

**From:** frankbattung@gmail.com [mailto:frankbattung@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 10:54 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** El Dorado Soccer Field

**-EXTERNAL-**

Please do not spend millions of dollars on a soccer field in the park when you can't even keep the roads in the park in good repair.

**From:** Leslie Davis [mailto:leslielkd@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 9:00 AM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Linda Tatum <Linda.Tatum@longbeach.gov>; Rogert.Luna@longbeach.gov; Xavier Espino <Xavier.Espino@longbeach.gov>; Prosecutor <Prosecutor@longbeach.gov>; Art.Sanchez@longbeach.gov; Gary Anderson <Gary.Anderson@longbeach.gov>

**Cc:** City Manager <CityManager@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>

**Subject:** Explosives on the Streets of Long Beach

**-EXTERNAL-**

Hello all:

I am a 15-year resident and business owner in Long Beach and have advocated on this topic for some time now. I am also a member of the Facebook Group, Long Beach Against Illegal Fireworks and Explosives, in which several city leaders also participate and contribute.

We receive nightly reports of explosives being detonated throughout the city's neighborhoods posted on our Facebook Group's page that are reported to the Police Department. Often this includes military-grade mortars and devices that mimic the sound of gunshot and car bombs) in our neighborhoods and on our streets. Sadly, this is nothing new. It's been gathering momentum for many years and is a major public safety and quality of life issue wherein we are now subjected to dangerous, unsettling and unhealthy exposure to **nightly** explosives being detonated, this year – for nearly **12 months**, whereas it used to be 4 months out of the year.

This is unacceptable and shameful that it has been allowed to permeate our city for decades without resolution. We do not want our city leaders or the newly formed Fireworks Committee to procrastinate taking swift and serious action on this ever-growing, currently out of control problem. We strongly suggest that a new approach for reporting this problem through a separate hotline be immediately implemented – one that actually will enable the perpetrators to be caught and arrested, rather than the current reporting system that emboldens them and enables them to continue to evade the law.

Citizens are not getting sleep and are exhausted. We just want our lives and our neighborhoods returned to us and to have public safety taken seriously around this issue.

Leslie Davis

[leslielkd@gmail.com](mailto:leslielkd@gmail.com)

**From:** R.M. Holman [mailto:martin@polb.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** Amy Harbin <Amy.Harbin@longbeach.gov>; LBDS-EIR-Comments <LBDS-EIR-Comments@longbeach.gov>  
**Cc:** Megan Larum <megan.larum@psomas.com>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Pacific Place MND Comments

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear Ms. Harbin:

Please confirm the receipt of my comments (below) for the Pacific Place MND comment period.

I am writing in regard to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project, which I believe is inadequate for the proposed project. Only a full EIR can satisfy the research needed for the project as described. Here are my concerns:

I strongly believe that the environment would be significantly impacted by this project, as it relates to both Air Quality and Noise level impacts by an increase in large vehicle traffic adjoining an elementary school, a park, and homes very nearby.

I understand from local neighbors that there may be artifacts on this property that would be damaged or lost by this project. As a 3rd generation California native, I think it is of paramount concern that this be followed up on closely to preserve and protect historical items, through contacts with those individuals who are aware of these finds, not simply ignored just because some reference database has no record of it being a potential site of archeological interest. Every archeological site there is, has existed before it was inserted into a database, this may be one as well. I would be happy to connect you with them upon request.

I understand that the MND does not have nearly enough consideration of the storm drainage needed for such a property & that would be appropriate for this project. As a nearby neighbor, this could impact our homes and/or neighborhoods, at the very least, through concerns over our health & suppressed property values, or worst case, by toxic poisons running right by our homes.

The West Side of Long Beach neighborhood desperately needs more park space to be a healthy, thriving community. The City has long been aware of this, but we (West Long Beach) are still at less than one acre of open park space for every 1000 residents! I am not aware of any pent up demand for RV storage/parking; the irony of this situation is that more RV storage demand could probably come from properties that are expanded to support more housing, creating an even more important need for more park space.

I am concerned that the amount of toxics in these soils will not be properly addressed, both in the near term, but also in the very long term. I understand that there may be no core samples from this area that are relevant to this project. If there is a sludge pool underneath this project, how could we know that the community will be protected from it?

When I first saw the drawing for this project, I was very concerned because they look like truck parking areas, and in fact this facility could easily be a distribution center, given its proximity to the 710 and 405

freeways and the proximity to the Port of Long Beach. I am very concerned that the project would be "transitioned" (or "bait-and-switched") to something along those lines, with even more truck traffic.

The traffic concerns around this project would severely impact Wardlow road, which I use to travel on frequently. This route is already very overloaded by traffic (and was nearly as bad prior to the placement of bicycle cones on Wardlow at various points from the LA River to the 405 Freeway, mostly eliminating a third lane that was there).

The history of oil production in the Los Angeles basin is such that in the 1920s (when no environmental concerns were in place) these fields were the number one producers in the country. Many residents of West Long Beach have suffered from cancers and other ailments that are easily attributed to this oil production and toxins from the Ports. A proper respect for the health of these people would be to memorialize them via open park space and make some strides toward the balance of park space we so desperately need on the west side.

Sincerely,

Roger Martin Holman  
[martin@polb.org](mailto:martin@polb.org)  
562-888-1739

On Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 8:31 AM Megan Larum <[megan.larum@psomas.com](mailto:megan.larum@psomas.com)> wrote:

Hello –

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, please review the attached Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pacific Place Project. The NOI includes information regarding the project description, opportunities for public commenting, and a link to view the environmental document on the City's website.

The 30-day public comment period on the Mitigated Negative Declaration will commence on **Monday, October 19, 2020**, and conclude on **Monday, November 16, 2020**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all City facilities including City Hall and the Billie Jean King Main Library have been closed until further notice. The Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration, and supporting materials are available for public review on the City's website at <http://www.longbeach.gov/lbds/planning/environmental/reports/>.

Please submit comments in writing to the address or email provided below. Comment letters must be received by **5:00 p.m. on November 16, 2020**.

City of Long Beach

Development Services Department

411 West Ocean Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Long Beach, California 90802

Contact: Amy L. Harbin, AICP, Planner

Email: [amy.harbin@longbeach.gov](mailto:amy.harbin@longbeach.gov)

For any additional questions regarding the review of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, please contact the City Planner at the email address above.

Thank you,

**Megan Larum**

**PSOMAS** | Balancing the Natural and Built Environment

714.751.7373  
[www.Psomas.com](http://www.Psomas.com)



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Psomas' Orange County Office is moving down the street to  
**5 Hutton Centre Drive, Suite 300, Santa Ana, CA 92707.**  
For now, we continue to work remotely but hope to be in the  
new office by the end of 2020.

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mail in error, please immediately

FROM: Corliss Lee 3072 Knoxville Ave. Long Beach Ca 90808

Nov 16, 2020

TO: City of Long Beach  
Development Services Department  
Attention: Ms. Amy Harbin  
411 West Ocean Boulevard, 3rd Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

RE: substantial environmental issues Pacific Place Project

This letter describes substantial issues that have been minimized improperly in the MND, seemingly to take short cuts in a rush to build on the subject property. The site was heavily polluted over the years and until now, has been deemed not suitable for development. It is shocking to see this site evaluation being conducted as a negative declaration. I believe a complete EIR is warranted, as explained herein. If this site, with its history of being used for waste, doesn't qualify for an EIR - nothing will.

Additionally, the long-term vision for these only two remaining underdeveloped locations on the westside of Long Beach along the LA River was to create parkland open space. To the residents of the area, this last bit of open land carried the promise that the City cared about their dilemma of living in a high pollution/emissions area, and the assumption was that the City was going to seek funding for parkland. The Master Plan for the LA River backed up the vision for parkland. However, the city's land-use plan that had designated this area as open space in 2018 was hi-jacked in 2019 - long after the public outreach sessions - and turned into an opportunity for a developer to create industrial space.

#### **1) Hazards and Hazardous Materials** CEQA checklist IX 5-47

The Pacific Place Project is being built on land that has substantial hazardous waste deposited after years of being used as the Oil Operator's waste dump site. Ostensibly, there is sludge going down 50 feet.

I talked to a retired Oil Engineer that had experience with building in and around oil properties. He reported that the normal sequence of events for such an undertaking is as follows:

- 1) Engage a Soils company to **drill a core sample** in several places around the site 30 – 50 ft (or however deep the pit had been excavated originally to accept the waste).
- 2) **Evaluate the core samples** and if contaminates are found, **determine the methodology to stabilize the soil** (add amendments or dig it up and put in trucks and haul it away to another dump site).
- 3) **Perform a surcharge test** where you add weight on top to see how much it sinks. Normally the soil would sit for a year or two while soils experts **monitor the elevation**. The Soils Company prepares a **soils report** with data and information on whether the ground could safely support the planned structure.

There is no evidence of a core sample being drilled within the last 20 years. (see Public Records Request C009227-111020). It appears there was a *decision to build* and surcharge was undertaken, not as a test but as a preparation for construction *without evaluating the site for contaminants*. Skipping the core sample and allowing grading of the location, kicking up dust and possibly contaminants into the air, placed the public at risk.

2) **Hazardous Materials** The CEQA checklist questions Section IX

“Would the project

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?”

This was answered by the Lead Agency with “less than significant impact.” How can that judgement by the Lead Agency be accurate when they did not perform due diligence (obtain a core sample) to find out what is in the soil?

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

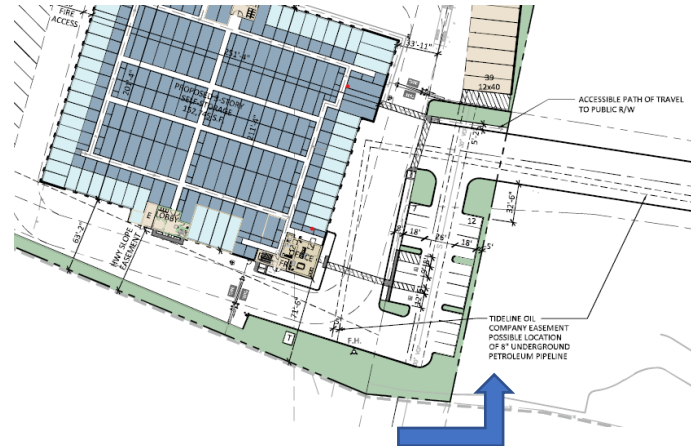
*Lead agency rated this as “less than significant impact.”* Los Cerritos Elementary School is within a quarter mile of this project and students and staff will be subjected to known and unknown pollutants by soil disturbance. Signs have long been posted on the site warning the public of arsenic and other contaminants.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? The Lead Agency rated this as *“less than significant with mitigation actions incorporated.”*

I’m not sure how the above questions b, c and d can be judged “less than significant” when this location is required to be reported to the Government because of known contamination. Without defining what contaminants are in the ground (by taking a core sample), how can a relevant determination be made whether it poses a significant hazard to the public or environment? Only item d requires mitigation which is inconsistent with the other ratings. An EIR is required to obtain solid information in support of an evaluation of the site.

### 3) Hazards and Hazardous Materials CEQA IX 5-47

Exhibit 5 page 3-1 site plan for Artesia Parcels shows “Tideline Oil Company easement possible location of 8” underground petroleum pipeline” bottom right on the map. There doesn’t seem to be a company with the name “Tideline” in Long Beach. Is it possible they meant Tidelands Oil Production Company? Shouldn’t “**a possible 8” underground petroleum pipeline**” be investigated before going forward with construction to find out whether it is inactive and capped off? If a full EIR were performed, I would expect we would have information regarding what was underground on the site.



### 4) AIR QUALITY CEQA checklist Sec III 5-5

**III. AIR QUALITY.** “Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.”

**Would the project:**

- b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?
- c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

How could the Lead Agency make a judgement on these questions without a recent core sampling that would provide information on pollutants on this site? An EIR is required to ensure a core sampling is taken to obtain substantive evidence of contaminants in the soil that



produce emissions and/or drift into the air during construction and additional mitigation measures are required to ensure testing continues after the project is complete **to protect the public.**

#### 4)AIR QUALITY CEQA checklist Sec III 5-5

The Cal Enviro screen charts<sup>1</sup> rate the project area 3701 Pacific in the 86<sup>th</sup> percentile with respect to pollution. That is only 4 points away from achieving the worst possible pollution rating. The plan for 11 truck doors to be built on the McDonald Trust parcels<sup>2</sup> suggests significant diesel truck traffic at the site which will increase emissions in the area and make a negative contribution to the air quality issues.

#### 5)BIOLOGICAL CEQA checklist Sec IV 5-19

##### LANDSCAPE AND HARDSCAPE (P.28)

“Southern tarplants (*Centromadia parryi ssp. australis*) **proposed** for removal from the development area **would be** relocated to the proposed landscaped area in the north end of the Artesia parcels.”

The IS document speaks as if there is a plan **in the future** to remove existing endangered species Southern tarplants (*Centromadia parryi ssp. australis*) when in fact the plants in the area have already been removed by grading in preparation for surcharge. When any herbaceous plant is pulled from the ground, survival is at risk. Immediate transplant to a location already prepared is the best chance for survival. *I would assume the tarplants that were “removed” during grading are all dead.* The sequence of actions taken violates the premise of having an approved CEQA document **before** obtaining permits and implementing a construction plan. There is no discussion in the mitigation plan for dealing with transplant shock, ground preparation, adequate watering, etc. The mitigation plan for maintaining this endangered species is insufficient with only a swath of land identified for future habitat (north end of site plan).

#### 6) GEOLOGY AND SOILS VII 5-34

**The CEQA checklist includes the following significant areas that were judged by the lead agency to be** “Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.” Would the project

- a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
  - iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
- c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/maps-data>

<sup>2</sup> Project Description McDonald Trust Parcels Proposed Land Uses page 3-3

d) Be located on expansive soil as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) creating substantial risks to life or property.

The content of the 50 ft pit that was used to collect by-products of drilling has not been determined (a core sample was not taken prior to surcharge).

This site has been identified as having fault lines running through it and an earthquake could cause the contaminants to be exposed.

Burying contaminants beneath acres of concrete may cause the emissions to be pressurized and an earthquake could release any contaminate emissions trapped under the concrete.

The mitigation measures need to be matched to the content of the pit. The contaminants/hazardous materials have not been definitively determined by core sampling.

#### 7) **Greenhouse Gas Emissions** CEQA checklist VIII 5-40

The CEQA checklist asks Would the project:

- a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment (Lead agency rated this as “less than significant impact”).
- b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? (Lead agency rated this as “no impact”).

Bringing numerous diesel trucks onto the site during an extensive development of the site will undoubtedly increase carbon/gasoline emissions. Once the project is complete, there will be a steady flow of traffic in and out of the site which will also increase carbon gasoline emissions. This location is identified in the Cal Enviro screen charts as in the 86<sup>th</sup> percentile with respect to pollution already. This project will exacerbate the problem.

#### 8) **UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.** CEQA checklist XIX 5-56

Would the project:

- a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction of which would cause significant environmental effects?
- c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would
  - i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?
  - ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite?
  - iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

iv) impede or redirect flood flows?

While the Lead Agency rated both a and c as “less than significant impact,” the City and County stormwater drainage systems have been inadequate to handle water drainage and flooding occurs downstream from this site regularly. Adding acres of impervious surface will surely exacerbate the problem for any runoff not captured or overflowing the storm drains.

9) **LAND USE AND PLANNING** CEQA checklist XI 5-61

Would the project: Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? The lead agency rated this as “no impact.”

What is problematic with this question and rating is that all through the years, this location had been deemed unacceptable for development because of the hazardous waste dumping at the site. The Land Use Element (LUE) was heavily debated with the public in 2017, but no questions were raised because this acreage was marked as Parks and Open Space, which was acceptable to the residents. At the March 6 2018 meeting where the LUE maps were approved, the document acknowledged the public desire for open space

**“Air quality, vacant and abandoned properties, access to open space, infrastructure, and access to goods and services were all environmental justice concerns raised by many stakeholders.”<sup>3</sup>**

The land-use maps approved by City Council at the March 6 2018 meeting were subsequently changed to re-categorize this area as neo-industrial in 2019 **without public notice or discussion**. The covert act of changing the LUE after the period for public debate and input did not protect the public from the impacts that will arise with this project. Marking this question as “no impact” belies the truth that as far as the public is concerned, this tract of land was designated for open space because of contaminated soil.

Plans for OPEN SPACE/PARKLAND in this area are documented in the following:

2007 – Long Beach Riverlink Plan proposed keeping these parcels as open space and use it to improve access to the LA River with a Riparian Woodland to complement the adjacent Dominguez Gap Wetlands.

2015 – West Long Beach Livability Implementation Plan identified this land as right for parkland expansion.

2018 - On 3/7/2018 City Council approved maps with this area designated as open space with the Parks placetype<sup>4</sup> Plans for Neo-Industrial

NEO-INDUSTRIAL 2019 – the final City Council LUE approval contained changes to district 8 that changed this area to Neo-industrial.

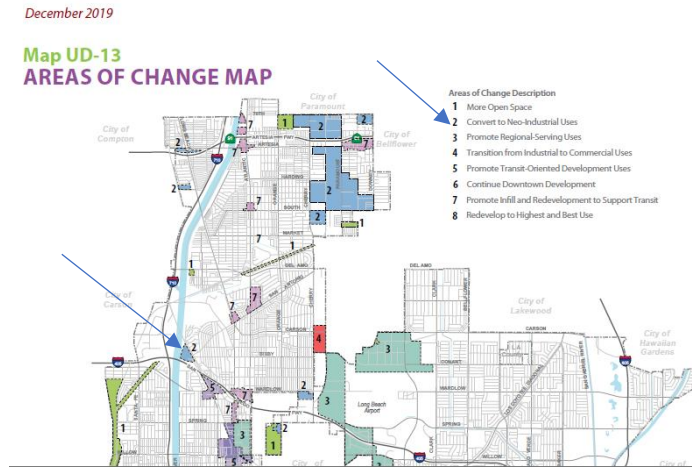
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<sup>3</sup> City Council March 6 2018 agenda Item 1 attachment A <http://longbeach.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=5829873&GUID=FDFOB052-455E-4966-8A8F-9A67DA9050F9>

<sup>4</sup> City Council approved this area as open space in LUE at March 6 2018 council meeting agenda item 1 Press release on LUE final changes <http://www.longbeach.gov/press-releases/city-council-approves-general-plan-update-land-use--maps-with-changes/>



2017 LUE Map Green=Parks placetype



2019 Change to LUE (neo-industrial)



2019 LUE Map  
Blue = Neo-Industrial placetype

10) **Recreation** CEQA checklist XVI 5-76

The CEQA questions do not target the gist of the loss to the public with this project. The damage done is in my commentary below.

The west side of Long Beach was built in the early years, much of it in the 1920s forward when business was less regulated and zoning favored industrial endeavors. Parks were less of a focus because open space was abundant in those days. The entire east side of Long Beach was open space for westside residents until the 1950s when it was developed into single family tract homes. The foresight to set aside land for parks was not a focus in those early years and thus the westside was developed without them. The eastside, built in a different era, benefited from outstanding planning and development and along with citizens lobbying for open space, benefited from a focus on parks. Today, the westside is sorely bereft of green space reducing the opportunity for outdoor recreation and breathable air. The disparity between the eastside and westside with respect to open space is extreme and needs to be balanced. These properties, the Artesia acreage and McDonald Trust lands, were the opportunity to construct a legacy for those currently in power – a lasting good for the community – parkland that would bring breathable air back to the community and a place to relax and play. However, money talks – and the covert deal that was made between the council member(s) and the developer cheated the public of their last opportunity for parkland. That is – unless this ill-conceived project is replaced with a plan for hazardous waste remediation and a plan for open space development.

**11) Transportation and Traffic** CEQA checklist XVII 5-77

Would the Project:

- a) Conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities? The Lead Agency judged this to be Less Than Significant Impact.

Left out of the discussion is the equestrian population. There are horse trails in this area that are a topic of discussion in some of the other letters of commentary. The site maps do not provide for public access to the river via sidewalks or bike trails. The Recreation element of the General Plan only makes mention of equestrian areas.<sup>5</sup>

While CEQA was amended in 2018 to focus on vehicle miles travelled (VMT), and the previous criteria which was vehicle delay and level of service were eliminated, traffic studies still need to be conducted to establish the safety of citizens with respect to entrance and egress from the site during an emergency.

The report states that “the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Technical Advisory (TA), dated December 2018, directs that VMT for non-residential projects should be measured at the regional level. The OPR TA recommends specific methodologies and thresholds to evaluate transportation impacts of residential, office, and retail projects. However, the project cannot be classified as one of these three uses. The OPR TA does not specifically recommend thresholds for any other type of projects, rather it suggests that jurisdictions may develop their own thresholds.”

I would suggest that the guidelines for residential facilities be used since the impact of traffic will be to those living near the development. The charts and calculations shown in the report as well as an outcome of “no impact” are not believable.

**12) Cultural Resources** CEQA checklist item V 5-26

Would the project:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5? The Lead Agency rated this “no impact.”

§15064.5 A resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be “historically significant” if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (Pub. Res. Code, § 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852) including the following:

- (A) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;”

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<sup>5</sup> Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan page 6 <http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/open-space-and-recreation-element>

The equestrian uses of the land would change with the building development. That would negate the “no impact” rating.

#### SUMMARY

In summary, there are many aspects of this project that would benefit from doing the research associated with a complete EIR. This is not a location that should be summarily approved for development under a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The environmental aspects of the history of the land and especially the unknown composition of what was dumped in this location needs investigation to protect the public.

I advocate for a complete EIR investigation and report.

Respectfully,

Corliss Lee

Secretary Citizens About Responsible Planning

Member Riverpark Coalition

3072 Knoxville Ave.

Long Beach, Ca 90808

(714) 401 7063 corlisslee@aol.com

#### References:

<http://www.longbeach.gov/lbds/planning/environmental/reports/>

[http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/environmental/environmental-reports/pending/pacific-place-project-3701-pacific-place/pacific\\_place\\_mnd-101920](http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/environmental/environmental-reports/pending/pacific-place-project-3701-pacific-place/pacific_place_mnd-101920)

**From:** Thom O'Hare [mailto:lgbord@outlook.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 6:19 PM

**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Councilmember Roberto Uranga <district7lb@gmail.com>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>

**Cc:** Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>

**Subject:** How Taxpayers Get Fooled on the Cost of an Artificial Turf Field

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear Mr. Modica, Mayor Garcia and City Council Members,

Our city is grappling with a budget shortfall. Employees have been furloughed. It's unknown when economic recovery for the city and for many of its citizens will return. Business and leisure travel have all but disappeared. Conventions may never return to what they were pre Covid-19. Yet despite the huge loss of revenue, an artificial turf field is planned for El Dorado Park.

The initial cost of installation is estimated to be \$1,000,000 with a final budget of up to \$2,000,000. Is this necessary now or at any time? There's a myth surrounding the savings of artificial turf fields. Cities get stuck for paying for them after their warranties expire or the fields get damaged. Where is the savings in that?

I've seen the comparison of all turf vs natural grass that was provided to residents. This reads like something out of a turf company's marketing literature. It's discouraging to see the turf industry and AYSO lobby our city under the guise of helping us save money. It just won't save us money. I hope you can take the time to read this article from Forbes regarding artificial turf fields.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2014/09/28/how-taxpayers-get-fooled-on-the-cost-of-an-artificial-turf-field/?sh=1a78f07b5db2>

[How Taxpayers Get Fooled On  
The Cost Of An Artificial Turf  
Field](https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2014/09/28/how-taxpayers-get-fooled-on-the-cost-of-an-artificial-turf-field/?sh=1a78f07b5db2)

Updated Oct. 1, 7:45 PM: Australian government study showing artificial turf fields cost more than natural grass fields (including maintenance) inserted into story.

Updated Oct. 1, 2:20 PM: comment from FieldTurf inserted after cost analysis showing field in Montgomery County will be much less expensive using natural grass, unless much more [...]

[www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com)

There are health risks associated with artificial turf too. Studies show that chances of suffering an ACL injury in turf increases by 45%. Not only in soccer, but in football, players were also 67% more likely to suffer from ACL injuries on turf fields. Injuries are more likely to happen on turf because cleats aren't able to penetrate the ground as they would on grass. Children are likely to be more susceptible to injury than adults regardless of footwear.

Turf is also more abrasive than grass. Cut and scrapes that create an opening in the skin provide an entry for pathogens. While the turf industry ran from cancer claims and crumb rubber, a health risk that still exists from artificial turf fields is MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus). MRSA is a potentially fatal infection that's resistant to many types of antibiotics. MRSA lives much longer on artificial turf than on grass. It's been said that playing on artificial turf is akin to playing on a locker room floor because of the bacteria. Friends don't let friends play on artificial turf.

<https://medium.com/@sportsturfsw/mrsa-and-staph-infections-on-synthetic-turf-dca18d6d44aa>

Keep our child and adult athletes safe, healthy and free from injury and illness associated with artificial turf. Let's make our economic recovery a bit less painful by not wasting taxpayer dollars on shortsighted "fixes" like an artificial turf field in El Dorado Park. What at first glance may appear to save us money, will cost us more in the long run and only profit the artificial turf company. Please halt this project. The city, taxpayers and athletes stand to get hurt in more ways than one.

Thank you and stay safe.

Thom O'Hare  
3103 Karen Ave  
Long Beach, CA 90808



**From:** Carlos Ovalle [mailto:csovalle@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 5:05 PM  
**To:** Amy Harbin <Amy.Harbin@longbeach.gov>; LBDS-EIR-Comments <LBDS-EIR-Comments@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Pacific Place Project - Comments on MND

**-EXTERNAL-**

Hello Amy,

Hoping that it's not too late I'd like to substitute this revised letter as the previous one had omitted an exhibit.

Best regards,

Carlos Ovalle, Architect, LEED AP  
C25390  
310-989-0917 (C)

Please note that my hours are limited while I [work on masks](#) and face shields for front line workers.

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE:** This e-mail, and any attachment to it, contains privileged and/or confidential information intended only for the use of the intended recipient of this e-mail. If the reader of this e-mail is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that reading, using, or disseminating this e-mail, or any attachment to it, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender by return e-mail and then delete the original and any copies of this e-mail, and any attachments to it, from your system. Thank you.

On Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 4:50 PM Carlos Ovalle <[csovalle@gmail.com](mailto:csovalle@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello Amy,

The attached letter is submitted in opposition to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the above named project and to request that the city require a full Environmental Impact Report.

Please ensure that all members of the Planning Commission and other city departments are presented with a copy of this letter.

Sincerely,

Carlos Ovalle, Architect, LEED AP  
C25390  
310-989-0917 (C)

Please note that my hours are limited while I [work on masks](#) and face shields for front line workers.

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE:** This e-mail, and any attachment to it, contains privileged and/or confidential information intended only for the use of the intended recipient of this e-mail. If the reader of this e-mail is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that reading, using, or disseminating this e-mail, or any attachment to it, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately

City of Long Beach  
Development Services Department  
Attention: Ms. Amy Harbin  
411 West Ocean Boulevard, 3rd Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

Re: Pacific Place Project

Dear Ms. Harbin,

I oppose the project at 3701 Pacific Place for the following reasons. I join my neighbors, the RiverPark Coalition, and the People of Long Beach, in requesting that the city require a full *Environmental Impact Report*.

### **Contamination**

The project will likely disturb highly contaminated soils during construction. There is no indication that the surcharge operations will be successful. The MND indicates that piles may be necessary to support the building. A project of this magnitude may require the drilling of over 100 piles to support the proposed three story building. The piles will necessarily go through, and raise up, the most contaminated layer of soil which will then need to be transported off site. Instead of following the mandate to “clean up contaminated sites and brownfields” for use as open space, the city appears poised to make the situation worse. (Exhibit A)

### **Trifecta of Trouble**

About half of the subject site is within the Newport-Inglewood-Rose Canyon fault zone (Exhibit B). It is also underlain by heavily contaminated soils with the consistency of toothpaste according to the documents in the NMD. And we’re within the liquefaction zone. It is irresponsible to approve any structure or any construction without a full environmental impact report.

### **Existing Condition Made Worse**

The ongoing surcharge at the site is, by design, pushing down on the existing soil and along with it the existing subterranean structures such as sanitary sewer, storm sewer, abandoned oil wells, and two oil pipelines (Exhibit C). The oil pipelines, sewers, and 83 year old abandoned oil wells are not designed to support the load of approximately 54,000 tons of soil being imposed upon them and are likely suffering damage already. This work will likely result in subterranean leaks, worsening the already existing high levels of contamination. The potential for this damage was not disclosed to the city when the surcharge permit was obtained.

### **Work Without Adequate Permits**

The surcharge work is being called a test, yet this kind of method is not a test but a means to compact the soil in preparation of building a structure. Therefore the construction work is being carried out without a permit in violation of city ordinances. In addition to that, I’ve received numerous phone calls from residents of the immediate area east of the subject site informing me of work being performed outside of normal working hours on at least one evening, November 12, 2020 until around 10 PM, in violation of city ordinances.

### **Impact to Parks and Open Space**

The MND did not address the impact of losing one of the last remaining areas of unbuilt land on the west side of Long Beach, which over the last 30 years have been discussed by the city as future parks and open space linked to a revitalized Los Angeles River, part of the L.A. River Masterplan (Exhibit D), including the relatively recent LUE (Land Use Element).

**Equity - Parks and open space**

Following the George Floyd protests the City held a series of online meetings to address equity. Among the items brought up by participants was the lack of parks and open space on the west side of Long Beach. Residents of the western sector (as designated by Parks Recreation and Marine) have less than 1 park acre per 1,000 residents vs. the eastern sector which has 17 park acres per 1,000 residents as demonstrated by an outdated Parks Recreation and Marine Strategic Plan. When Mayor Garcia speaks during his State of the City address every year, glowingly informing us about our high status among major cities when it comes to parks and open space, never is the inequity mentioned. Much has changed since the 17 year old Strategic Plan was prepared. We have some new parks but we also have a higher population. We suspect the park acre ratio has become even worse for the west sector as our population density has continued to increase (Exhibit E).

**Equity - Dumping Ground (literal and figurative)**

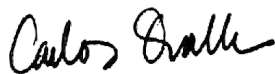
The west side of Long Beach has forever been the dumping ground for all things deemed 'undesirable'. We have high levels of pollution from the myriad diesel trucks going up and down the 710 Fwy, we are downwind from the incinerator, the refineries, the petroleum coke piles, and are in constant danger from the Modified Hydrofluoric Acid (MHF). We also have the highest population density, all the homeless services facilities, all the mental health facilities, and the vast majority of industrial areas of Long Beach. Yet the city, despite the talk of equity following the George Floyd protests in which the issue of pollution and lack of parks and open space on the west side was raised, is not going to bat for us.

**Equity - Density**

The City of Long Beach has consistently pushed for increased densification of the north, west, and south sectors of the city, and the LUE is one of the vehicles for this policy. However little attention has been paid to the holistic infrastructure needs: parks and open space, schools, libraries, public safety, and walkable communities. The one minor hope we had was that the original LUE had allocated the subject property as open space, yet a last minute change turned this area into industrial. Still, the Open Space and Recreation Element reads, "Work to acquire and restore lands along the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers, and wetland habitats and greenways" (Exhibit F), yet the city has apparently ignored even that. To date we have seen no efforts to acquire these lands and we've already seen the former Will J. Reid Boy Scout Camp slip between our fingers and become a dense gated community rather than having been maintained as the forested area that it already was.

***Please, I urge you to consider a complete Environmental Impact Report for the Pacific Place Project.***

Sincerely,



Carlos S. Ovalle  
Executive Director, People of Long Beach  
Board member, RiverPark Coalition

*Identification purposes only:*  
Sierra Club Political Committee  
Board member, Wrigley Association  
Board member, GoldenPoint HOA

**EXHIBIT A**

Note item 1.7

<http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/open-space-and-recreation-element>

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

**TABLE OSR-4 (Continued)**

**1. Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources Implementation Programs**

<b>Programs</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
1.6 Restore Colorado Lagoon to serve as both a productive wetland habitat and recreational resource by reducing pollutant discharges into the water, increasing water circulation with Alamitos Bay and/or restocking or planting appropriate biological species. (Policies: 1.1 – 1.4)	Federal, State and regional water quality agencies in conjunction with the City of Long Beach Water, Public Works, Planning & Building, Health & Human Services, and Parks, Recreation & Marine Departments	Federal and State grants and loans, City of Long Beach Water Department fees, and potentially City of Long Beach Tidelands & General Funds	Ongoing as funding becomes available
1.7 Clean up contaminated sites and brownfields. (Policies: 1.2 – 1.4.)	Federal and State government agencies, City of Long Beach Community Development, Health and Human Services, Planning & Building, Parks, Recreation and Marine and Harbor Departments and contaminated property owner	Federal and State grants, polluting entities and property owners	Ongoing as funding becomes available

**2. Open space for the managed production of resources**

We examine open space for the managed production of resources to ensure that we use our natural resources in a responsible way and that we do not use them up and leave nothing to posterity. This is the premise behind becoming a “sustainable city,” which is the foundation of the City’s 2010 Strategic Plan; natural resources are limited and in order to sustain civilization we must use them wisely. When the State mandated that communities include a section on open space for the managed production of resources, there were numerous agricultural, timber and mineral/mining communities. However, Long Beach has not been rural for a long time. There is little land devoted to any of these natural resource areas, so once again this section, required by State law, is not as extensive in more urbanized areas such as ours. Also, the existing Conservation Element and a new natural resources element will address these considerations more fully. Keeping that in mind, along with the focus on open space, is important when reviewing the material that follows.

**EXHIBIT B**

Newport-Inglewood-Rose Canyon fault zone. As shown below, the majority of the site is within the fault zone (teal lines east and west of Del Mar Ave). Note also that because of the uncertified fill and pools of petroleum based contamination the “consistency of toothpaste”, the parcels are in the most precarious conditions of any in the vicinity (pink area in map and legend below).

<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>

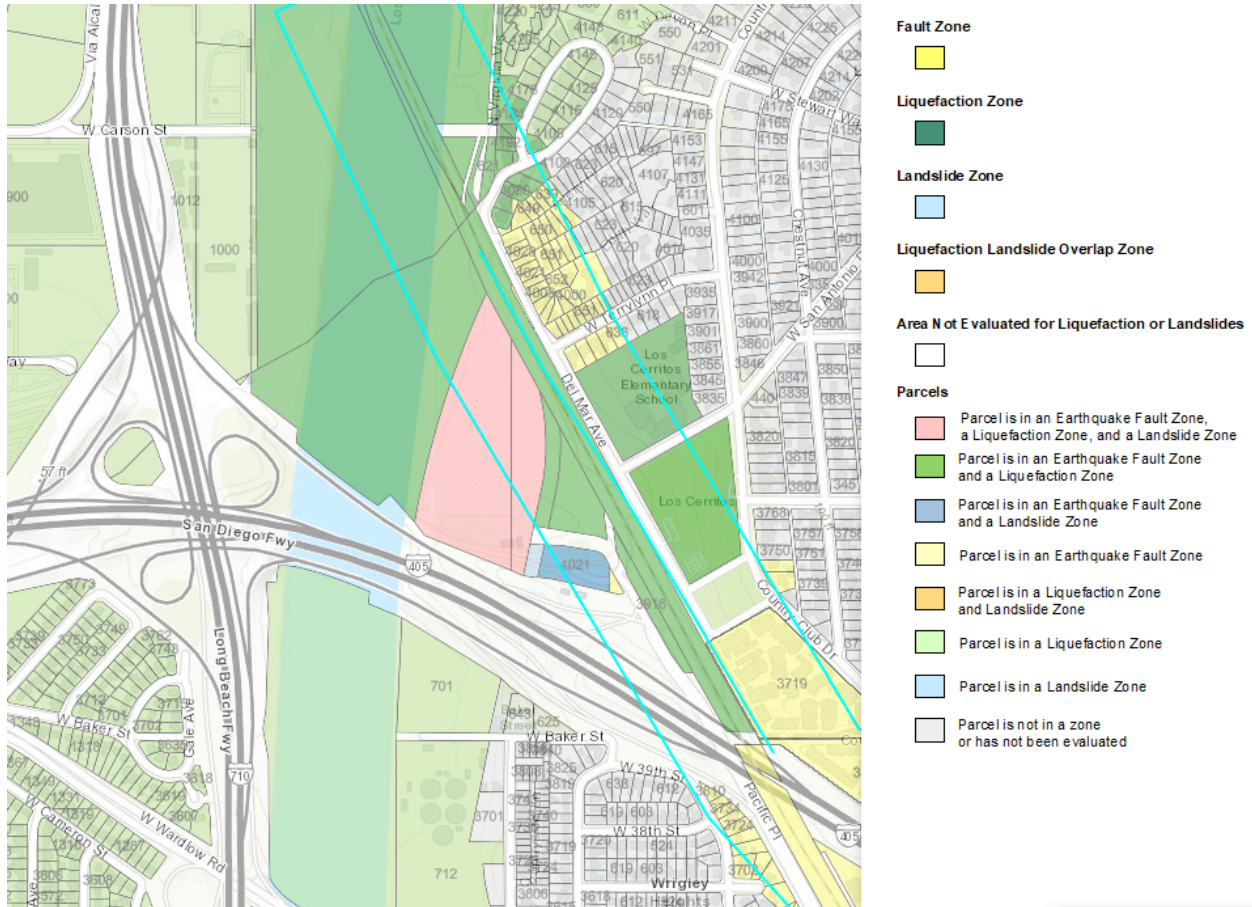


EXHIBIT C

Partial site plan of the work. The heavy line represents the boundary of the building. The shaded area under and surrounding the building represents the surcharge pile. Note that there are conflicting locations for Oil Wells 8-1 and 8-2, regardless of which is correct, they are both problematic.

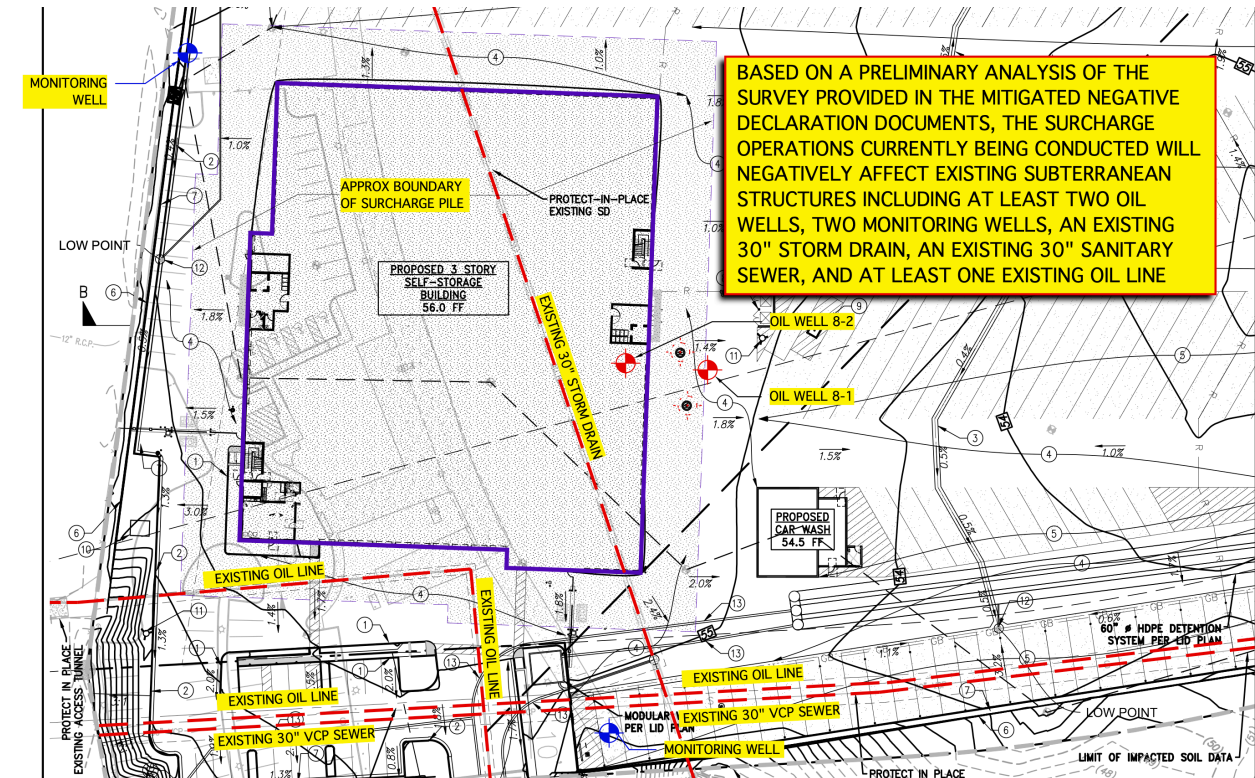


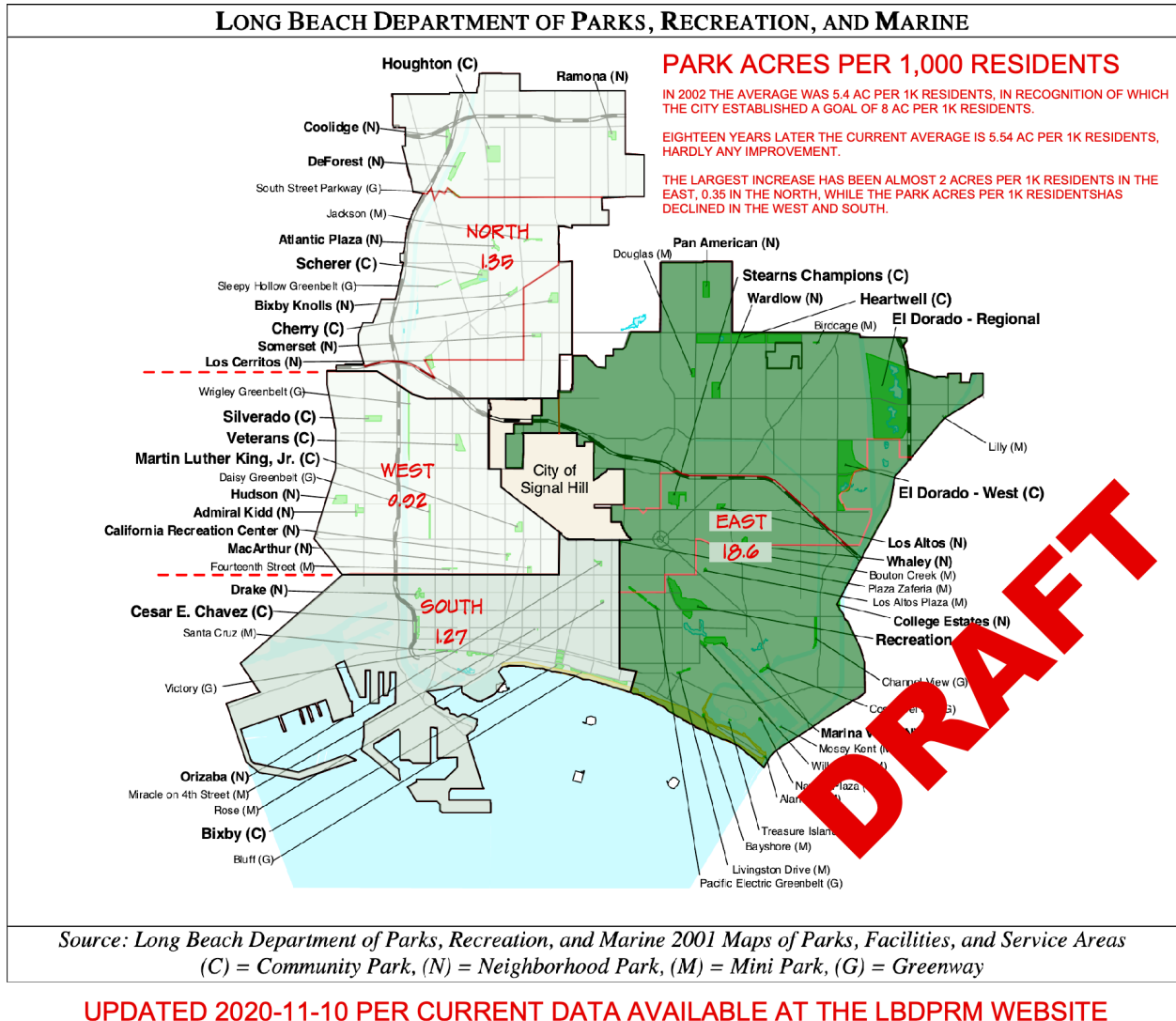
EXHIBIT D

Los Angeles River Master Plan



EXHIBIT E

For the last 30 years various plans have addressed the need to adopt these unbuilt sites as parks and open space. Currently, with data available from the City’s website, the park area of the western side of Long Beach has declined in proportion to the population, whereas it has increased on the east side of the city.





**EXHIBIT F**

Note item 1.4

<http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/lbds/media-library/documents/planning/open-space-and-recreation-element>

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT**

**TABLE OSR - 4**

**1. Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources Implementation Programs**

<b>Programs</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
1.1 Ensure compliance with all Federal and State Laws which protect rare, threatened and endangered species. (Policies: 1.1 – 1.4)	City of Long Beach Harbor and Planning & Building Departments	Development applications fees	Ongoing as project applications are submitted
1.2 Plan for and make improvements to the El Dorado Nature Center and the Deforest Park Nature Area including creating native plant community habitats. (Policies: 1.1 – 1.3.)	City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine	Federal and State grants, City of Long Beach General Fund and nonprofit assistance	Ongoing as funding becomes available
1.3 Work to acquire and restore the Los Cerritos Wetlands. (Policies: 1.1 – 1.4.)	City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine Department in conjunction with Federal and State resource preservation agencies and non-profit organizations	Federal and State grants, Los Angeles County Public Works General Fund, potentially City of Long Beach General Fund	Ongoing as funding becomes available
1.4 Work to acquire and restore lands along the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers, and wetland habitats and greenways. (Policies: 1.1 – 1.4.)	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works in conjunction with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the City of Long Beach Planning & Building, Water, and Parks, Recreation & Marine Departments, and the Water Replenishment District	Federal and State grants, Los Angeles County Public Works General Fund, potentially City of Long Beach General Fund	Ongoing as funding becomes available
1.5 Continue to study, develop plans, and implement programs to protect and improve local beaches, waters, wetlands and coastal bluffs; and, update the General Plan related to these issues. (Policies: 1.1 – 1.4.)	Federal and State resource agencies, Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the City of Long Beach Public Works, Health and Human Services, Parks, Recreation & Marine, and Planning & Building Departments	Federal and State grants, development application fees, City of Long Beach General Fund	Ongoing as funding becomes available

Ms. Amy Harbin, AICP  
Planner  
City of Long Beach  
Development Services Department  
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Long Beach CA 90802  
[LBDS-EIR-Comments@longbeach.gov](mailto:LBDS-EIR-Comments@longbeach.gov)

Dear Ms. Harbin,

I am a Long Beach native and descendant of the Gabrieleno-Tongva people. During Spanish occupation, the people were forced from villages stretching from Long Beach up to Azusa and made to live at the mission. My great, great grandmother, Saturnina (Luquines) Valenzuela, was an indentured servant on the Mission San Gabriel until her marriage to Ramon Valenzuela. Together they ventured to the Tejon Ranch, where Ramon was a horseman. My great grandparents returned the family to our ancestral homelands in the Los Angeles basin, first in East Los Angeles during the Depression, then returning to Compton. Their ultimate goal was to return to Long Beach and were able to do that in spite of covenant laws by stating they were Caucasian on loan and deed documents.

I have lived my entire adult life in Long Beach and chose to reside in the Los Cerritos neighborhood seventeen years ago. Buying a home here was a symbolic gesture for me, a way to reclaim some of the land lost to my ancestors due to European settlement. The Los Cerritos neighborhood offers access to the Los Angeles River and places where I can walk and be in touch with/practice our traditions. It is also the likely location of two lost village sites. A burial site was discovered and documented at 49 Ellis Street, less than three miles from the Pacific Place site. Many native families who survived the Spanish colonial period went on to work at the Bixby Ranch and some have lived continuously on this land ever since. There is much documentation of flooding in the areas immediately adjacent to the Los Angeles River, making displacement of artifacts and even burial sites likely. My own father, Garry Valenzuela, often rode his horse through the area in question as a child and found arrowheads among the nearby marshes with frogs, crawfish, and native plants such as nutsedge, wild celery and watercress. At slightly higher elevations he encountered middens with shell fragments. The rich heritage of the people and our way of life deserve study, preservation and restoration. Rancho Los Cerritos, a concrete testament to the loss of life suffered by my ancestors, enjoys protection as a 'historic site' while we have no such recognition or designation. There is very little on the west side of Long Beach to memorialize or enable the cultural ways of the area's first and remaining inhabitants.

Even so, the Los Cerritos neighborhood is a good place to live, with tall trees, birds and animals, and access to the river. For someone like me, access to open space is very precious. The proposed Pacific Place project is a land used as a toxic waste dump for decades. However, it was also open space that allowed us that feeling of proximity to the river. Some native as well as introduced trees and grasses thrived. Lots of marine and land birds used the area. Losing this area to an RV parking lot will have innumerable and substantial negative impacts on my community

and me. This area needs to be studied and preserved, not paved over. We have a rare opportunity with so little undeveloped space around us, to honor the past. Turning this parcel into an RV parking lot is just one last way of erasing our ancestors and our ties to the land. This loss cannot be calculated in a mitigation; it cannot be decided in a negative declaration. The land is more valuable as it is today than what is being proposed. We have walked across that land for many years, being able to enjoy the native vegetation and the extended view. All of that would disappear, indeed has already disappeared, with the work they are currently doing on the land. It isn't right to bulldoze over land that has such significance to us and to our history. I ask that your office and the City of Long Beach require a full environmental impact study of this site to better assess the tribal/cultural resources threatened by extinction of this open parcel.

Sincerely,  
Amy Valenzuela

**From:** cadurfey@gmail.com [mailto:cadurfey@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 12:01 PM  
**To:** CityClerk<CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; 'Craig Durfey' <cadurfey@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** FW: PLEASE POST NEXT BOARD MEETING UNDER PUBLIC COMMENTS WITH BLUE LIGHT DEVICES /SCREEN TIME NOT PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE

**-EXTERNAL-**

**From:** [cadurfey@gmail.com](mailto:cadurfey@gmail.com) <[cadurfey@gmail.com](mailto:cadurfey@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 24, 2020 7:24 PM  
**To:** [response@ocgov.com](mailto:response@ocgov.com); 'Richard' <[Richard.Santana@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Santana@sen.ca.gov)>; [LISA.TRAN@sen.ca.gov](mailto:LISA.TRAN@sen.ca.gov); [Lisa.Bartlett@ocgov.com](mailto:Lisa.Bartlett@ocgov.com); [district5@longbeach.gov](mailto:district5@longbeach.gov); [ETeam@ochca.com](mailto:ETeam@ochca.com); [nickdibs1@gmail.com](mailto:nickdibs1@gmail.com); [Nicholas.Cabeza@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Cabeza@asm.ca.gov); [nfo@janetnguyen.com](mailto:nfo@janetnguyen.com)  
**Cc:** [sbe@cde.ca.gov](mailto:sbe@cde.ca.gov); [DEBRA.SAMPLES@ACF.HHS.GOV](mailto:DEBRA.SAMPLES@ACF.HHS.GOV); [LouCorrea34@gmail.com](mailto:LouCorrea34@gmail.com); 'Lala' <[LALA.TRUONG@mail.house.gov](mailto:LALA.TRUONG@mail.house.gov)>; [norma.kurtz@asm.ca.gov](mailto:norma.kurtz@asm.ca.gov); 'Pam Haddad' <[pamha@ci.garden-grove.ca.us](mailto:pamha@ci.garden-grove.ca.us)>; 'Carlos' <[Carlos.Condarco@mail.house.gov](mailto:Carlos.Condarco@mail.house.gov)>; 'Clayton' <[Clayton.Heard@mail.house.gov](mailto:Clayton.Heard@mail.house.gov)>; 'Lala' <[LALA.TRUONG@mail.house.gov](mailto:LALA.TRUONG@mail.house.gov)>; [citymanager@ggcity.org](mailto:citymanager@ggcity.org); [Christopher.Aguilera@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Christopher.Aguilera@asm.ca.gov); 'Julie Diep' <[juliediep2020@gmail.com](mailto:juliediep2020@gmail.com)>; [Jack.Du@ocgov.com](mailto:Jack.Du@ocgov.com); 'Maria Stipe' <[marias@ci.garden-grove.ca.us](mailto:marias@ci.garden-grove.ca.us)>; [Matt.Haines@ocgov.com](mailto:Matt.Haines@ocgov.com); 'Stephanie' <[Stephanie.Hu@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Hu@sen.ca.gov)>; 'Colin' <[colin.edwards@asm.ca.gov](mailto:colin.edwards@asm.ca.gov)>; <[MLawrenz@ochca.com](mailto:MLawrenz@ochca.com)>; [cityclerk@longbeach.gov](mailto:cityclerk@longbeach.gov); [Tyler.Curley@longbeach.gov](mailto:Tyler.Curley@longbeach.gov); [mayor@longbeach.gov](mailto:mayor@longbeach.gov); [district1@longbeach.gov](mailto:district1@longbeach.gov); [district2@longbeach.gov](mailto:district2@longbeach.gov); [district7@longbeach.gov](mailto:district7@longbeach.gov); [district7@longbeach.gov](mailto:district7@longbeach.gov); [district8@longbeach.gov](mailto:district8@longbeach.gov); [dee.andrews@longbeach.gov](mailto:dee.andrews@longbeach.gov); [dee.andrews@longbeach.gov](mailto:dee.andrews@longbeach.gov); [pcropper@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:pcropper@bos.lacounty.gov); [KJo@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:KJo@bos.lacounty.gov); [EmWilliams@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:EmWilliams@bos.lacounty.gov)  
**Subject:** PLEASE POST NEXT BOARD MEETING UNDER PUBLIC COMMENTS WITH BLUE LIGHT DEVICES /SCREEN TIME NOT PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE

## P.1



**OPINION BASED ON MEDICAL REPORTS BLUE LGHT SUMMIT.COM AND EYE SAFE WITH MY WEBSIGHT BLOG NEWS REPORTS, CA STATE CHILD ABUSE AND FEDERAL LAWS WITH DECRIPTIONS, CA STATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 73 BLUE LIGHT, BLUELIGHTSUMMIT.COM, EYESAFE.COM, NEWS REPORTS.**

**<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/eyesafe-is-pleased-to-recognize-the-second-anniversary-of-scr-73-establishing-october-10th-as-blue-light-awareness-day-in-california-301149541.html>**

**SOCIALEMOTIONALPAWS.ORG.**

**10-19-2020**

**(P.R.D.D.C.)**

**PARENTS FOR THE RIGHTS OF DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CHILDREN**

**CRAIG A. DURFEY FOUNDER OF P.R.D.D.C.**

**P.O.BOX 937 GARDEN GROVE, CA 92842**

**CELL 714-321-8238**

**[CADURFEY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CADURFEY@GMAIL.COM)**

**[SOCIALEMOTIONALPAWS.COM](http://SOCIALEMOTIONALPAWS.COM)**

**[FACEBOOK: CRAIG DURFEY](#)**

**U.S. HOUSE OF CONGRESS H2404 - HONORING CRAIG DURFEY FOR HIS FIGHT AGAINST AUTISM ... Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.**

**<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CREC-2003-03-27/pdf/CREC-2003-03-27.pdf>**

**P.2**

**new website socialemotionalpaws.org.**

**Supervisor Michella Steel Chair  
Orange County Board of Supervisor  
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701  
Cell (714) 834-3100**

**CHILD WELFARE POLICY AND  
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT BUREAU  
744 P STREET, MS 8-11-87  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 651-6160 *MAIN LINE***

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION ON  
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

**REGION 9 - SAN FRANCISCO DEBRA SAMPLES [DEBRA.SAMPLES@ACF.HHS.GOV](mailto:DEBRA.SAMPLES@ACF.HHS.GOV) 90 7  
TH STREET - STE 9-300 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 (415) 437-8626**

**CALIF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
1430 N STREET, ROOM 5111  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814**

**[SBE@CDE.CA.GOV](mailto:SBE@CDE.CA.GOV)**

**UNITED STATE CONGRESS HOUSE & SENATE**

**CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE & ASSEMBLY**

**THE HONORABLE TONY THURMOND  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
1430 N STREET, SUITE 5602  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5901**

**PHONE 916-319-0800**

**GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM  
1303 10TH STREET, SUITE 1173  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
PHONE: (916) 445-2841  
FAX: (916) 558-3160**

**P.3**

**City Hall Office  
411 West Ocean Blvd. 11th Floor**

**Long Beach, CA 90802**

**District Office**

**Wardlow Park**

**3457 Stanbridge Ave**

**Long Beach, CA 90808**

**Phone: (562) 570-5555**

**Email: [district5@longbeach.gov](mailto:district5@longbeach.gov)**

**District 5 Team**

**CC. City Council**

**CLAYTON CHAU  
AGENCY DIRECTOR & COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER  
ORANGE COUNTY CA  
HEALTH CARE AGENCY  
ADDRESS: 405 W. 5<sup>TH</sup> ST.**

SANTA ANA, CA 92701

[ETeam@ochca.com](mailto:ETeam@ochca.com)

**TO WHO IT MAY CONCERN**

**I WOULD LIKE TO START OFF WITH THREE QUOTES AS TO WHY AND HOW WE NOW DRIVEN BY SPEED “It was Bill Gates who said that he would want the ability to read faster”**

**“President John F. Kennedy said technology ‘has no conscience of its own. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man.’ Yet swayed by digital-age myths, we are providing our children with remarkably little guidance on their use of technology.”**

**. It was Albert Einstein who famously said that once you stop learning, you start dying.**

**As a more modern society we have disembark from sound principles of public health (IE) {Child Abuse Best Management Practices by not revising with science reports more often } from past generation we have advanced for something newer or modern ,without efforts only by hope that in believing technology will provide a more modern advancing higher quality education. Yet hasn’t offered at the same time any measured advancements in preventing with child abuse standards be health, emotional wellbeing, screen time causing addictions to technology leading to mental issue such suicides, eye protection from blue light CA State SCR 73 blue light was vote by the State Assembly & Senate unanimously in support prevention. The fact I have had this posted on my**

**P.4**

**website from very beginning with a friendly reminder two weeks prior of Oct,10 2020 by phone with the PTA and the State Board of education, news media, LA County Board Supervisor ect no action awareness of media was taken to end child abuse from the harm from blue light.**

**When asking LBUSD CA under the public record act as to blue light memos, or training under CA state law EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015, ASSEMBLY BILL 1432 (D-GATTO) REQUIRES ALL LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES (LEAS) TO TRAIN ALL EMPLOYEES EACH YEAR ON WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY AND REPORT SUSPECTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.**

**“ALL EMPLOYEES” INCLUDES ANYBODY WORKING ON THE LEA’S BEHALF, SUCH AS TEACHERS, TEACHER’S AIDES, CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES, AND ANY OTHER EMPLOYEES WHOSE DUTIES BRING THEM INTO DIRECT CONTACT AND SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS.**

**LEA MUST ALSO DEVELOP A PROCESS TO PROVIDE PROOF THAT EMPLOYEES RECEIVED TRAINING. AN ONLINE TRAINING MODULE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED SPECIALLY FOR EDUCATORS AND IS LOCATED AT [CALIFORNIA CHILD ABUSE MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING](#).**

**LBUSD COMPUTERS WILL NOT ALLOW EASY ACCESS IN THE SEARCH BAR INPUTING PUBLIC RECORD ACT NOR THEIR A-Z WINDOW LISTINGS, THIS A CA STATE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO HAVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS. AFTER CALLING I WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER TO REQUEST HOW SUBMIT A PRA AFTER WEEKS HAVE PAST NEVER HAVE RETURN PHONE CALL.**

**THEN I WROTE TO THE ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY ASSEMBLYMEMBER PATRICK O'DONNELL (D - LONG BEACH) & SENATOR LENA GONZALEZ (D- LONG BEACH) I THEN WROTE A LETTER SEEKING CASE WORK ASSISTANTS WITH LBUSD FOR MY PRA CONCERNING BLUE LIGHT EDUCATIONAL TRAINING AS OF NOW SOME THREE WEEKS NEITHER HAVE ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO ASSIST ME WITH MY PRA.**

**CA STATE LAWS ONCE YOU SUBMIT YOU HAVE TEN DAYS FOR A REPOSE UNLESS A EXTENTION OF 14 DAYS IS REQUEST. BY MY HAVING TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM A STATE REPRESENTATIVE WHICH THEN FUTURE DELAY MY RIGHT TO PRA.**

**BECAUSE WE OWN A SECOND HOME I SUBMITTED A PRA AT GGUSD CA FOR ANY MEMOS OR DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO BLUE LIGHT. THE REPOSE WAS NO TO ANY COMMUNICATIONS. THE EVIDENCE BELOW CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES PREVENTION WENT OUT THE WINDOW!! TODAY CHILD ABUSE SHOULD INCLUDE DESCRIBING HOW BLUE Light and retina damage; this appears similar to age-related macular degeneration. Think of how UV light—Blue Light's neighbor on the visible light spectrum—is known to damage our skin and cornea prevention,**

**Perhaps the most at-risk groups for blue light impacts are children and teens, who not only consume massive amounts of digital screen time, but whose eyes are not yet fully developed to mitigate exposure to blue light. Similarly, we lose protective melanin cells as we age, making the elderly particularly susceptible to increased incidences of age-related macular degeneration. For**

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**all age groups, too much digital blue light late at night (e.g., reading a novel on a tablet or e-reader, or spending time on social media at bedtime) can disrupt sleep cycles, potentially causing sleepless nights and daytime fatigue.**

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH (USA) DEFINES CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AS: "THE EXPERIENCE OF AN EVENT BY A CHILD THAT IS EMOTIONALLY PAINFUL OR DISTRESSFUL, WHICH OFTEN RESULTS IN LASTING MENTAL AND PHYSICAL EFFECTS." [www.blueknot.org.au](http://www.blueknot.org.au) › Understanding-abuse-and-trauma**



**One does not have to be physically present or witness the abuse to identify suspected cases of abuse, or even have definite proof that a child may be subject to child abuse or neglect. Rather, the law requires that a person have a “reasonable suspicion” that a child has been the subject of child abuse or neglect. Under the law, this means that it is reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion of child abuse or neglect, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person, in a like position, drawing, when appropriate, on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect.**

**• The willful harming or endangerment of the person or health of a child, any cruel or inhumane corporal punishment or any injury resulting in a traumatic condition**

**“AS ONE OF THE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET ADDICTION, DR. GREENFIELD HAS BEEN TRACKING THE PROBLEM SINCE THE LATE 1990S. THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ALONG WITH THE YOUTH CULTURE’S OBSESSION WITH SHARING THE MINUTIAE OF THEIR LIVES ONLINE HAS ONLY WORSENERD THE SMARTPHONE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC.” - HARPER’S BAZAAR**

**“WHAT PEOPLE DON’T REALIZE IS THAT THEIR SMARTPHONE IS SHAPING THEM, IT’S CONDITIONING THEM...AS A CULTURE WE HAVE CROSSED THE TIPPING POINT OF OVERUSING THE TECHNOLOGY.” -DR. DAVID GREENFIELD (FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR)**

**“THE INTERNET IS THE WORLD’S LARGEST SLOT MACHINE,” GREENFIELD SAYS. “AND THE SMARTPHONE IS THE WORLD’S SMALLEST SLOT MACHINE.”- DR. DAVID GREENFIELD (FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH THE WASHINGTON POST)**

**Dr. David Greenfield is the founder of The Center for Internet and Technology Addiction and Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine where teaches in the psychiatry residency program courses on Sexual Medicine and Internet Addiction. He is**

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**recognized as one of the world’s leading voices on process and behavioral addictions and is author of Virtual Addiction, which rang an early warning bell regarding the country’s growing Internet Addiction problem as well as numerous medical journal articles and book chapters; he also serves as an editor for numerous psychiatric and addiction journals.**

**Dr. Greenfield lectures to public and medical groups throughout the world, and has appeared on CNN, Good Morning America, The Today Show, Fox News, ESPN, NPR and HBO. His work has been featured in U.S. News and World Report, Newsweek, People, Time, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and The Economist. He is widely credited with popularizing the variable ratio reinforcement schedule of process addiction and the dopamine-behavioral addiction connection.**

**Dr. Greenfield's recent research and clinical work is focused on the neurobiology and psychopharmacology of compulsive Internet and technology use, behavioral addiction medicine, and compulsive Smartphone use. Dr. Greenfield is a member of the American Society for Addiction Medicine, Fellow and Past president of the Connecticut Psychological Association, The Sexual Medicine Society of North America, and American Society for the Advancement of Pharmacotherapy. He received his doctorate in Psychology from Texas Tech University and recently completed his post-doctoral training in Clinical Psychopharmacology. He resides and maintains an addiction medicine practice in Connecticut. <https://virtual-addiction.com/about-us/>**

**When requested from GGUSD Board about Blue Light risk that I requested GGUSD Board meeting to place on the agenda that it was child abuse the next Board meeting wasn't on the agenda. The GGUSD Board president states he is a professional as a social worker that he is supportive with mental health. Oct,20,2020 GGUSD Board meeting still was not placed on the agenda for discussion.**

**Then called CA State Senator Tom Umberg 34 District as the concern with GGUSD as of yet he hasn't taken this very seriously.**

**YOUTH SUICIDE IS A COMPLEX PROBLEM WITH CHARACTERISTICS THAT MAY BE UNIQUE TO YOUTH AS COMPARED TO ADULTS. UNDERSTANDING THIS COMPLEXITY REQUIRES A COMMUNITY-LEVEL PERSPECTIVE, AS THERE IS NO "ONE SIZE FITS ALL" SOLUTION. COLLECTING THE PERSPECTIVES OF YOUTH AND ALSO OF PARENTS AND OTHER ADULTS WHO INTERACT WITH YOUTH, IS CRITICAL**

**TO DEVELOPING AN ACTIONABLE AND IMPACTFUL STRATEGIC PLAN TO ADDRESS YOUTH SUICIDE IN ORANGE COUNTY.**

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**THE ORANGE COUNTY CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP RECOGNIZES IT WILL TAKE A COMMUNITYWIDE RESPONSE TO SUPPORT ORANGE COUNTY'S CHILDREN IN MEANINGFUL WAYS TO PUT AN END TO YOUTH SUICIDE. EXAMPLES OF THE MANY COLLABORATIVE AND INNOVATIVE EFFORTS ALREADY IN PLACE IN ORANGE COUNTY TO BEGIN ADDRESSING OUR YOUTH'S MENTAL.**

**THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON FROM 83,000 BRAIN SCANS DANIEL AMEN | TEDXORANGECOAST MEET AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR PSYCHIATRIST. DR. AMEN HAS HELPED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE CHANGE THEIR BRAINS AND LIVES THROUGH HIS HEALTH CLINICS, BEST-SELLING BOOKS, PRODUCTS AND PUBLIC TELEVISION PROGRAMS.. DR. AMEN ...•**

**<https://brainmd.com>**

**Daniel G. Amen, MD is a child and adult psychiatrist, clinical neuroscientist, brain-imaging specialist, distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, multi-time New York Times bestselling author, and founder of Amen ...**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esPRsT-lmw8&t=28s>**

**Dr. Lisa Strohman discusses technology addiction & Digital Citizen Academy on ABC7 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFfdqqtiuUE&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFfdqqtiuUE&feature=emb_title)**

**Dr. Lisa Strohman discusses technology addiction & Digital Citizen**

**<https://www.bing.com/search?q=Dr.+Lisa+Strohman+discusses+technology+addiction+%26+Digital+Citizen&cvid=0da1c77f28af415f9c8b9707cb9b0924&pglt=43&FORM=ANNTA1&PC=U531>**

**As this technology progressive as "President John F. Kennedy said technology 'has no conscience of its own. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man.' Yet swayed by digital-age myths, we are providing our children with remarkably little guidance on their use of technology."**

**Those who have been given the opportunity with education, license to operate prevention of child abuse, schools, elected school board members, legislators to serve us as representatives, to be are voice ought be more thought full as to what is purpose of your actions.**

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**Those who are mandated reporter of child abuse prevention should advance your education as a craft how technology has had medical impact on the quality of life with children, wellbeing as of now from my research with SCR 73 there has no media campaign of the medical effects such as blue light as of Oct 24,2020. To go faster without**

**consider the of dangers such as blue light effect to screen time emotions with children addiction, that my website about three years socialemotionalpaws.org was built to establish educational awareness from my first website was socialemotionalpaws.org.**

**Thus those who unwillingness to work with advocates or stakes holders in supporting role on a very critical issue as child abuse with adverse health effects in my own opinion are perpetuating what not ought be permitted, now is the question what are going to bring to the table in changing course of trauma, emotional harm, to correct what todays is child abuse standards medically .**

**Thank You**

**Craig A. Durfey**

**BELOW IS FOOT NOTES TO FURTHER READ SUPPORTING REPORTS AND MY WEBSITE SOCIALEMOTIONALPAWS.ORG.**

**<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/eyesafe-is-pleased-to-recognize-the-second-anniversary-of-scr-73>**

**Senator Richard Pan and the California legislature are to be commended for having passed the [California State Resolution SCR-73](#) in providing awareness around the importance of encouraging citizens,**

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**particularly children, to consider taking proactive safety measures in reducing eye exposure to high-energy visible blue light.**

**Ophthalmologists, optometrists, and medical researchers continue to learn more about the dangers associated with blue-light exposure. The**

**scientific community has produced a large and growing body of research, which identifies numerous known and emerging potential long-term concerns for all age groups with cumulative blue light exposure due to digital screen usage.**

**"Given California children and California workers are now required to spend even greater amounts of time in front of their electronic devices as a result of distance learning and remote working, it is more important than ever to take proactive safety measures in reducing exposure to high-energy visible blue light," said Justin Barrett, CEO of [Eyesafe](#).**

### **The rise of Computer Vision Syndrome**

**We use digital devices now more than ever. When we aren't glued to our screens at work or watching the latest Netflix hit late at night, we're texting, researching, working, communicating, mindlessly scrolling, and browsing on our smartphones.**

**According to The Vision Council—an independent group of eye doctors comprised of optometrists and ophthalmologists—the average American now spends 7.5 hours in front of a screen or digital device every day. And around the world, the average person also spends upwards of 7 hours a day with their eyes glued to a screen. While much of this computer use happens at work, smart phones have only increased our connectivity and digital presence. In fact, the Vision Council also reports that nearly 50% of all Americans have jobs that prolonged computer use. Sound familiar?**

**This prolonged screen time and digital device exposure prompts uncomfortable consequences and side effects, though. The eye strain you feel as lunch wraps up isn't all (metaphorically) in your head, after all. The American Optometric Association estimates that 50%-90% of computer users suffer symptoms of Computer Vision Syndrome (also**

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**known as Digital Eye Strain or computer eyes) which, quite literally, feels like eye strain, eye discomfort, and eye fatigue. Likewise, the Vision Council reports over 200 million Americans report these symptoms after only two hours a day in front of a screen.**

**That's more than 50% of the entire country! More jarringly is that this number has increased significantly per generation as screens become more integral to our everyday life and society. The Vision Council notes that 57% of Baby Boomers report symptoms of Computer Vision Syndrome (computer eye syndrome) and Digital Eye Strain; that number jumps to 63% for Gen Y and, alarmingly, up to 70% for Millennials.**

**Blue Light is the high energy light that digital devices and LED lights emit. Blue Light sits at the end of the visible light spectrum, right next to UV light. Its short wavelength, which is inversely correlated to energy level (meaning the shorter the wavelength and lower the frequency, the higher the energy), enables that high energy to stress the ciliary muscle in the eye. Blue Light's nickname is HEV light (high-energy visible light) for a reason!**

**In addition, Blue Light's ability to penetrate our eyes suppresses our melatonin secretion. Melatonin is the neurotransmitter that helps regulate our sleep at night and wakefulness during the day. It also maintains our body's circadian rhythm (which is our internal, 24-hour clock). Because prolonged exposure to Blue Light (most relevantly, from the screens of our digital devices) suppresses this neurotransmitter, all of that nighttime phone-, laptop-, and TV-use tricks your mind into thinking it should still be alert and awake.**

**This just makes it harder to fall and stay asleep. There are also current studies in animal and stem cell models that show a positive correlation between overexposure to Blue Light and retina damage; this appears similar to age-related macular degeneration. Think of how UV light—Blue Light's neighbor on the visible light spectrum—is known to damage our skin and cornea, which is why we wear sunblock and UV coated sunglasses to protect ourselves. With the negative effects of UV overexposure in mind, prolonged exposure to Blue Light and the**

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**potential negative effects that accompany it aren't entirely surprising, are they?**

**Anterior structures of the adult human eye (the cornea and lens) are very effective at blocking UV rays from reaching the light-sensitive**

**retina at the back of the eyeball. But HEV blue light is different, with much of it passing through the cornea and lens and reaching the retina at the back of the eye. Studies suggest that, over time, cumulative exposure to the HEV blue light could cause specific long-term damage to your eyes:**

**Potential damage to retina cells, particularly in children and teens**

**Long-term vision problems such as increased incidences of age-related macular degeneration (AMD)**

**Suppressed production of the natural release of melatonin, which can lead to disrupted sleep cycles**

**Digital eye strain, which is commonly exhibited by dry eyes, headache and blurred vision.**

**<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/what-is-blue-light-how-does-blue-light-impact-the-eyes>**

**Perhaps the most at-risk groups for blue light impacts are children and teens, who not only consume massive amounts of digital screen time, but whose eyes are not yet fully developed to mitigate exposure to blue light. Similarly, we lose protective melanin cells as we age, making the elderly particularly susceptible to increased incidences of age-related macular degeneration. For all age groups, too much digital blue light late at night (e.g., reading a novel on a tablet or e-reader, or spending time on social media at bedtime) can disrupt sleep cycles, potentially causing sleepless nights and daytime fatigue.**

**<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/kids-blue-light-filtering-glasses-the-rise-of-computer-vision-syn>**

**<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/dell-hp-lenovo-and-acer-to-announce-new-eyesafe-products>**

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**<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/dell-hp-lenovo-and-acer-to-announce-new-eyesafe-products-at-the-blue-light-summit-2020->**

[presented-by-unitedhealthcare-eyesafe-and-tuv-rheinland-301131171.html](https://www.eyesafeandtuv.com/201131171.html)

**BEIJING (AP) — An eastern Chinese province plans to ban teachers from assigning homework to be completed on cellphone apps as part of efforts to preserve students' eyesight.**

**Zhejiang province issued a draft regulation last week and is seeking public comment. It is one of several provinces considering such measures.**

**Along with barring app-based homework assignments, the Zhejiang regulation would limit the use of electronic devices to 30 percent of total teaching time and encourage the issuing of paper homework to be completed by hand.**

**Soaring rates of nearsightedness are blamed partly on screen usage. While China's overall rate of myopia is 31 percent, among high school students it stands at 77 percent and among college students 80 percent.**

**The regulation aims to pull that back to 70 percent among senior high school students, with rates among primary school students targeted at 38 percent and junior high school students at 60 percent.**

**The regulation would bar primary and middle school students from bringing electronic devices into classrooms without permission, restrict amounts of homework assigned and increase the time for breaks, sports and extra-curricular activities.**

**It says no written homework at all should be assigned to 1st and 2nd graders.**

**Already, national education authorities have issued a proposal to prevent teachers from using the popular WeChat or QQ messaging apps for assigning homework and banned them from asking parents to**

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**mark their children's work. The education ministry also called for only paper homework assignments for primary and middle school students "in principle."**



<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/for-sake-of-pupils%E2%80%99-pupils-china-to-ban-homework-on-apps>

## **Child Welfare Policies**

**Child Welfare Services (CWS) are the major system of intervention of child abuse and neglect in California. Existing law provides for services to abused and neglected children and their families. CWS' goal is to keep the child in his/her own home when it is safe, and when the child is at risk, to develop an alternate plan as quickly as possible.**

**When a referral is received, the social service staff obtains facts from the person making the referral to determine if the referral alleges abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The Emergency Response staff determines if an in-person response is indicated. Whenever an report indicates the need for protection, CWS will:**

**§ Accept the case**

**§ Intervene in the crisis, if required**

**§ Apply Family Preservation and Support Services for some families**

**§ Assess or identify problems, gather facts and clarify the problems**

**§ Plan and provide services, set goals, identify resources and timeframes**

**§ Document the case**

**§ Terminate the case or transfer it to another program**

**Approximately 12 months of services are provided to children who remain safely in the home while the family receives services. If it is determined that a child cannot remain in the home, even with family preservation and support services, then foster placement is arranged in the most family-like setting, that is located close to the parent's home, consistent with the best interests of the child.**

**Up to 18 months of services are provided to children and their families when a child has been removed from the home and the family is making progress toward reunification. When a child cannot be returned to a safe home after services have been delivered, the child must be provided with a family-like living arrangement as soon as possible.**

**These services are available to children and their families when children are victims of, or at risk of, abuse, neglect, exploitation, or parental absence.**

**§ California law defines child abuse as any of the following:**

**§ A child is physically injured by other than accidental means.**

**§ A child is subjected to willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment.**

**§ A child is abused or exploited sexually.**

**A child is neglected by a parent or caretaker who fails to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care or supervision.**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

**Community members have an important role in protecting children from abuse and neglect. If abuse is suspected, a report should be filed with qualified and experienced agencies that will investigate the situation. The California State Child Abuse Reporting Law provides the legal basis for action to protect children and to allow intervention by public agencies if a child is being abused.**

**If you suspect that a child has been, or is in danger of, abuse or neglect , contact the police/county sheriff or your local [child abuse hotline](#)**

**744 P Street, MS 8-11-87 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 651-6160 *Main Line***

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/child-welfare-protection/policies>

**Senate Bill 1178 was passed by the California Legislature in August 2016 and authorized the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to design a poster that notifies children of the appropriate number to call to report child abuse or neglect. The poster is required to incorporate**

**specified elements and be produced in five different languages. The legislature encourages school districts, charter schools, and private schools to post the appropriate version or versions of the poster in an area of the school where pupils frequently congregate. A small group of California public school students, ranging from ages twelve through fourteen, collaborated to design several posters for this legislation. At the culmination of the project, the students presented the posters to the California Department of Education administration for selection.**

**Questions: School Health and Safety Office | 916-319-0914**

**The CAP Center Involved With Advocacy and Legislative Affairs?**

**The CAP Center strives to build a statewide network of individuals, public policymakers and collaborative agencies dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect in all its forms. We monitor public policy and endeavor to influence public policy, programs, and practices that strengthen families and protect children. We achieve this by regularly distributing information regarding child abuse prevention initiatives, activities, legislation, and campaigns.**

**The CAP Center determines support of or opposition to state legislation based upon staff research and analysis. Key factors considered include relevance to the overall mission of the CAP Center.**

**What You Can Do**

**The Child Abuse Prevention Center encourages everyone to make their voices heard. Calls to your legislator or writing letters of support on important legislation DO make a difference. To find your state legislators, [click here](#). For a list of all legislators, [click here](#).**

**Across the state, grassroots child advocates work to establish and maintain meaningful relationships with their members of the California Legislature. Combining their efforts with the CAP Center PAC's official, public endorsement is a chance to have a significant, meaningful impact on the political forces that affect abuse and neglect efforts across the state.**

**If you want more information about The CAP Center and its programs, you may contact us at:**

**The Child Abuse Prevention Center 4700 Roseville Road, Suite 102  
North Highlands, CA 95660 Phone (916) 244-1900**

**Fax (916) 244-1905 Please do not send Suspected Child Abuse Report forms to this fax number. [Click here to learn more about how to make a report](#).**

**Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm PST. This is not an emergency number or a number to report child abuse. Please hang up and dial 9-1-1 if this is an emergency.**

**1 (800) Children For California residents only, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. PST. This is not an emergency number or a number to report child abuse. Please hang up and dial 9-1-1 if this is an emergency.**

**Information and Referral Line: Call (916) 244-1906 or email [information@thecapcenter.org](mailto:information@thecapcenter.org).**

**<http://www.thecapcenter.org/contact/>**

**<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/ap/>**

**EDUCATION CODE - EDC**

**TITLE 2. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION [33000 - 64100]**

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*( Title 2 enacted by Stats. 1976, Ch. 1010. )*

**DIVISION 3. LOCAL ADMINISTRATION [35000 - 45500]**

*( Division 3 enacted by Stats. 1976, Ch. 1010. )*

**PART 25. EMPLOYEES [44000 - 45500]**

*( Part 25 enacted by Stats. 1976, Ch. 1010. )*

**CHAPTER 3.2. Staff Development in the Detection of Child Abuse and Neglect [44691- 44691.]**

*( Chapter 3.2 added by Stats. 1978, Ch. 1225. )*

**44691.**

**(a) The State Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention in the State Department of Social Services, shall do all of the following:**

**(1) Develop and disseminate information to all school districts, county offices of education, state special schools and diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of Education, and charter schools, and their school personnel in California, regarding the detection and reporting of child abuse.**

**(2) Provide statewide guidance on the responsibilities of mandated reporters who are school personnel in accordance with the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 11164) of Chapter 2 of Title 1 of Part 4 of the Penal Code). This guidance shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, both of the following:**

**(A) Information on the identification of child abuse and neglect.**

**(B) Reporting requirements for child abuse and neglect.**

**(3) Develop appropriate means of instructing school personnel in the detection of child abuse and neglect and the proper action that school personnel should take in suspected cases of child abuse and neglect,**

**including, but not limited to, an online training module to be provided by the State Department of Social Services.**

**(4) Establish best practices for school personnel to prevent abuse, including sexual abuse, of children on school grounds, by school personnel, or in school-sponsored programs, and post on the department's Internet Web site links to existing training resources.**

**(b) School districts, county offices of education, state special schools and diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of Education, and charter schools shall do both of the following:**

**(1) Provide annual training, using the online training module provided by the State Department of Social Services or as provided in subdivision (c), to their employees and persons working on their behalf who are mandated reporters, as defined in Section 11165.7 of the Penal Code, pursuant to this section and subdivision (d) of Section 11165.7 of the Penal Code on the mandated reporting requirements. Mandated reporter training shall be provided to school personnel hired during the course of the school year. This training shall include information that failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect, as required by Section 11166 of the Penal Code, is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months confinement in a county jail, or by a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.**

**(2) Develop a process for all persons required to receive training pursuant to this section to provide proof of completing the training within the first six weeks of each school year or within the first six weeks of that person's employment. The process developed under this paragraph may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the use of a sign-in sheet or the submission of a certificate of completion to the applicable governing board or body of the school district, county office of education, state special school and diagnostic center, or charter school.**

**(c) School districts, county offices of education, state special schools and diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of**

**Education, and charter schools that do not use the online training module provided by the State Department of Social Services shall report to the State Department of Education the training being used in its place.**

**(d) School districts, county offices of education, state special schools and diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of Education, and charter schools are encouraged to participate in training on the prevention of abuse, including sexual abuse, of children**


**on school grounds, by school personnel, or in school-sponsored programs, and are also encouraged to provide all school employees with that training at least once every three years.**

***(Amended by Stats. 2015, Ch. 748, Sec. 2. (AB 1058) Effective January 1, 2016.)***

**[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=44691.&lawCode=EDC](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=44691.&lawCode=EDC)**

### **Child Abuse Identification & Reporting Guidelines**

**Information for school personnel and those who work in our children's schools to be able to identify signs of suspected cases of child abuse and/or child neglect and to have the tools to know how to make a report to the proper authorities.**

**These guidelines are issued by the California Department of Education (CDE), in conjunction with the California Department of Social Services, to help all persons, particularly those persons who work in our children's schools, to be able to identify signs of suspected cases of child abuse and/or child neglect and to have the tools to know how to make a report to the proper authorities. These guidelines are issued in conjunction with an extensive training module, specifically aimed at training school employees and educators on their obligations as mandated reporters of child abuse, which can be located online at [California Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training](#) .**

## **Identification of Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Child abuse is more than bruises or broken bones. While physical abuse often leaves visible scars, not all child abuse is as obvious, but can do just as much harm. It is important that individuals working with and around children be able to know what constitutes child abuse or child neglect and know how to identify potential signs.**

### **Child Abuse and/or Child Neglect Can Be Any of the Following:**

- A physical injury inflicted on a child by another person other than by accidental means.**
- The sexual abuse, assault, or exploitation of a child.**
- The negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare. This is whether the harm or threatened harm is from acts or omissions on the part of the responsible person.**
- The willful harming or endangerment of the person or health of a child, any cruel or inhumane corporal punishment or any injury resulting in a traumatic condition.**

**One does not have to be physically present or witness the abuse to identify suspected cases of abuse, or even have definite proof that a child may be subject to child abuse or neglect. Rather, the law requires that a person have a "reasonable suspicion" that a child has been the subject of child abuse or neglect. Under the law, this means that it is reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion of child abuse or neglect, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person, in a like position, drawing, when appropriate, on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect.**

**Red flags for abuse and neglect are often identified by observing a child's behavior at school, recognizing physical signs, and observations of dynamics during routine interactions with certain**



**adults. While the following signs are not proof that a child is the subject of abuse or neglect, they should prompt one to look further.**

### **Warning Signs of Emotional Abuse in Children**

- **Excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong.**
- **Shows extremes in behavior (extremely compliant or extremely demanding; extremely passive or extremely aggressive).**
- **Doesn't seem to be attached to the parent or caregiver.**
- **Acts either inappropriately adult-like (taking care of other children) or inappropriately infantile (rocking, thumb-sucking, throwing tantrums).**

### **Warning Signs of Physical Abuse in Children**

- **Frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, welts, or cuts.**
- **Is always watchful and "on alert" as if waiting for something bad to happen.**
- **Injuries appear to have a pattern such as marks from a hand or belt.**
- **Shies away from touch, flinches at sudden movements, or seems afraid to go home.**
- **Wears inappropriate clothing to cover up injuries, such as long-sleeved shirts on hot days.**

### **Warning Signs of Neglect in Children**

- **Clothes are ill-fitting, filthy, or inappropriate for the weather.**
- **Hygiene is consistently bad (unbathed, matted and unwashed hair, noticeable body odor).**
- **Untreated illnesses and physical injuries.**
- **Is frequently unsupervised or left alone or allowed to play in unsafe situations and environments.**
- **Is frequently late or missing from school.**


### **Warning Signs of Sexual Abuse in Children**

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### **Trouble walking or sitting.**

- **Displays knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to his or her age, or even seductive behavior.**
- **Makes strong efforts to avoid a specific person, without an obvious reason.**
- **Doesn't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in physical activities.**
- **A sexually transmitted disease (STD) or pregnancy, especially under the age of fourteen.**
- **Runs away from home.**

### **Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect**

**Community members have an important role in protecting children from abuse and neglect. While not mandated by law to do so, if child abuse or neglect is suspected, a report should be filed with qualified and experienced agencies that will investigate the situation. Examples of these agencies are listed below. Parents and guardians of pupils have the right to file a complaint against anyone they suspect has engaged in abuse or neglect of a child. Community members do not need to provide their name when making a report of child abuse or neglect. Telephone numbers for each county's emergency response for child abuse reporting are located at [California Emergency Response Child Abuse Reporting Telephone Numbers](#)  (PDF).**

**School volunteers, while not mandated reporters, should also be encouraged to report any suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Additionally, school volunteers are highly encouraged by the law to have training in the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. The training offered online to mandated reporters, is equally available to school volunteers.**

## **Obligations of Mandated Reporters**

**A list of persons whose profession qualifies them as “mandated reporters” of child abuse or neglect is found in California Penal Code Section 11165.7. The list is extensive and continues to grow. It includes all school/district employees, administrators, and athletic coaches. All persons hired into positions included on the list of mandated reporters are required, upon employment, to be provided with a statement, informing them that they are a mandated reporter and their obligations to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect pursuant to California Penal Code Section 11166.5.**

**All persons who are mandated reporters are required, by law, to report all known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. It is not the job of the mandated reporter to determine whether the allegations are valid. If child abuse or neglect is reasonably suspected or if a pupil shares information with a mandated reporter leading him/her to**

**believe abuse or neglect has taken place, the report must be made. No supervisor or administrator can impede or inhibit a report or subject the reporting person to any sanction.**

**To make a report, an employee must contact an appropriate local law enforcement or county child welfare agency, listed below. This legal obligation is not satisfied by making a report of the incident to a supervisor or to the school. An appropriate law enforcement agency may be one of the following:**

- A Police or Sheriff’s Department (not including a school district police department or school security department).**
- A County Probation Department, if designated by the county to receive child abuse reports.**
- A County Welfare Department/County Child Protective Services.**

**The report should be made immediately over the telephone and should be followed up in writing. The law enforcement agency has special**


**forms for this purpose that they will ask you to complete. If a report cannot be made immediately over the telephone, then an initial report may be made via e-mail or fax. A report may also be filed at the same time with your school district or county office of education (COE). School districts and COEs, however, do not investigate child abuse allegations, nor do they attempt to contact the person suspected of child abuse or neglect.**

**School districts and COEs may have additional policies adopted at the local level relating to the duties of mandated reporters. School staff should consult with their district to determine if there are additional steps that must be taken.**

**These policies do not take the place of reporting to an appropriate local law enforcement or county child welfare agency.**

### **New Required Training for School Employees**

**Effective January 1, 2015, Assembly Bill 1432 (D-Gatto) requires all local educational agencies (LEAs) to train all employees each year on what they need to know in order to identify and report suspected**

**cases of child abuse and neglect. “All employees” includes anybody working on the LEA’s behalf, such as teachers, teacher’s aides, classified employees, and any other employees whose duties bring them into direct contact and supervision of students. LEAs must also develop a process to provide proof that employees received training. An online training module has been developed specially for educators and is located at [California Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training](#)  . Alternative training methods may be used but, if an LEA uses training other than the online training module, the LEA must report that fact to the CDE and inform the CDE of the training that was used. A form for this purpose is available at [Reporting Form for LEAs Who Use Alternative Training For Mandatory Reporting \(PDF\)](#).**

### **Rights to Confidentiality and Immunity**

**Mandated reporters are required to give their names when making a report. However, the reporter's identity is kept confidential. Reports of suspected child abuse are also confidential. Mandated reporters have immunity from state criminal or civil liability for reporting as required. This is true even if the mandated reporter acquired the knowledge, or suspicion of the abuse or neglect, outside his/her professional capacity or scope of employment.**

### **Consequences of Failing to Report**

**A person who fails to make a required report is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and/or up to a \$1,000 fine (California Penal Code Section 11166[c]).**

### **After the Report is Made**

**The local law enforcement agency is required to investigate all reports. Cases may also be investigated by Child Welfare Services when allegations involve abuse or neglect within families.**

### **Child Protective Services**

**The Child Protective Services (CPS) is the major organization to intervene in child abuse and neglect cases in California. Existing law provides for services to abused and neglected children and their families. More information can be found at Child Protective Services.**

## **Child Abuse — PC 273d**

**Child abuse is a wobbler in California, but it is one that prosecutors in the state are known to pursue aggressively. As a misdemeanor, it is punishable by up to a year of jail time, but as a felony, sentences can go upwards of 6 years in state prison.**

**There are three elements to child abuse:**

- 1. You willfully inflicted cruel and inhuman punishment, and/or an injury, on a child;**

- 2. The punishment or injury caused the child to suffer a traumatic physical condition; AND**
- 3. Your actions were not part of reasonable discipline of your child.**

**In plain English, this means:**

- 1. Your actions weren't accidental, and you acted with an ill intent to hurt or injure the child;**
- 2. Your actions caused the child to suffer a visible injury;**
- 3. This wasn't a normal disciplinary action.**

**It is legal to spank children in California, but not to excess. Because this law has so much room for interpretation in how it's applied, it is especially important to work with a criminal defense attorney who has experience with child abuse cases.**

## **Child Endangerment — PC 273a**

**Unlike child abuse, child endangerment does not require that the child suffer an actual injury. Child endangerment is a wobbler, and the difference between felony and misdemeanor is determined by whether there was a risk of great bodily harm or death to the child.**

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**As a misdemeanor, child endangerment is punishable by up to a year in county jail; as a felony, sentences can range up to 6 years in state prison.**

**There are three ways that someone can commit child endangerment:**

- 1. Causing or permitting a child to suffer unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering,**
- 2. Willfully causing or permitting a child in their care to be injured, or**

**3. Willfully causing or permitting a child to be placed in a dangerous situation.**

**This means that leaving loaded guns within reach of children can qualify as child endangerment, as can failing to obtain medical treatment for a sick child or leaving a child with someone you know to be abusive.**

**<https://www.robertmhelfend.com/criminal-defense/domestic-violence/california-domestic-abuse-laws/>**

## **18 U.S. Code § 1169. Reporting of child abuse**

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- 
- 
- **[U.S. Code](#)**
- [Notes](#)

**[prev](#) | [next](#)(a)Any person who—(1)is a—(A)physician, surgeon, dentist, podiatrist, chiropractor, nurse, dental hygienist, optometrist, medical examiner, emergency medical technician, paramedic, or health care**

**P.28**

**provider,(B)teacher, school counselor, instructional aide, teacher's aide, teacher's assistant, or bus driver employed by any tribal, Federal, public or private school,(C)administrative officer, supervisor of [child](#) welfare and attendance, or truancy officer of any tribal,**

**Federal, public or private school,(D)[child](#) day care worker, headstart teacher, public assistance worker, worker in a group home or residential or day care facility, or social worker,(E)psychiatrist,**

psychologist, or psychological assistant, (F) licensed or unlicensed marriage, family, or **child** counselor, (G) person employed in the mental health profession,

or (H) law enforcement officer, probation officer, worker in a juvenile rehabilitation or detention facility, or person employed in a public agency who is responsible for enforcing statutes and judicial orders; (2) knows, or has reasonable suspicion, that—(A) a **child** was abused in **Indian country**, or (B) actions are being taken, or are going to be taken, that would reasonably be expected to result in **abuse** of a **child** in **Indian country**; and (3) fails to immediately report such **abuse** or actions described in paragraph (2)

to the **local child protective services agency** or **local law enforcement agency**, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both. (b) Any person who—(1) supervises, or has authority over, a person described in subsection (a)(1), and (2) inhibits or prevents that person from making the report described in subsection (a), shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both. (c) For purposes of this section, the term

—(1) “**abuse**” includes—(A) any case in which—(i) a **child** is dead or exhibits evidence of skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, failure to

thrive, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling, and (ii) such condition is not justifiably explained or may not be the product of an accidental occurrence; and (B) any case in which a

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**child** is subjected to sexual assault, sexual molestation, sexual exploitation, sexual contact, or prostitution;

(2) “**child**” means an individual who—(A) is not married, and (B) has not attained 18 years of age; (3) “**local child protective services agency**” means that agency of the Federal Government, of a State, or of an Indian tribe that has the primary responsibility for **child** protection on any Indian reservation or within any community in **Indian country**; and (4) “**local law enforcement agency**” means that Federal, tribal, or



**State law enforcement agency that has the primary responsibility for the investigation of an instance of alleged child abuse within the portion of Indian country involved.(d)Any person making a report described in subsection (a) which is based upon their reasonable belief and which is made in good faith shall be immune from civil or criminal liability for making that report.(Added Pub. L. 101-630, title IV, § 404(a)(1), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4547; amended Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §§ 330011(d), 330016(1)(K), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2144, 2147; Pub. L. 104-294, title VI, § 604(b)(25), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3508.)**

### **Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect in Federal Law**

**Federal legislation provides guidance to States by identifying a minimum set of acts or behaviors that define child abuse and neglect. The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) (42 U.S.C.A. § 5106g), as amended by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010, defines child abuse and neglect as, at minimum:**

- **"Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation"; or "An act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm."**

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**This definition of child abuse and neglect refers specifically to parents and other caregivers. A "child" under this definition generally means a person who is younger than age 18 or who is not an emancipated minor.**

**While CAPTA provides definitions for sexual abuse and the special cases of neglect related to withholding or failing to provide medically**

**indicated treatment, it does not provide specific definitions for other types of maltreatment such as physical abuse, neglect, or emotional abuse. While Federal legislation sets minimum standards for States that accept CAPTA funding, each State provides its own definitions of maltreatment within civil and criminal statutes.**

**<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/defining/federal/>**

**<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1169>**

Questions: School Health and Safety Office | 916-319-0914

[\*Harvard Health Letter\*](#)

Blue light has a dark side

What is blue light? The effect blue light has on your sleep and more.



Updated: July 7, 2020

### **Is nighttime light exposure bad?**

**Some studies suggest a link between exposure to light at night, such as working the night shift, to diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. That's not proof that nighttime light exposure causes these conditions; nor is it clear why it could be bad for us.**

**A Harvard study shed a little bit of light on the possible connection to diabetes and possibly obesity. The researchers put 10 people on a schedule that gradually shifted the timing of their circadian rhythms. Their blood sugar levels increased, throwing them into a prediabetic state, and levels of leptin, a hormone that leaves people feeling full after a meal, went down.**

### **P.31**

**Exposure to light suppresses the secretion of melatonin, a hormone that influences circadian rhythms. Even dim light can interfere with a person's circadian rhythm and melatonin secretion. A mere eight lux—a level of brightness exceeded by most table lamps and about twice that of a night light—has an effect, notes Stephen Lockley, a Harvard sleep researcher. Light at night is part of the reason so many people don't get [enough sleep](#), says Lockley, and researchers have linked**

short sleep to increased risk for depression, as well as diabetes and cardiovascular problems. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/blue-light-has-a-dark-side>

<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/dr-richard-pan%E2%80%99s-scr-73-establishes-october-10th-as-blue-light-a>

More research shows the long-term health concerns associated with cumulative blue light exposure from our electronic screen devices; October 10th is also World Sight Day

**SACRAMENTO – With more than 80 million electronic devices with digital screens in the state of California, and average screen time exceeding 9 hours per day, exposure to blue light has become a serious concern for public health. Dr. Richard Pan (D-Sacramento), Chair of the Senate Health Committee kicks off Blue Light Awareness Day by speaking to the health hazards posed by extended exposure to blue light from digital devices, in conjunction with [World Sight Day](#).**

**“The impact of high energy blue light emissions on children is a significant health concern,” said Dr. Richard Pan, pediatrician and State Senator. “The resolution, passed by unanimous and bi-partisan support in both the Senate and Assembly, demonstrates that when it comes to protecting public health and educating around emerging health concerns, California will take the lead.”**

**Today’s announcement comes on the heels of the California State Legislature’s passage of SCR 73, a resolution which outlines the growing body of evidence and scientific research related to the long-term health impacts of extended exposure to blue light from digital devices. Those devices include: computer monitors, phones and**

**P.32**

**tablets, that, absent blue light reducing filters, project high levels of toxic blue light into consumers’ eyes. With the passage of SCR 73, The State of California encourages all its citizens, particularly children whose eyes are still developing, to consider taking protective safety measures in reducing eye exposure to high-energy visible blue light.**

**California State Senate and Assembly Health Committees began looking at the issue of high energy blue light emissions from digital devices and screens in 2018, and in particular, the increased usage of, and access to, digital devices by young children and adolescents whose eyes are particularly susceptible to long-term damage from blue light.**

**Ophthalmologists, optometrists, and medical researchers continue to learn more about the dangers associated with blue-light exposure. The scientific community has produced a large and growing body of research, which identifies a multitude of known and emerging potential long-term health concerns for all age groups with cumulative blue light exposure due to digital screen usage.**

### **About Blue Light**

**Blue light, or high-energy visible blue light, represents a short wavelength light that is natural, but also emitted in high levels by consumer electronic devices. The increased usage of, and access to, digital devices by young children and adolescents is an acute area of concern, as ophthalmologists, optometrists, and medical researchers continue to learn more about the short-term effects of increasing and cumulative exposure to artificial blue light on the developing human eye and mental health at a young age, along with long-term potential cumulative effects on adult eye health and mental development (4,5,6,7). The scientific community and recent studies have identified growing concerns over potential long-term eye and health impacts for all age groups from digital screen usage and cumulative blue light exposure emitted from digital devices (8,9,10,11). Blue light has been reported to cause visual discomfort in 65 percent of Americans**

### **P.33**

**(12,13); and has been associated with possible harmful effects on retinal cell physiology linked to the high-energy, short wavelength in the narrow range of 415-455nm (4,14,15). Cumulative blue light exposure from digital devices has been shown to disrupt sleep cycles by suppressing the natural release of melatonin and has also been linked to premature aging of the retina, which could accelerate**

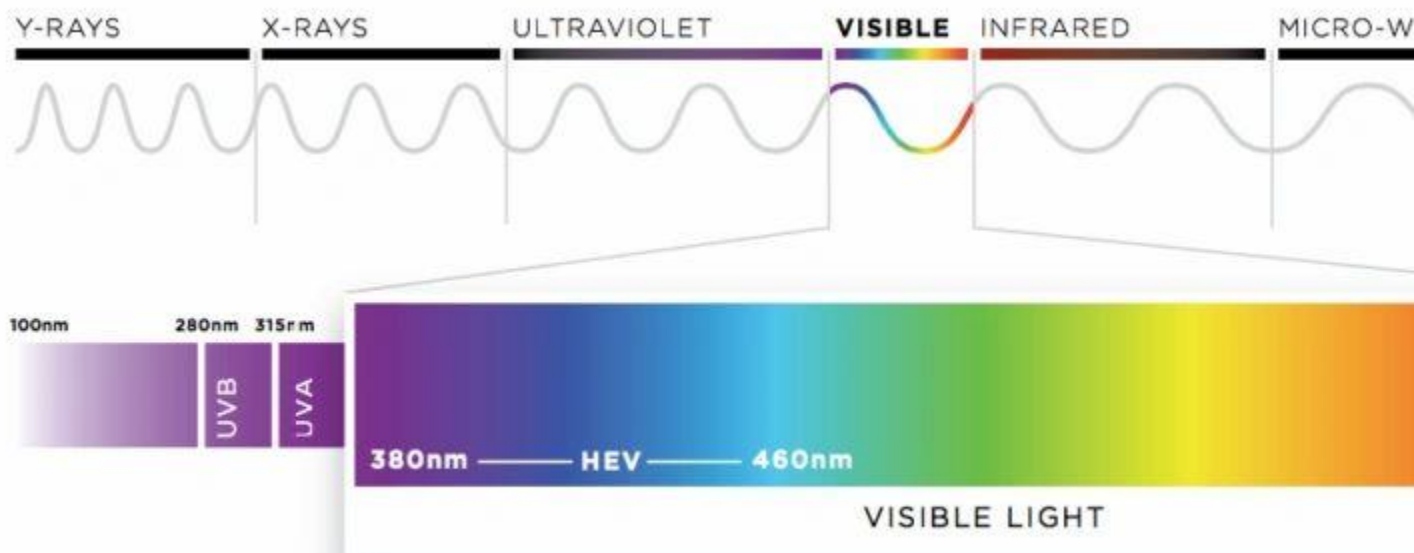
potential long-term vision problems such as age-related macular degeneration, and decreased alertness, memory and emotional regulation impacts (4,15,17). Screen time can take a toll on vision health and comfort, leading to symptoms of digital eye strain, dry and irritated eyes (8,18).

### About World Sight Day

According to the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, World Sight Day (WSD) is an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment.

## WHAT IS BLUE LIGHT? HOW DOES BLUE LIGHT IMPACT THE EYES?

September 18, 2020|



[Edit Image](#)

### HOW DOES BLUE LIGHT IMPACT THE EYES?

Anterior structures of the adult human eye (the cornea and lens) are very effective at blocking UV rays from reaching the light-sensitive

**retina at the back of the eyeball. But HEV blue light is different, with much of it passing through the cornea and lens and reaching the retina at the back of the eye. Studies suggest that, over time, cumulative exposure to the HEV blue light could cause specific long-term damage to your eyes:**

Potential damage to retina cells, particularly in children and teens

Long-term vision problems such as increased incidences of age-related macular degeneration (AMD)

Suppressed production of the natural release of melatonin, which can lead to disrupted sleep cycles

Digital eye strain, which is commonly exhibited by dry eyes, headache and blurred vision.

## **WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF BLUE LIGHT?**

### **P.34**

**Although humans have evolved to accommodate proper amounts of beneficial blue light from the sun, we are only now recognizing that man-made digital light presents new concerns for the health of our eyes. Today, artificial LED-produced blue light is nearly inescapable, and is presented through dozens of man-made sources, including streetlights, interior lighting, and through our many digital devices such as smart phones, tablets, laptops, and desktop monitors. This latter category of digital devices is of particular interest because we are often positioned very close to our device screens, day after day, for many hours at a time.**

**Perhaps the most at-risk groups for blue light impacts are children and teens, who not only consume massive amounts of digital screen time, but whose eyes are not yet fully developed to mitigate exposure to blue light. Similarly, we lose protective melanin cells as we age, making the elderly particularly susceptible to increased incidences of age-related macular degeneration. For all age groups, too much digital blue light late at night (e.g., reading a novel on a tablet or e-reader, or**

spending time on social media at bedtime) can disrupt sleep cycles, potentially causing sleepless nights and daytime fatigue.



## **HELPFUL LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UV AND HEV BLUE LIGHT**

***American Macular Degeneration Foundation* Ultra-violet and Blue Light Aggravate Macular Degeneration <https://www.macular.org/ultra-violet-and-blue-light>**

***Scientific American* Why is Blue Light Before Bedtime Bad for Sleep? <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/q-a-why-is-blue-light-before-bedtime-bad-for-sleep/>**

***Prevent Blindness* Blue Light and Your Eyes <http://www.preventblindness.org/blue-light-and-your-eyes>**

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***Review of Optometry* Seeing Blue: The Impact of Excessive Blue Light Exposure <https://www.reviewofoptometry.com/article/seeing-blue-the-impact-of-excessive-blue-light-exposure>**

***20/20 Magazine* Handling the Blues <https://www.2020mag.com/ce/TTViewTest.aspx?LessonId=108654>**

***Huffington Post* How to Protect Your Eyes from the Negative Effects of Digital Devices and Blue Light [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-matthew-alpert-od/blue-light\\_b\\_5570433.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-matthew-alpert-od/blue-light_b_5570433.html)**

**<https://socialemotionalpaws.org/blog-post/f/what-is-blue-light-how-does-blue-light-impact-the-eyes>**

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**[Educational Tools to Empower You!](#)**

## **MORE**

**INDIANAPOLIS – When her [oldest child came home from school](#) and said vision screening had revealed he would need bifocals, Kailey Welch was shocked. He was only 12.**

**Sure, she wore prescription lenses herself, but she didn't start until she was well into adulthood. To her greater surprise, three of Welch's seven other children also have needed glasses. Today, the four oldest of the eight children in her blended family must wear glasses for up-close work.**

**The likely reason, according to her doctor: devices, both at home and at school.**

**Now, the mother closely monitors the younger four children's screen time and tries to ensure that the older four wear glasses when reading.**

**"I'm definitely paying more attention to it," Welch said.**

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**So are eye specialists. The Welch family represents a trend they have been watching with some alarm for the past decade: a steep increase in the number of children who need corrective lenses.**

**Screens are an easy culprit, but experts suspect that is only part of the explanation. Exposure to sunlight may play a role. More time spent outdoors appears to ward off the need for glasses. Increased awareness among parents to have their children's eyes screened combined with simple genetics also factor into the equation.**

**But pinning down exactly why continues to vex the field.**

**"That's kind of the million-dollar question now," said Dr. Katherine Schuetz, a pediatric optometrist with [Little Eyes](#) in Indiana. "In our profession, we're trying to figure out why and fix it."**

**A New York village averted a potential school shooting. [Parents are still furious.](#)**

## **Vision troubles are a rising concern**



**When Gen Xers were young in the '70s, about 20% of children in the United States needed glasses. Now that number has inched closer to 40%, said Dr. David Epley, a clinical spokesman for the [American Academy of Ophthalmology](#).**

**Other estimates say the percentage of young people with myopia or nearsightedness is even greater, more than 45%, said Dr. April Jones, a pediatric optometrist with [Riley Children's Health](#). By 2050, estimates suggest that as much as a quarter of the world may be nearsighted.**

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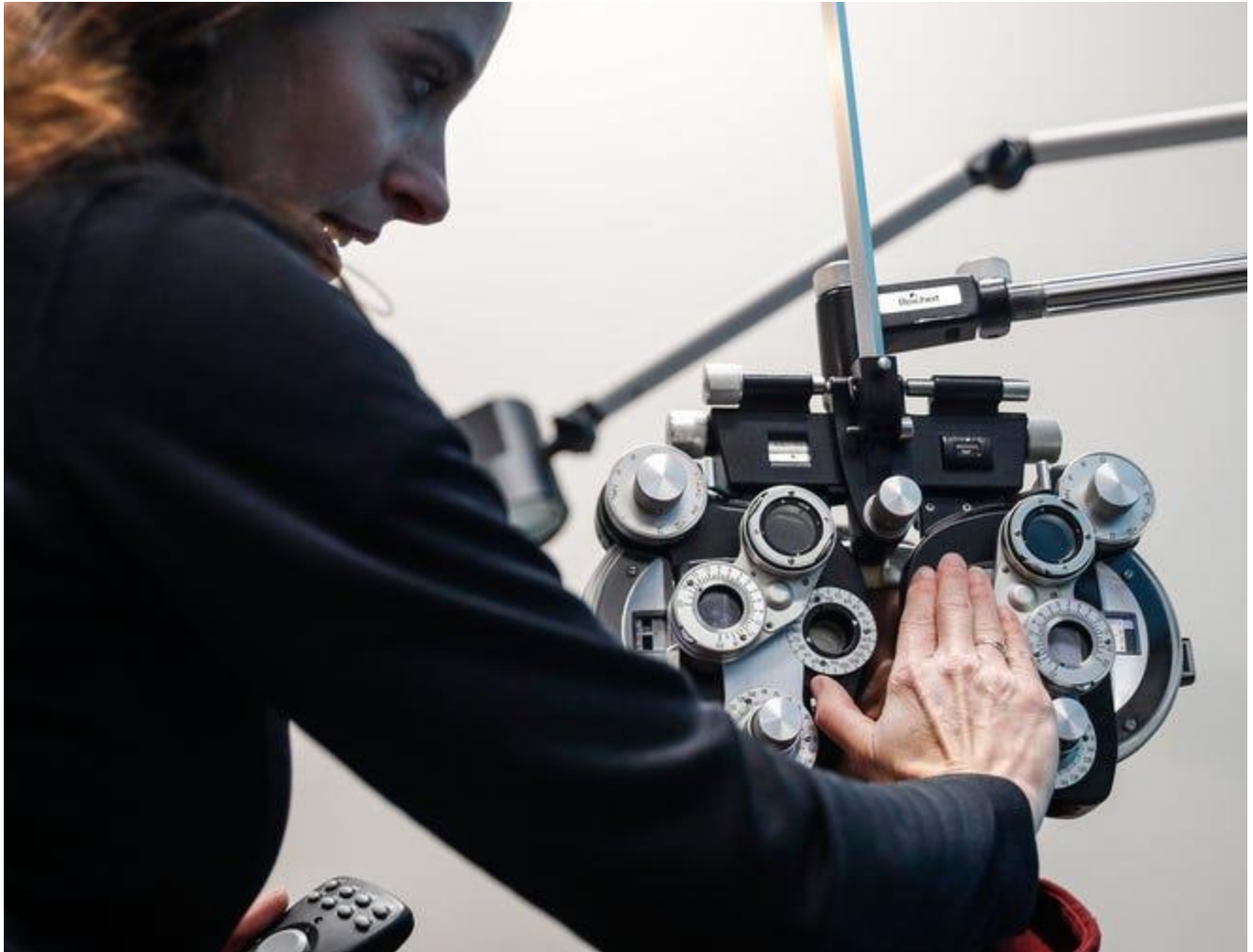
**Editor-in-chief Nicole Carroll gives an inside look at the week's must reads.**

**Delivery: Fri Your Email**

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**Just two decades ago when Schuetz started in practice, she saw far fewer young patients who required lenses than she sees today. The biggest increase she is seeing comes in children ages 4 to 12.**

**Nor is the issue just that children with poor vision are showing up younger and younger. Once their eyesight requires corrective lenses, it's deteriorating faster and faster.**



[Edit Image](#)

**“We do know that genetics play a role, but more and more environment and lifestyle are having a bigger impact than in the past,” Jones said.**

**Across the globe, researchers note that children in certain countries are more likely to wear glasses than in others. In many parts of Asia,**

**P.38**

**for instance, as many as 90% of children have myopia, one [2012 study](#) found. By contrast, other countries such as Australia boast a lower percentage of children with myopia than in the U.S.**

**Fishing nets, bundles of rope:[Whale found dead with a 220 pound 'huge ball' of garbage in its stomach](#)**

## **What might be contributing to the problem?**

**Genetics alone cannot explain such differences. So specialists suggest it's a combination of factors, starting with screen use.**

**“There’s probably a partial truth in there,” said Epley, a pediatric ophthalmologist in Kirkland, Washington, of the tendency to blame screens.**

**Exposure to sunshine, however, may be just as important if not more, experts are beginning to believe. Again, it’s not clear exactly why, but natural sunlight appears to stabilize vision regardless of whether a person uses screens.**

**In addition, when a child is outside playing, that is time he or she is not bent over a screen, making outdoor time even more important, the experts say.**

**Studies suggest that exposing the eye to a spectrum of light may prevent the development and progression of myopia, but yet again, it’s unclear why, Epley said.**

**Skeptics may note that children have been reading books for centuries and that has not had as great an impact, but screens are not exactly equivalent.**

**In general close work, whether staring at a screen or a book, strains eyes. When a person reads, however, he or she tends to hold the book**

**P.39**

**farther away than a phone or tablet, perhaps because books are bigger.**

**Holding objects close to the eye flexes muscles in the eye that may wind up telling the body to grow the eyeball, Jones said. While the eyeball naturally lengthens over time and a certain amount of growth**

**each year is expected, screen use may speed up the process, resulting in myopia.**

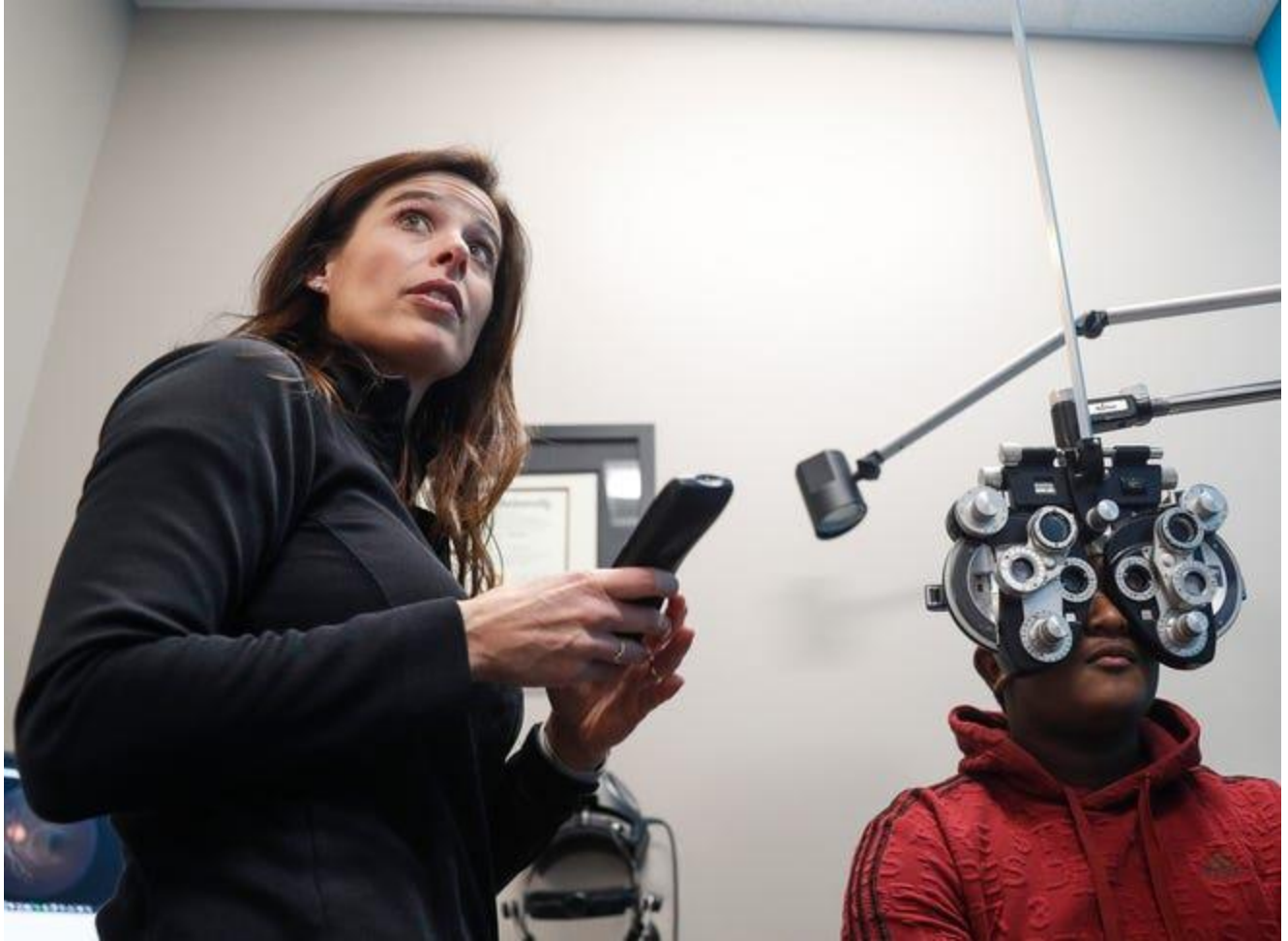
**Eventually, a person may develop high myopia, which in addition to requiring him or her to wear corrective lenses raises the risk later in life of complications such as retinal detachment, premature cataracts, glaucoma and macular degeneration.**

### **Treatments to address nearsightedness**

**New treatments exist to try to slow the progression of myopia and spare children later in life.**

**One therapy known as [orthokeratology](#), or Ortho-k, can at least temporarily eradicate the need for glasses. Each night the child puts in special hard contact lenses that reshape the eyeball as he or she sleeps.**

**Some specialists prefer using eye drops of atropine, a medicine originally used as a nervous system blocker to treat heart rhythm problems. These drops slow the progression of myopia without risking infection as a hard contact lens may, Epley said.**



Edit Image

**For Reid McKay, however, Ortho-k has been a game changer.**

**Every night for the past three years, the fourth grader has worn the hard lenses. During the day, he no longer needs glasses.**

**The 9-year-old was prescribed corrective lenses in kindergarten after complaining about headaches. His mother, Kelly McKay, attributes his condition to genetics, not screens, as both she and her husband both have what she calls “horrible eyesight.”**

**About a year after Reid first started wearing glasses, his optometrist recommended he try the hard lenses to slow down the progression of his nearsightedness. At first, Reid struggled, but now he’s a pro.**

**“It’s just perfect vision every day now for him,” his mother said.**

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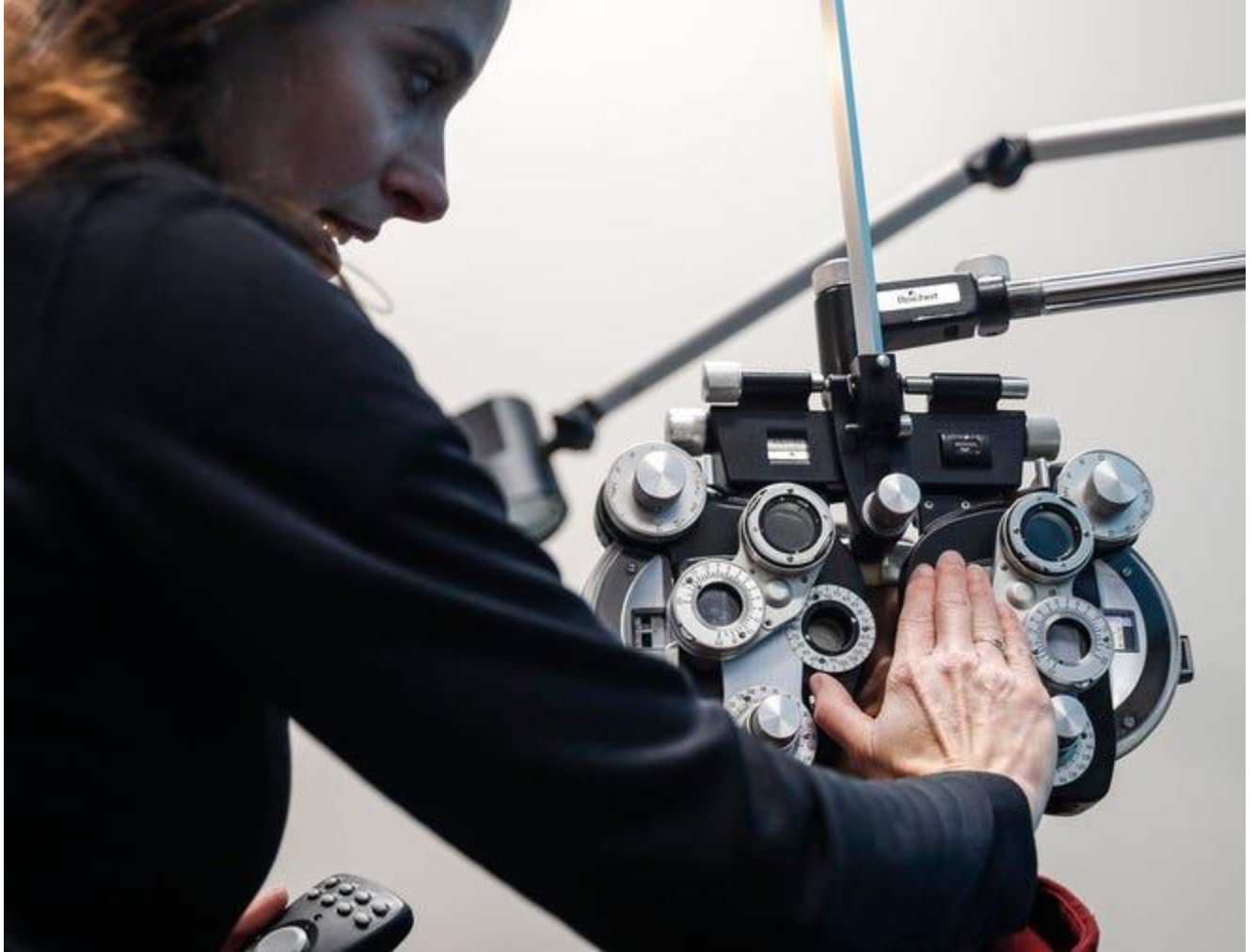
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**Nor is the issue just that children with poor vision are showing up younger and younger. Once their eyesight requires corrective lenses, it's deteriorating faster and faster.**



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## **P.45**

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**Some specialists prefer using eye drops of atropine, a medicine originally used as a nervous system blocker to treat heart rhythm problems. These drops slow the progression of myopia without risking infection as a hard contact lens may, Epley said.**



Edit Image

**For Reid McKay, however, Ortho-k has been a game changer.**

**Every night for the past three years, the fourth grader has worn the hard lenses. During the day, he no longer needs glasses.**

**The 9-year-old was prescribed corrective lenses in kindergarten after complaining about headaches. His mother, Kelly McKay, attributes his condition to genetics, not screens, as both she and her husband both have what she calls “horrible eyesight.”**

**About a year after Reid first started wearing glasses, his optometrist recommended he try the hard lenses to slow down the progression of his nearsightedness. At first, Reid struggled, but now he’s a pro.**

**“It’s just perfect vision every day now for him,” his mother said.**

**Follow Shari Rudavsky on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#): @srudavsky.  
<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/health/2019/12/02/myopia->**

**[nearsightedness-kids-doubles-screen-use-alone-likely-not-blame/427250002/](#)**

**P.47**

- [built-in low blue light screen that optimizes eye comfort by redu](#) [Oct 24, 2020](#)

**Edit Image**





## GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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10331 Stanford Avenue • Garden Grove, California 92840-6353  
Phone: (714) 663-6000 • Fax: (714) 663-6100

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October 12, 2020

**VIA E-Mail: [CADURFEY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CADURFEY@GMAIL.COM)**

Craig A. Durfey  
Founder of P.R.D.D.C.  
P.O. Box 937  
Garden Grove, Ca 92842

Re: Public Records Request for Mitigating the Effects of Blue Light

Dear Mr. Durfey:

The Garden Grove Unified School District is in receipt of your public records act (PRA) request dated September 25, 2020, requesting to obtain copies of public records. Your request submitted on September 25, 2020 was received by electronic mail by the District on September 25, 2020.

The District has determined that there are no existing records responsive to your request.

If you have any questions about this response, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Rosa Gonzalez  
Custodian of Records



BLUE LIGHT  
SUMMIT 2020

eyesafe®



UnitedHealthcare®



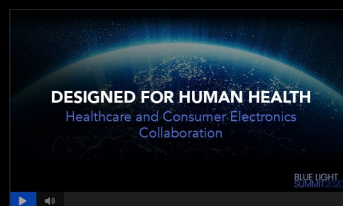
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Precisely Right.

# Welcome to the Blue Light Summit 2020



Annual Forum of Electronics Manufacturers, Employers  
and Eye Care Professionals

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**DEREK HARRIS,**  
PhD  
VP Research & Development, Eyesafe

## Research & Standards

**GUIDING HEALTH RESEARCH**  
**DAVID FRIESS, OD,**  
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Eyesafe Vision Health Advisory

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Dean of Research,

**REQUIREMENTS ROADMAP**  
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## Insurance Solutions & Doctor Roundtable

**SCREEN TIME  
TOOLS &  
SOLUTIONS FOR A  
MAJOR GLOBAL  
HEALTH ISSUE**  
JOHN RYAN  
CEO,  
UnitedHealthcare  
Vision

**SCREEN TIME,  
HEALTH &  
WELLNESS IN THE  
DIGITAL AGE**  
DR. SCOTT  
EDMONDS  
Chief Eye Care  
Officer  
UnitedHealthcare  
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**A ROUNDTABLE  
DISCUSSION ON  
SCREEN TIME AND  
BLUE LIGHT, WITH  
UNITEDHEALTHCARE  
VISION**

## Market & Future of Low Blue Light



**CLOSING IN ON  
OUR EYES**

**AMD  
FRANK AZOR**

**A MESSAGE FROM  
SENATOR DR.**

**EYESAFE  
PROGRAMS**



Gene Munster  
Partner, Loup  
Ventures

Chief Architect  
Gaming Solutions

**RICHARD PAN**  
Chair of the Health  
Committee, CA  
State Senate

PAUL HERRO  
COO, Eyesafe

## REQUEST MORE INFORMATION

*to be contacted by Eyesafe or one of our partners.*

## Have a question about a topic discussed during the Blue Light Summit 2020?

Request information about: (select all that apply)

Low blue light product solutions

Insurance coverage solutions

Resources for healthcare providers

Resources for employers

TUV Eyesafe certification programs

Eyesafe Display technology

Eyesafe Accessory solutions

Register to: (select all that apply)

Attend UnitedHealthcare & Eyesafe CES 2021 Event

Attend Requirements Webinar for Manufacturers

Receive the 2021 Low Blue Light Industry Handbook

Be identified when Notebook and Monitor Accessories are available

*You will be contact by Eyesafe or one of our partners with more information*



10925 Valley View Road

Minneapolis, MN 55344

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