

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: Worthington TK-6 School Closure and Consolidation Project

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Location - Specific:

11101 Yukon Ave S; 10711 S. 10th Ave

Project Location - City: Inglewood

Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Closing Worthington TK-6 School and reassigning 433 students to Woodworth-Monroe TK-8 School. See attached resolution for further details.

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 Worthington students to Woodworth-Monroe is statutorily exempt under PRC section 21080.18. The indirect effects of the school closure are categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines, section 15314. Woodworth-Monroe has capacity for 1,349 students with only 636 enrolled. See attached Resolution for further details.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: James Morris Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 310/419-2705

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: James Morris Date: 3-15-23 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. 33/2022-2023
OF
INGLEWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
DETERMINING THAT THE WORTHINGTON TK-6 SCHOOL CLOSURE AND
CONSOLIDATION PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, DECIDING TO CARRY OUT THE PROJECT,
AND DIRECTING THE FILING OF A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, Inglewood Unified School District (“District”) has proposed the Worthington TK-6 School (“Worthington”) Closure and Consolidation Project (“Project”) which would result in the closure of Worthington and its consolidation with Woodworth-Monroe TK-8 School (“Woodworth-Monroe”); and

WHEREAS, Worthington is located at 11101 Yukon Ave S, Inglewood, CA 90303, and Woodworth-Monroe is located at 10711 S. 10th Ave, Inglewood, CA 90303; and

WHEREAS, in September 2018, Assembly Bill (“AB”) 1840, codified in Education Code section 42161, was enacted. On June 20, 2021, in alignment with AB 1840 and Education Code section 42161, the District established a School Closure and Consolidation Committee (“SCCC”) to develop and make recommendations to the County Administrator by adoption of Resolution No. 49/2020-2021. On October 5, 2022, the County Administrator reappointed the SCCC members for an additional term to provide further input on school closures and consolidations, including for the 2023-2024 school year; and

WHEREAS, in September 2022, the California Governor signed into law AB 1912, codified in Education Code section 41329, which requires the District to conduct an equity impact analysis utilizing a developed set of metrics (“AB 1912 Metrics”) when considering school closures and consolidations, and seeking public input on those metrics prior to reaching a final decision; and

WHEREAS, the SCCC met six times between October 27, 2022 and January 12, 2023 and selected and focused on certain criteria in its school closure and consolidation analysis and recommendations to the County Administrator, which align with the AB 1912 metrics and are as follows: enrollment, capacity at school sites, intermediate repair needs, long-term repair needs and operating cost per student (“SCCC Criteria”); and

WHEREAS, the SCCC Criteria align with the AB 1912 Metrics; and

WHEREAS, at its meetings, the SCCC was presented with information to consider, including relating to the SCCC Criteria , which is available on the District’s SCCC webpage at the following link:

https://www.inglewoodusd.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1531273&type=d&pREC_ID=2378813:

- Presentation on the SCCC’s role and responsibilities including AB 1912
- Presentation on the SCCC’s Bylaws

- Multiple Presentations and Updates on the Demographics and Enrollment Data of the District
- Presentation on the Brown Act
- Presentation on the District's School Facilities and Fiscal Implications
- Presentation on the Impacts of Combining Classrooms and Large Class Sizes
- Comparison of Districts of a Similar Size and Evaluation Matrix
- Presentation on the Alignment of Resources for Advancing and Accelerating Student Academic Achievement
- Scatter Plot Maps of the District's schools and boundaries
- Information on the condition of the District's schools, repair and replacements costs for the District's schools, projected costs for staff savings
- Information regarding the District receivership; and

WHEREAS, the SCCC meetings were conducted pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Public Meeting Act and Government Code sections 54950, et seq. ("Brown Act"), and were open to the public for the public to attend and provide input on school closures and consolidations; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the information and presentations that the SCCC received, the SCCC had an opportunity to present questions and request additional information at each of the seven meetings, which were answered, discussed, and provided, and receive public feedback during public comment; and

WHEREAS, although on January 12, 2023, the SCCC unanimously voted against the motion to recommend closure of Worthington and its consolidation with Woodworth-Monroe, the financial, facility, and educational circumstances require the District to nevertheless consider the Project; and

WHEREAS, at a regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 22, 2023, the public was presented with a draft Equity Impact Analysis Report ("Report") that analyzes and presents information in compliance with AB 1912, including the SCCC Criteria and AB 1912 Metrics; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the AB 1912 requirements a public hearing was held on February 22, 2023 to receive public input from the community regarding the draft Report and the AB 1912 Metrics analyzed in the Report; and

WHEREAS, additional public input sessions occurred on February 28, 2023 at Worthington, and District staff input sessions occurred on February 28, 2023 and March 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2023, the District provided an updated Report in English and Spanish and presented the AB 1912 Metrics to the public for review and solicited further input and comments pursuant to Education Code section 41329; and

WHEREAS, prior to this March 15, 2023 Board meeting, the District published a final Report and a Report on Incorporation of Public Input in Final School Closure Recommendation

("Public Input Report"), which discusses the public input that was received and the District's plan for addressing the concerns raised; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Education Code section 41329(a)(2)(C), the County Administrator hereby declares that the community engagement process as required by AB 1912 has been completed; and

WHEREAS, based on the information presented to the SCCC, the AB 1912 Metrics, the SCCC Criteria, the Report, the Public Input Report, prior Board items and resolutions, including this Resolution and reference documents, and community input on the AB 1912 Metrics and Report, the District's recommendation is to close Worthington and consolidate it with Woodworth-Monroe; 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, Worthington has an enrollment of 433 students for the 2022-23 school year; and

WHEREAS, Woodworth-Monroe has a total capacity of 1,349 students, with 2022-23 enrollment of 636 students, and available capacity of 713 students; and

WHEREAS, therefore the 433 students from Worthington will be distributed to Woodworth-Monroe, within its existing available capacity and by consolidating Worthington with Woodworth-Monroe, the Project will not increase original school capacity by 10 classrooms or 25%; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 provides five exceptions that would disqualify a project from being categorically exempt. These are: (1) where the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place would be significant over time; (2) a significant environmental impact would occur due to unusual circumstances; (3) a project that would cause damage to scenic elements within a designated state scenic highway; (4) a project that is on a site designated as a Hazardous Waste Site; or (5) a project that causes a substantial adverse change to a historical resource; and

WHEREAS, none of the exceptions apply because 1) the Project is the only project of the same type at the same place. No other school closures in the area are currently proposed for the 2023-2024 school year; 2) there are no known unusual circumstances that would be caused by the consolidation of Worthington with Woodworth-Monroe because Woodworth-Monroe has available capacity to absorb all of the Worthington students within the existing capacity, and it was designed for the maximum capacity; 3) according to the Caltrans Scenic Highway System Map website, the City of Inglewood does not contain any officially designated State of California scenic highways. Therefore, no scenic highways, or scenic resources would be affected as a result of the Proposed Project; 4) neither Worthington, nor Woodworth-Monroe are located on a site designated as a Hazardous Waste Site; and 5) the Proposed Project does not include any changes to existing buildings. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not cause a change in the significance of a historical resource.

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 District has completed the community engagement process pursuant to Education Code section 41329(a)(2)(c).

Section 3. The District has fulfilled the requirements of Education Code section 41329.

Section 4. Based on the information presented to the SCCC, the AB 1912 Metrics, the SCCC Criteria, the Report, the Public Input Report, prior board items and resolutions, including this Board Item and Resolution, all referenced documents and community input on the AB 1912 Metrics and Report, the County Administrator's final recommendation is to approve the Project to close Worthington and consolidate Worthington with Woodworth-Monroe.

Section 5. The Project meets the definition of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption (CEQA Guidelines § 15314) because Woodworth-Monroe has available capacity to absorb Worthington's enrollment without exceeding its available capacity and without the need to make facilities changes or additions.

Section 6. There are no unusual circumstances that this Project would cause a potentially significant environmental impact and none of the exceptions are applicable.

Section 7. The applicable requirements of CEQA have been fulfilled for the Project.

Section 8. The District decides to carry out the Project.

Section 9. The County Administrator or designee is directed to carry out all necessary actions to implement the Resolution.

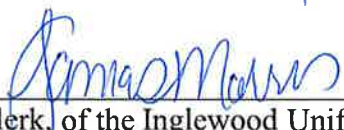
Section 10. The County Administrator or designee is authorized and directed to file and/or record a Notice of Exemption from CEQA, consistent with this Resolution, attached hereto as Exhibit "A", with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of March 2023, by the County Administrator of the Inglewood Unified School District of Los Angeles County, California.

CERTIFICATION

I, James Morris 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 15th day of March, 2023, with a copy of the Resolution being on file in the Administrative Office of the District.



Clerk, of the Inglewood Unified
School District