



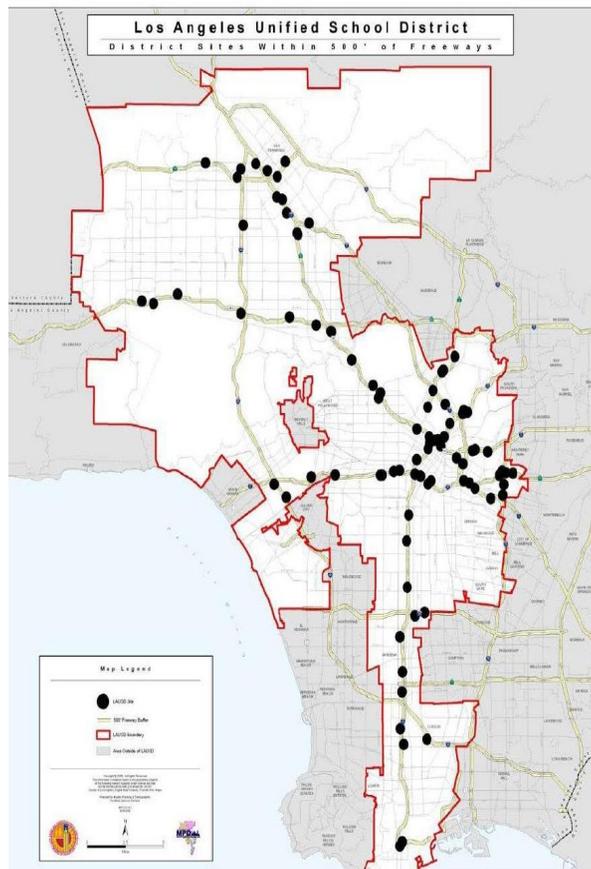
Law Restriction on Schools Near Freeways

By: Lindsay Woodson

SB 352 (2003)

An Act to amend Section 17213 of the Education Code, and to amend Section 21151.8 of the Public Resource Code, relating to public schools. School siting (schoolsites).

- Triggered by roadways with more than 100,000 vehicles in urban areas and 50,000 vehicles in rural areas.
- Governing board of the school district is lead agency, who also conducts EIRs. "Approvals" by the school district refer to construction or acquisition of schoolsites.



Distance	# Schools
500 feet	90
200 feet	57
100 feet	37

Figure1."Map shows LAUSD schools that are located within 500 feet of a freeway." Source: <http://www.healthdatabytes.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/LAUSD-map-2.jpg>

- The bill "...prohibit[s] the approval of a schoolsite within 500 feet from a freeway or busy roadway unless prescribed conditions are met..."
- Additionally, prohibits the approval of a schoolsite if the environmental impact report (EIR) is a negative declaration, until prescribed conditions are met.

- The bill redefines "facility" to include freeways, busy roadways, and traffic corridors, in order to incorporate potential impacts of high activity roadways and traffic into environmental review reports.



- A clause allows for the construction of a school near a highway (absent of mitigation) if the school district is "unable to locate an alternative site that is suitable due to severe shortages of sites."

Figure 2. "Students jog on the playground at Elizabeth Hudson K-8 Elementary School in Long Beach. The school sits near the Tesoro oil refinery, the Terminal Island Freeway, a railroad line and the Port of Long Beach." (Don Bartletti / Los Angeles Times) (Don Bartletti / Los Angeles Times)

- Calls for the identification of facilities that "might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous materials" within a quarter mile buffer of the school.
- Hazardous material refers to former hazardous waste disposal sites, hazardous substance release sites and/or pipelines (above or below ground) carrying hazardous materials. Natural gas to supply the school is an exception.
- Dispersion modeling is permitted in order to confirm that a site poses no significant health risk.