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**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
Telephone: (213) 241-4822 | Fax: (213) 241-8977

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Superintendent

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Interim Chief Academic Officer

December 19, 2019

Deborah Weintraub, AIA  
Chief Deputy City Engineer  
Department of Public Works  
Bureau of Engineering  
1149 S. Broadway, Suite 700  
Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213

Dear Ms. Weintraub,

I am writing this letter to express Los Angeles Unified's support for the construction of the Silver Lake Environmental Studies Center.

The goals of the Studies Center at the Silver Lake Reservoir aligns and supports Los Angeles Unified's vision of providing students with real life opportunities to be aware of their local environmental needs and take an active role in finding solutions to reduce the negative impact of some human activities on their community and globally.

Los Angeles Unified is in full implementation of the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS), including the California Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&C). The standards of CA NGSS directly tackle the human impact on the environment in grades Kindergarten, grade three, grade six, high school biology, and high school environmental science course. The standards will focus on the active role of students in their surrounding community, including their school and at home, to reduce the negative impact on the environment and help their parents and teachers achieve that goal. The learning target is for students to "communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in local environment".

As proposed, the Studies Center will further support Los Angeles Unified's effort by providing the opportunity for students to apply the science and engineering practices they learn in their science classroom in a local environmental context. Students will develop an authentic environmental stewardship and practice the role of environmentalists using critical thinking to find healthy solutions for their community for cleaner water, air, and/or energy.

It is with enthusiasm and excitement that the Division of Instruction supports the construction of the Environmental Studies Center on the Silver Lake Reservoir.

Sincerely,

Alison Yoshimoto-Towery,  
Interim Chief Academic Officer