

Atwater Elementary School District
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Juniper Elementary School Project
(State Clearinghouse No. 2019120473)

Project Title: Juniper Elementary School Project

Lead Agency and Project Sponsor: Atwater Elementary School District

Contact Person:

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Project Description and Location: Atwater Elementary School District (District) is proposing to construct and operate a new elementary school on a 9.82-acre site owned by the District. The site is located at the northwest corner of Juniper Avenue and Bridgewater Street in the City of Atwater, Merced County.

The elementary school would serve up to 600 students in grades TK-6. The campus would have 25 classrooms, administrative offices, a multi-purpose building, hardcourt areas and athletic fields, which may include lighting. The school would be staffed by up to 45 employees, including administrators, faculty, and support staff. The school would be in regular session on weekdays from late August to early June, but may host special events and classes during evenings, on weekends, and during summer recess.

The District estimates that construction of the school would begin in late 2021, with operation of the proposed elementary school beginning in August 2023.

Mitigation Measures: The District has incorporated mitigation measures into the project for potentially significant impacts related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, noise, transportation, and tribal cultural resources. The mitigation measures are included in the Initial Study.

Finding: As required by the California Environmental Quality Act, the District prepared an Initial Study for the project. Based on the Initial Study, the District determined that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there would not be a significant effect in this case because the District incorporated mitigation measures into the project that would avoid any significant effects of the project or render them less than significant. Therefore, it is the intent of Atwater Elementary School District to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.

	1/20/21
Signature	Date
	
Print Name	Title