



April 29, 2025

Saugus Unified School Asset Management Advisory Committee
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RE: Santa Clarita Elementary School

Dear Saugus Unified School Asset Management Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Conservancy, I appreciate the opportunity to share comments on the future of the Santa Clarita Elementary School located at 27177 Seco Canyon Road, Saugus, CA. We support the Draft Recommendation Report and believe this to be a historically significant place that can be readily adaptively reused to continue serving the community.

Santa Clarita Elementary School is a rare example of Mid-Century Modern institutional development in Santa Clarita. It was designed by notable Los Angeles architecture firm Smith, Powell & Morgridge in 1959. Smith, Powell & Morgridge were responsible for numerous Modernist civic and educational developments throughout Southern California including Rio Hondo College in Whittier, Santa Monica City College, Anaheim's Police Department headquarters, CSU Fullerton's master plan, and several buildings on the University of Southern California campus.

The building's distinguishing circular shape serves both form and function; the protected inner courtyard was intentionally designed to block children from the strong winds while allowing administrators to monitor activity. The low reinforced brick walls, flat gravel roof, overhangs, and steel frame flush-mounted windows - characteristic of the Modernist design - are remarkably intact.

We support the Report's recommendations to preserve the character-defining features of this building and the mature Heritage Oak trees on site. We agree that the building is well-suited for compatible uses such as community facilities that provide cultural, civic, and recreational benefits to children and the community. There is ample room to expand the park or recreation activities around the historic building. We recommend ample public outreach to determine what programs or uses the surrounding community would like to see at this site.

We thank the Asset Management Advisory Committee and community members for their intent to preserve and reuse this significant Mid-Century Modern building.



About the Los Angeles Conservancy:

The Los Angeles Conservancy is the largest local historic preservation organization in the United States, with nearly 5,000 member households throughout the Los Angeles area. Established in 1978, the Conservancy works to preserve and revitalize the significant architectural and cultural heritage of Los Angeles County through advocacy and education.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (213) 430-4203 or email me at asalimian@laconservancy.org.

Sincerely,



Andrew Salimian

Director of Advocacy

