

# School District Perspective

or

...been down so long it looks like up to  
me...

Re-Visioning School Facility Planning and  
Design for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

California Department of Education

October 16, 2008

# Overview

- Still working on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century...
  - Still trying for safe, warm, and dry
- The reality of modernizing and reconstructing existing District facilities
- Changing School District culture
- Remember the lag-time—changing concepts to building schools
- Finally, do facilities really matter?

# Context

## **WCCUSD Background**

- Bay Area along I-80 Corridor from Hercules to El Cerrito
- 30,000 (=/-) ADA
- 45% Latino, 25% African American
- Wide income range—hills to flats
- 5 cities, unincorporated areas of county
- Industrial base, working class communities
- Suburban emerging areas
- A sometimes uneasy collection of communities...
- 52 Schools over 60 properties

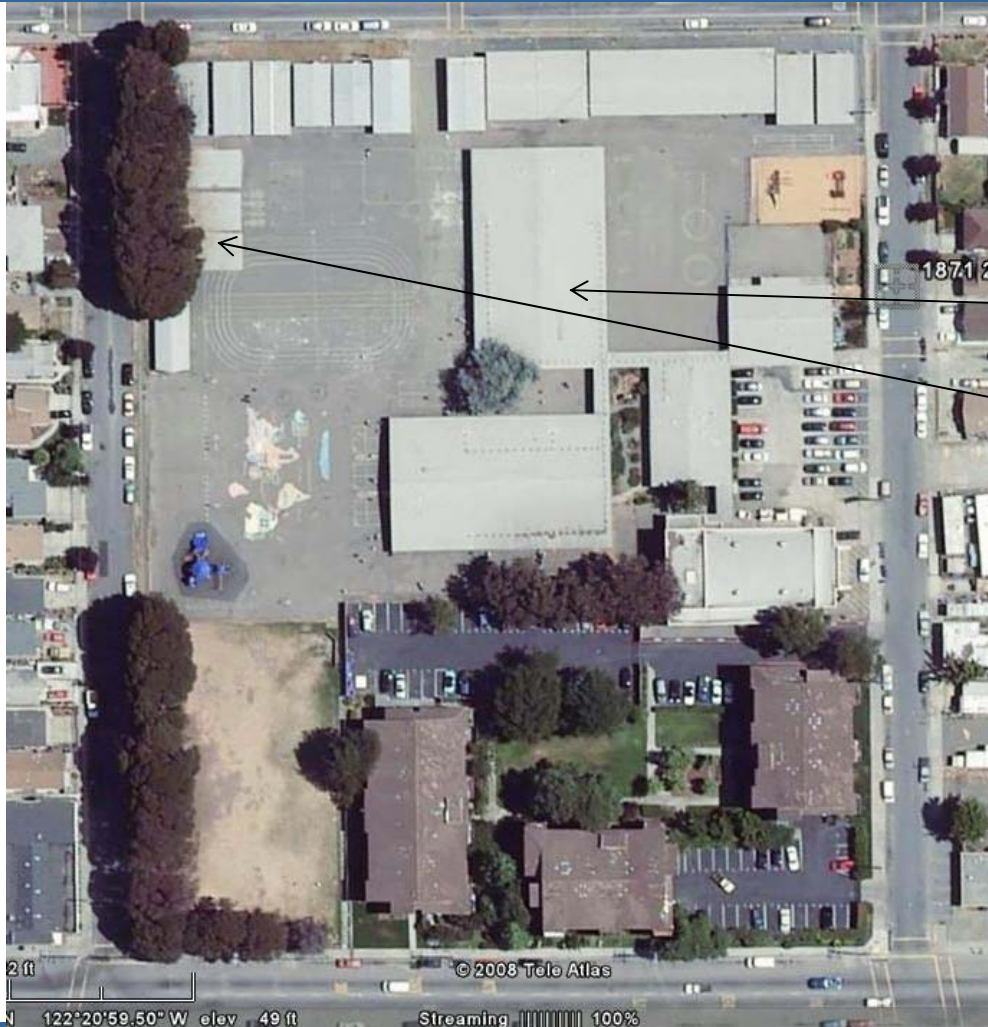
# Still working on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century...



October 16, 2008

CDE Revisioning School Facilities Conference

# Still working on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century...



## Dover Elementary San Pablo, CA

Original Construction

23 Portables added to site

An urban school model  
found throughout the state

Lost playground space

Unirrigated field



How about just safe, warm, and dry...



# Reconstruction of existing facilities

- Existing facilities are the new frontier
- Preserving our investment in schools
- Challenges of modernizing California schools
- Funding is far below need
  - State grants cover 12-15% of cost of full renovation or reconstruction
- What does it really take?





**Downer Elementary Main Campus**





## Downer Elementary School

AB 300 List  
Seismic Most  
Vulnerable Buildings  
in State



# Reconstruction of existing facilities



**Edward M. Downer Elementary School San Pablo, CA**



# Changing School District culture

- Teachers
  - Changing the guard
- Administrators
  - Just say no!
  - Overwhelmed daily
  - Cutbacks
- Classified staff
  - We've always done it this way!
  - Cleaning more with fewer custodians
- Families
  - Turn off the tv!
  - Cellphones
- Communities
  - What are you doing for me lately?
  - Districts an easy target
- Dealing with our history
  - Once scorned never loved again...



# Do facilities matter? What about...

## **Factors in student achievement**

- Racial & ethnic backgrounds of students
- Income levels of families
- Teacher effectiveness
- Home and family stability
- Curriculum

Do facilities matter? They do.



**El Cerrito High School Reconstruction**