



Ojai Unified School District
Public Comments submitted for
COC Meeting on Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Public Comments

06/15/2022 - Martin Hartmann (2.1): "California public school construction is overseen by The Division of the State Architect (DSA): the "building department." Building codes ensure students and staff are kept safe and healthy and include features like playgrounds, baseball fields, and drinking fountains for kids of all abilities. DSA enforces building codes and protects local Ojai taxpayers' investment in school facilities and Ojai's future citizenry, the kids. School districts are required by law to submit plans showing structural safety, fire life safety, and wheelchair access compliance for DSA review and approval. Small projects may be exempt from DSA plan review if less than \$119,230 and if the plans are designed and signed by licensed architects and engineers. Recently completed OUSD small projects listed on the district website bond measure page which are not on the exempt list and exceeded the cost threshold. DSA has no assigned permit numbers on their public website that correlate to OUSD bond page. The lack of assigned permit numbers indicates projects were not constructed with the proper procedures necessary for proper certification of school projects. Completed projects in the district now require full DSA certification after-the-fact. State-required Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) forms mandating efficient irrigation design for the Mira Monte ES field were not submitted, reviewed, or enforced. There is no proof of compliance for irrigation efficiency and water conservation required by state law under the 2019 California Green Building Code and DSA Form 1-L. The code-required disabled access upgrades were not designed or carried out. DSA ordered OUSD to stop construction on some jobs and submit for retroactive certification. Certifying projects after-the-fact costs more, adds complexity, and wastes time. This needs to get cleaned up asap. I request the Citizens' Oversight Committee discuss how to certify the new uncertified projects and how to start construction again."