



Message from Tim:

McCarthy completes Barrio Logan school

By **ERIK PISOR**, The Daily Transcript

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McCarthy Building Companies Inc. has recently completed construction of the new \$29.5 million Laura G. Rodriguez Elementary School in Barrio Logan.

The school, which is situated on a 6.5-acre lot, includes seven structural steel-framed buildings, with plaster exteriors. The buildings house 32 new classrooms, a multi-purpose room, library/media center, a cafeteria, and administrative spaces. The campus also encompasses outdoor play areas and sports fields.

The new facility accommodates 650 students and was successfully completed in time for the start of the school year, Sept. 4.

According to Craig Swenson, project director for McCarthy, the logistics of building several new structures in a small space presented several challenges for the team.

Because each building was at a different stage of construction at any given time a large amount of people were working in close quarters, which required coordination and a vigilant focus on safety, Swenson continued.

Another challenge for the McCarthy team was meeting the tight project schedule.

Due to a change in the original design of the buildings, together with some complications with the original contractor, McCarthy became involved in the construction management process only after work on the site had already begun, according to a release.

The multi-prime project utilized 25 different contractors, which meant the McCarthy team had to precisely coordinate each trade involved in the project within the 16-month schedule.

Additionally, the project had special site grading needs because a severe grade change of nearly 16 feet split the north and south portions of the land.

As a result the construction team was charged with erecting several tiered masonry retaining walls throughout the property. Due to the amount of pressure placed upon the walls by the higher surface the walls required extremely high strength mortar and grout.

The scope of work for McCarthy also included a number of off-site infrastructure improvements such as street enhancements, school zone signage and striping, and upgrades to a nearby water line.

The school is one of 15 San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) facilities being built or rebuilt with funding from Proposition MM, a \$1.51 billion bond measure.

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Platt/Whitelaw Architects Inc., served as the project architect. **Flores Lund Consultants** was the structural engineer. Other subcontractors included: **Psomas**, civil engineer; **Turpin & Rattan Engineering Inc.**, electrical engineer; **E/C Engineering**, mechanical engineer; **Kawasaki Theilacker Ueno & Associates**, landscape architect; **Katz, Okitsu & Associates**, traffic engineer; **Schirmer Engineering Corp.**, fire protection engineer; and **Gordon Bricken & Associates**, acoustical engineer.

SDUSD staff assigned to the project included David Grant, project manager, and Daniel Sicile-Kira, construction manager.

