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SACRAMENTO CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

REPORT OF PLANNING DIRECTOR -- R. L. Rathfon -- 1-10-61

SUBJECT: LUTHER BURBANK SR. HIGH SITE PLAN REVIEW

PLANNING COMMISSION
MEMBERS IN SESSION:

The preliminary site plan of the Burbank School has been studied by this Office and once again it is felt that a strong protest should be submitted to the School Board in the matter of placing parking lots in the front yards of public schools.

The Commission has protested this design (?) practice in the past and it is our belief that they should continue to do so. We believe the correctness of the Commission's position can be seen by inspection of two existing school sites. Compare the attractive appearance of the Sacramento High School to that of Hiram Johnson High School. They speak for themselves and no amount of landscape planter on the Hiram Johnson site between the parking lot and the street sidewalk will change the fact that the setting of a multi-million dollar high school is actually a parking lot. It is inconceivable that on a 40 acre site that a skilled Architect cannot find a more acceptable solution to the problem of parking space as related to administrative office space.

It is suggested that this design concept constitutes a callous disregard to the whole concept of community appearance and certainly if public agencies cannot set a higher standard than this, then the community investment in public projects is not receiving full value, nor can we expect private property development to raise their standard of improvement.

It is urged that the Commission be on record as strongly opposing this planning approach.

Respectfully submitted,


R. L. RATHFON
Planning Director