



Riverside Unified School District

Operations Division – Planning and Development

3070 Washington Street, Riverside, CA 92504-4697 · (951) 788–7496 · (951) 778–5646

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

TO: Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

PROJECT TITLE: JW North High School New Classroom Building, Gymnasium and Modernization Project

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Riverside Unified School District (RUSD or District), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Study (MND-IS) for the JW North High School New Classroom Building, Gymnasium and Modernization project, pursuant to the CEQA under Public Resources Code [PRC], Division 13, Section 21000 et seq. [CEQA Statute] and the California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq. [CEQA Guidelines]. Based on the Initial Study, RUSD determined that the proposed project would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and a MND is appropriate CEQA compliance document. The RUSD is providing public notice in compliance with CCR Title 14, Chapter 3, Sections 15072 and 15073, as amended.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is JW North High School located at 1550 3rd Street (APNs 250-140-006 and 250-140-007) in the City of Riverside, Riverside County, California.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would modernize JW North High School, including the limited demolition of existing asphalt, the removal of some existing portable structures, the renovation of other existing structures, and the construction of one new two-story classroom building, one new gymnasium, and outdoor facilities.

A total of eight existing portables would be removed and a new 2-story science building would be developed to replace the portables. The new science building would have 8 classrooms, restrooms, preparation and storage rooms, and support spaces, which would total 14,575 square feet. The plans include an outdoor learning area, space for planting beds, and a new mini amphitheater. A new campus entry canopy structure will be provided along 3rd Street.

A new gymnasium would be constructed north of the parking lot along Linden Street, east of the existing gymnasium, south of the kitchen, west of the weight and wrestling room, and will replace the existing hardtop basketball courts. The new gymnasium will be competition size at 12,000 square feet with a 900-seat capacity with an additional 5,419 square feet of support spaces.

In addition to the construction of the new classroom building and gymnasium, the project includes upgrades to the HVAC and lighting in seven existing buildings within the campus as part of the proposed project. New landscaping and irrigation would be provided around the two new buildings. Improvements to shade structures, seating, and gathering areas near the existing library would be provided. Sitewide utilities upgrades and ADA compliance would be provided.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The District addressed the potentially significant project-related effects and determined that with mitigation measures incorporated for cultural resources, geology and soils, no significant impacts would occur. Hazardous Materials Statement: The project site is not listed on any list of hazardous waste sites prepared pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AND DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: This NOI, the MND and supporting Initial Study for JW North High School New Classroom Building, Gymnasium and Modernization project are available for review during the 30-day public review period, from **October 12, 2022 to November 10, 2022**, at RUSD Website:

https://www.riversideunified.org/departments/operations_division/planning_development/PublicNotices

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Please indicate a contact person and send your comments to: Riverside Unified School District, Planning and Development Department, 3070 Washington Street, Riverside, CA 92504. ATTN: Rene Castro Jr., Assistant Director of Planning and Development. Comments can also be sent by e-mail to rjcastro@riversideunified.org. Please include “CEQA JW North High School Project” in the subject line.

RUSD BOARD MEETING: Additional information concerning the proposed project will be posted on the District’s website https://www.riversideunified.org/departments/operations_division/planning_development/PublicNotices. The RUSD Board of Education will consider this item during a scheduled meeting; check the RUSD website to find the meeting date, time, and how to participate in the live broadcast at <https://www.riversideunified.org/> or call the District at (951) 788-7135.

Rene Castro Jr. 
Assistant Director, Planning and Development