

GRANITE FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

FACILITIES

POLICY 7010: MITIGATION POLICY

I. Statement of policy of Granite Falls School District concerning the mitigation of adverse environmental impacts caused by residential development.

A. Granite Falls School District No. 332 (the "District") is responsible for providing public school and educational services at elementary and secondary levels to students now residing or who will reside in the District.

B. The present rate of new residential development within the District adversely impacts the District generating additional students who must be housed in portable classrooms or related facilities. New residential development within the District may require future classrooms and other improvements, utilities and services, both on-and off-site, not currently projected by the District.

C. Residential development adds new students to the school system for up to one year before new housing can be taxed to support the District. Traditional methods of financing student housing have proven to be ineffective during periods of rapid residential growth. Consequently, financing additional student housing with the current tax structure is often impossible.

D. Bond proceeds are to fund identified capital project needs. These proceeds are not, however, available to fund additional student housing needs not included in the bond issues; such housing needs arise from unforeseen residential development.

E. The State Environmental Policy Act provides a mechanism for jurisdictions issuing land use permits and approving land use projects to mitigate identified adverse environmental impacts, including those suffered by schools.

F. The goal of this policy statement is to establish procedures to identify environmental impacts adverse to the District; to identify and recommend appropriate and reasonable mitigation measures to be imposed upon approvals given and permits issued to those projects that adversely impact the District. Adverse environmental impacts will be identified in reasonable detail and recommended mitigation measures will be tailored to eliminate or to reduce their severity.

II. Board Policy Directives

A. It shall be the policy of the District that adverse environmental impacts of residential development within the District be mitigated by recommending that the permitting authority impose appropriate conditions on approvals of permits for such development.

B. The adverse impacts that result from residential developments usually include increased numbers of school students beyond the District's capacity to provide classroom space for those students. In those cases, the District will;

(1) identify the number of new students expected to result from a residential development;

(2) identify that classroom space is not available to those students to house;

(3) identify the cost of providing classroom space and related improvements, utilities, transportation, and services for those students and;

(4) recommended appropriate mitigation measures to be imposed as conditions on permits or approvals for the development.

C . The conditions recommended may include the payment of funds to be expended on the measures necessary to reduce the adverse impacts or requiring applicants to contribute to an Environmental Impact Mitigation Fund established to finance the facilities to house or otherwise serve students added to the District by residential development.

ADOPTED: AUGUST 9, 1990

AMENDED: APRIL 27, 2000