



Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: San Diego Unified School District
4860 Ruffner Street, Annex Room 5
San Diego, CA 92111

FILED Ernest J Dronenburg, Jr. Recorder County Clerk

County of San Diego Recorder/Clerk
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

MAY 30 2019

BY C. Reison DEPUTY

Project Title: Carson Elementary School Whole Site Modernization Project
Project Applicant: San Diego Unified School District
Project Location - Specific: 6905 Kramer St, San Diego, CA 92111
Project Location - City: San Diego Project Location - County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The District proposes campus upgrade improvements at Carson Elementary School (project site), includes heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) installation; new security fencing; relocation of the administration area to the existing auditorium lobby; exterior painting; and general site improvements for Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliance. See Attachment A.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Diego Unified School District
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Diego Unified School District

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: §15301; §15311; and §15314
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

None of the exceptions specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply. See Attachment A.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Paul Garcia, CEQA Coordinator Phone: 858-637-6290
Email: Pgarcia4@sandi.net

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Signature: Gary Stanford Date: 5-6-19 Title: Director of Project Management

[X] Signed by Lead Agency [ ] Signed by Applicant

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

San Diego County on MAY 30 2019

Posted MAY 30 2019 Removed

Returned to agency on

Deputy C. Reison

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

May 31, 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



San Diego County



Transaction #: 3788844  
Receipt #: 2019237122

Ernest J. Dronenburg, Jr.  
Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk  
1600 Pacific Highway Suite 260  
P. O. Box 121750, San Diego, CA 92112-1750  
Tel. (619) 237-0502 Fax (619) 557-4155  
[www.sdarcc.com](http://www.sdarcc.com)

Cashier Date: 05/30/2019  
Cashier Location: SD

Print Date: 05/30/2019 4:20 pm

Payment Summary

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Total Fees:     | \$50.00 |
| Total Payments: | \$50.00 |
| Balance:        | \$0.00  |

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Payment   |         |
| VITALCHEK PAYMENT                               | \$50.00 |
| Total Payments                                  | \$50.00 |
| Miscellaneous Item                              |         |
| FISH & WILDLIFE FEES                            |         |
| Fees: Fish & Wildlife County Administrative Fee | \$50.00 |
| Total Fees Due:                                 | \$50.00 |
| Grand Total - All Documents:                    | \$50.00 |

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

May 31, 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

May 31, 2019

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

- Installation of new security fencing
- Relocation of the administration area to the existing auditorium lobby, including:
  - Replacement of windows and doors in the existing lobby entrance
  - Installation of new exterior signage
  - Installation of new electrical conduit
- Upgrades to ensure compliance with Americans with Disabilities (ADA) regulations
- Exterior painting

**Applicability of Exempt Status:**

The proposed activity is a project subject to CEQA. However, the Proposed Project is Categorically Exempt under §15301 – Existing Facilities, §15311 – Accessory Structures, and §15314 – Minor Additions to Schools. The proposed project is considered categorically exempt because:

**Existing Facilities (Class 1)**

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination (CEQA Guidelines §15301).

The Proposed Project includes modernization of the existing facilities on the school campus. Minor alterations include minor ADA improvements, exterior painting, interior renovation of existing buildings, modifications to perimeter security fencing/gates, and new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in several existing buildings. The existing use as an elementary school would not change as a result of the Proposed Project. The addition of HVAC units would result in a negligible increase in energy usage, as described further in the Initial Study. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would involve a negligible expansion of use beyond the existing use at the time of the lead agency's determination.

**Accessory Structures (Class 11)**

Class 11 consists of construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities (CEQA Guidelines §15311).

The Proposed Project components related to Class 11 include the HVAC system and perimeter security fencing/gates installation. These would occur entirely within the school boundaries and would not change the existing use. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would consist of construction or placement of new minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities.

**Minor Additions to Schools (Class 14)**

Class 14 consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms,

Attachment A

- (c) **Significant Effect.** The proposed project includes various improvements to modernize the Carson Elementary School campus. The project site and surrounding neighborhood are located within an urbanized area, and no work is proposed offsite that could result in impacts to sensitive vegetation or other environmentally sensitive areas as a result of the proposed project. As such, there is nothing unusual about the project site or surrounding area. Furthermore, there is nothing unusual about the design of the proposed project that could result in a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Therefore, there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances, and this exception does not apply to the project.
- (d) **Scenic Highways.** The proposed project would not result in the demolition of existing structures or the construction of new facilities that would directly or indirectly affect an officially designated scenic highway or scenic resources near a scenic highway. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the project.
- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** There are only three sites in the City of San Diego pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code, none of which include the project site. In addition, as discussed in the Initial Study, the project site was listed on RWQCB's GeoTracker database for containing a 2,000-gallon UST; however, the former UST has been removed and the case has been closed. As such, the proposed project is not located on a site where hazardous materials or hazardous waste exist, nor is it located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. This exception does not apply to the project.
- (f) **Historical Resources.** The proposed project includes modernization of the Carson Elementary School campus, which was constructed in 1942. As such, the school meets the 50-year age threshold for consideration as a potential historical resource. A historical resources evaluation (HRE) of the school was conducted by an ICF historian/architectural historian on October 10, 2018. The HRE applied California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) significance criteria in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines and the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the PRC. The HRE concluded that Carson Elementary School is eligible for listing in the CRHR under Criteria 1 and 3. As discussed further in the HRE and Initial Study, with the project design elements that would minimize the potential visual disruptiveness of HVAC installation, the combination of HVAC installation, window and door replacement at the Auditorium lobby, and new perimeter fencing would not cause a substantial adverse change in the historical and architectural significance of the school. In addition, the Proposed Project would not impact archaeological, paleontological, or tribal cultural resources due to the low sensitivity of the soils and shallow excavation. Therefore, the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, and this exception does not apply to the project.