

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: Los Angeles

12400 Imperial Highway Rm 1201

Norwalk, California 90650

From: (Public Agency): Inglewood Unified School District
401 S Inglewood Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90301

(Address)

Project Title: Warren Lane Elementary School Closure Project

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Location - Specific:

2602 W. 79th Street; 10711 S 10th Ave; 809 E. Kelso St.

Project Location - City: Inglewood

Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project includes closing Warren Lane ES and reassigning 143 students currently primarily to Woodworth K-8 school and Kelso Elementary School.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: N/A

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Inglewood 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));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: § 15314, Class 14 Minor additions to schools
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 21080.18

Reasons why project is exempt:

The reassignment of Warren Lane students to other schools is statutorily exempt under PRC section 21080.18. The indirect effects of the school closure are categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines, section 15314. Woodworth has capacity for 1,312 students with only 670 enrolled. Kelso has capacity for 690 students with 394 enrolled. See attached Resolution.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Erika F. Torres, Ed.D, MSW Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 310-419-2700

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: *Erika F. Torres* Date: 2/17/22 Title: County Administrator

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

RESOLUTION NO. 27/2021-2022
OF
INGLEWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
DETERMINING THAT THE WARREN LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURE
PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ACT, APPROVING THE PROJECT, AND DECIDING TO CARRY OUT THE
PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Inglewood Unified School District (“District”) has developed the Warren Lane Elementary School (“Warren Lane”) Closure Project (“Project”) in which the District would close Warren Lane and the students from Warren Lane would attend other District elementary and K-8 schools with surplus capacity, including and primarily Woodworth Monroe TK-8 School (“Woodworth”) and Kelso Elementary School (“Kelso”) (collectively referred to as the “Receiving Schools”); and

WHEREAS, Warren Lane is located at 2602 W. 79th Street, Inglewood, California 90305; and

WHEREAS, the Receiving Schools are located throughout the District and will absorb the current Warren Lane students based on proximity, family choice and other relevant factors, including capacity and class size. The primary Receiving schools are located as follows: Woodworth is located at 10711 S 10th Ave, Inglewood, CA 90303 and Kelso is located at 809 E. Kelso St, Inglewood, CA 90301; and

WHEREAS, in June 2021, the District formed a School Closure/Consolidation Committee (“SCCC”) to review and make recommendations regarding the closure/consolidation of District schools; and

WHEREAS, the District retained consultants, including Davis Demographics and Total School Solutions (“TSS”), to prepare demographics analyses, facilities assessments, and other relevant data to present to the SCCC. SCCC meetings, which were conducted pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code §§ 54950, et seq.) and were open to the public, were held from September 2021 through January 2022, and findings and recommendations were presented to the SCCC, including that enrollment in the District has been significantly declining for years - from 12,119 students in 2013, to 7,627 in 2022 - and is projected to further decline to 6,781 students by the 2024 school year; and

WHEREAS, based on the information presented to the SCCC, after due consideration, the SCCC voted to recommend closure of Warren Lane, including for the following reasons: 1) Warren Lane is experiencing the lowest enrollment of all the schools with 143 students enrolled, including remote learners, but a total capacity for up to 540 students. Therefore, it is at 26% student enrollment based on its capacity. 2) Due to having such low enrollment, it is not reasonably viable or economically efficient to continue operating Warren Lane. 3) The small school enrollment lends itself to combination classes and staffing that could affect the quality of the programs offered at the school. And, 4) An estimated \$9.8 million in modernization costs that

would be needed to fully upgrade and modernize Warren Lane could be repurposed to other sites, including to the Receiving Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Receiving Schools including Woodworth and Kelso are also experiencing low enrollment, and, for example, Woodworth has capacity for 1,312 students, but in the 2021-22 school year, only 670 students were enrolled, which is approximately 51% of its student capacity. Kelso has capacity for 690 students, but in the 2021-22 school year, only 394 students were enrolled, which is approximately 57% of its capacity; and

WHEREAS, closing Warren Lane will enhance the quality of the curricula and educational programs and opportunities at the Receiving Schools and Districtwide by transferring much needed funding, resources and programs from Warren Lane, which will benefit all students of the District; and

WHEREAS, District staff has conducted extensive community engagement and outreach and provided opportunities for input from the community regarding the closure, including at the SCCC meetings, and at community and Board meetings; and

WHEREAS, prior to commencement of the Project, the District must ensure the Project complies with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”); and

WHEREAS, the Project meets the definition of Public Resources Code section 21080.18; and

WHEREAS, categorical exemptions to CEQA are set forth in Article 19 of Chapter 3 of Division 6 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (“CEQA Guidelines”); and

WHEREAS, the Class 14 Categorical Exemption, set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15314, exempts a project that 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, whichever is less; and

WHEREAS, Warren Lane has an enrollment of 143 students for the 2021-22 school year; and

WHEREAS, Woodworth has a total capacity of 1,312 students, with a 2021-22 enrollment of 670 students, and available capacity of 642 students; and

WHEREAS, Kelso has a total capacity for 690 students, with a 2021-22 enrollment of 394 students, and available capacity of 296 students; and

WHEREAS, therefore the 143 students from Warren Lane will be distributed to the Receiving Schools, including Woodworth and Kelso, within their existing available capacity and by closing Warren Lane and transferring the students, the Project will not increase original school capacity by 10 classrooms or 25%; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2(c) provides certain exceptions that would except a Project from the Class 14 Categorical Exemption. Here, the District is unaware of any unusual circumstances or other exception that would negate the Class 14 exemption; and

WHEREAS, the District is unaware of any unusual circumstances that would negate the Class 14 Categorical Exemption; and

WHEREAS, the Project is exempt from CEQA under the CEQA Guidelines Class 14 Categorical Exemption section 15314 and Public Resources Code section 21080.18.

NOW, THEREFORE, the County Administrator of the Inglewood Unified School District hereby finds, determines, declares, orders and resolves as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct.

Section 2. The Project meets the definition of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption (CEQA Guidelines § 15314) because the Receiving Schools have available capacity to absorb Warren Lane's enrollment without exceeding their available capacities and without the need to make facilities changes or additions.

Section 3. There are no unusual circumstances that this Project would cause a potentially significant environmental impact.

Section 4. The applicable requirements of CEQA have been fulfilled for the Project.

Section 5. The Project is approved.

Section 6. The County Administrator or designee is directed to carry out all necessary actions to implement the Resolution.

Section 7. The County Administrator or designee is authorized and directed to file and/or record a Notice of Exemption from CEQA, consistent with this Resolution, attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"**, with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of February 2022, by the County Administrator of the Inglewood Unified School District of Los Angeles County, California.

CERTIFICATION

I, **Erika Torres** Clerk of the Inglewood Unified School District, Los Angeles County, State of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly approved and adopted by the County Administrator of said district at a meeting thereof held on the 16th day of February 2022, with a copy of the Resolution being on file in the Administrative Office of the District.



Clerk, of the Inglewood Unified
School District

List of Exhibits

Exhibit A Notice of Exemption