



Montara Water & Sanitary District

Serving the Communities of Montara and Moss Beach

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10/26/2023

Sean McPhetridge, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Cabrillo Unified School District

RE: BLD2023-00284, Cabrillo Unified School District, Farallone View School Remodel

Dear Sean,

The Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD) became aware that the Farallone School Modernization Project involves water fixtures and sewer fixtures. We alerted you and the school's principal to our concern immediately in person and by email. Thank you for yesterday's email exchange in which you pointed to the role of the State Division of Architecture in the project.

The jurisdiction of the State Division of Architecture does not extend to issuing water and sewer permits, nor does the division have jurisdiction over the public health and safety of our water system. MWSD has exclusive jurisdiction over water and sewer services and permits for the type of work that the Cabrillo Unified School District is undertaking are required. MWSD should have been involved from the beginning in plan review and permitting for this project.

At this time we are asking San Mateo County Code enforcement to red-tag and stop all work until the Cabrillo Unified School District complies with local laws (please see attached letter). To avoid unnecessary delays for your project, please submit an MWSD application as soon as possible. We are looking forward to working with you to resolve the issue and will expedite all District reviews when possible.

A detailed description of the required steps and MWSD application can be found on our website here: [Existing Service Application Packet July 2023 DRAFT.pdf \(montara.org\)](#)

Please also ensure compliance with other local jurisdictions, for example PG&E.

Thanks to the school's principal Amy Vicker, MWSD was able to inspect the site this morning for an initial hazard assessment. Unfortunately, several cross-connection concerns were present. The type and use of materials handled and present, and the degree of piping system complexity and accessibility present a high hazard cross connection degree.

This risk to the public health and safety of the entire community requires the immediate installation of a backflow prevention device (Reduced Pressure Device) at the customer's side of the domestic water meter, at the latest Sunday, October 29, 2023. The installation also requires District certification before being placed in service. Our operators are standing by to perform the required inspection after hours and at the weekend if needed. Please note that if no proper backflow prevention is installed before next Monday morning water service to the school will be interrupted until the backflow protection is in place.

The installation of the device will protect everyone outside of the school grounds from the hazards. However, it does not protect anyone present on school grounds. We recommend that Cabrillo Unified School District does not hold any school events at Farallone View School until the hazards are properly addressed.

Sincerely, 

Clemens Heldmaier
MWSD

Attachment: Letter to San Mateo Code Enforcement dated 10/26/2023