shadows from the new buildings during the Winter Solstice may result in a small amount of shadow coverage of the adjacent backyard areas; however, shadow coverage would not be expected to last for three hours or longer. In addition, these shadows would not impact the residential buildings themselves. During the other seasons of the year, the proposed project shadows would be shorter, and would not be anticipated to impact adjacent shadow-sensitive uses. In addition, the proposed project would not significantly shade the shadow-sensitive residential properties along Myrtle and Atlantic Avenues due to the longer distance between the new buildings and these uses. The long-term shade and shadow impacts would be less than significant.

AES-2 *The proposed project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. The impact would be less than significant.*

The project site is located in an urban area adjacent to Atlantic Avenue, Myrtle Avenue, Artesia Boulevard, SR 91, and I-710, which currently has a high level of ambient lighting. The existing uses on the project site include nighttime building lighting, security lighting, parking lot lighting, and high-poled athletic field lighting. The proposed project would use nighttime building lighting, security lighting, and building entrance lighting similar to the existing condition. In addition, the high-poled lighting currently located at the track and football field would be replaced with light poles and fixtures of the same specifications as the existing lighting. No new sports field lighting that does not currently exist on the project site would be installed as part of the proposed project. All lighting, including security lighting, would be installed in accordance with applicable specifications and with the appropriate lighting levels to prevent light from spilling over onto the residential uses along Myrtle Avenue. All lighting fixtures, including those installed on the project site would be installed in accordance with the applicable specifications and LBUSD standards, and would be aimed downward as appropriate to ensure that the light does not spillover onto nearby and adjacent residential uses. With the implementation of applicable lighting specifications and LBUSD standards, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to lighting.

Glare is produced when any visible light source is brighter than the surroundings in the line of vision. Reflections from smooth, polished reflective surfaces can also be a cause of glare. The proposed project would not include any new major sources of glare, such as new athletic field lighting that does not currently exist on the project site. The high-poled lighting currently located at the track and football field would be replaced with light poles and fixtures of the same specifications as the existing lighting. No new sports field lighting that does not currently exist on the project site is proposed with the proposed project. The high-poled lighting would be aimed downward to prevent glare effects to the residential uses along Myrtle Avenue. It is anticipated that the proposed new buildings would be constructed of concrete

3.1 Aesthetics

and nonreflective glass windows. With the implementation of applicable lighting specifications and LBUSD standards, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to glare.

3.1.4 MITIGATION MEASURES

Impacts to aesthetics would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

3.1.5 SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

Not applicable.