

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Marin County Committee on School
District Organization
1111 Las Gallinas Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94903

Marin County Clerk-Recorder
Marin County Civic Center
501 Civic Center Drive, Room 234
San Rafael, CA 94903

Project Title: **PETITION FOR TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO MILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Project Location: Ten residences: 400, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409 Tennessee Glen Way; 401 Headlands Avenue, Mill Valley, California, 94941.

These ten homes are bordered on the west by Tennessee Valley Road and the Tamalpais Valley School, on the north and east by the Fernwood Cemetery and an undeveloped ridge, and on the south by the Woolly Egg Ranch and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Assessor's Parcel Number(s): 052-560-01, 052-560-02, 052-560-03, 052-560-04, 052-560-05, 052-560-06, 052-560-07, 052-560-08, 052-560-09, 052-560-10

Project Description: A petition for territory transfer was submitted to the Marin County Superintendent of Schools seeking transfer of ten (10) parcels from Sausalito Marin City School District (SMCSD) to Mill Valley School District (MVSD). Students residing in the Tennessee Glen Community (TGC) are within SMCSD and are assigned to Dr. Martin Luther King Academy, which operates as one school, but consists of two campuses (Grades: Kindergarten - 5, 636 Nevada Street, Sausalito, and Grades: Transitional Kindergarten - 6-8, 200 Phillips Drive, Sausalito.) If the territory transfer is approved, students residing in the Tennessee Glen Community would be reassigned to Tamalpais Valley School (grades K-5) and Mill Valley Middle School (grades 6-8) which are within MVSD. See Figure 1, *Proposed Territory Transfer Area*.

Students from the Tennessee Glen Community currently and historically attend school in the MVSD through an interdistrict transfer agreement. Property owners in the Tennessee Glen Community currently pay the Mill Valley School District parcel tax even though they are within the boundaries of the SMCSD. As a result of concerns related to the future of the interdistrict transfer agreement, a petition was submitted to permanently transfer the territory of the 10 residential properties within Tennessee Glen Community from SMCSD to MVSD.

Lead Agency: Marin County Committee on School District Organization

Applicant: Pam Keon
Phyllis Gardner
Chief Petitioners, Tennessee Glen Community

- Exemption Status:
- Ministerial [Section 21080(b); 15268];
 - Declared Emergency [Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)];
 - Emergency Project [Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)];
 - General Rule [Section 15061(b)(3)]; Common Sense Exemption**
 - Categorical Exemption [Section 15301(a), Existing Facilities];
 - Approval of Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges [Section 21080(b)(8)(D)];
 - Statutory Exemption [Section 15273(a)(4)].

REASONS WHY THIS PROJECT IS EXEMPT OR DOES NOT REQUIRE FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

The project is exempt under State CEQA Guidelines [Section 15061(b)(3)], which states:

(b) *A project is exempt from CEQA if:*

- (3) *The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.*

The California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21000, et. seq. of the California Public Resources Code, hereafter CEQA) requires analysis of agency approvals of discretionary projects. A “project,” under CEQA, is defined as “the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.” The acquisition of property by a public agency is a project as defined by CEQA. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), an activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. The activity is not subject to CEQA where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

A transfer of territory from one school district to another would shift the home-to-school travel patterns between the existing schools and those in the new district. The change in traffic patterns has the potential to increase several related environmental impacts, including traffic congestion, vehicle miles traveled, air pollution, and noise. There may also be impacts if the receiving schools do not have sufficient available capacity and their facilities must be expanded to accommodate the additional students.

Currently all students within the Tennessee Glen Community already attend MVSD schools through interdistrict transfers. As a result, no changes would occur in the near term if the territory transfer were completed. However, the transfer would permanently change the districts’ boundaries and the number of students residing in the ten residences may increase in the future.

Figure 2, *School Locations Map*, shows the location of schools in both SMCS D and MVSD that may be impacted by the proposed territory transfer. This figure also shows the travel routes and travel distances to the schools under existing and proposed school district boundaries. Table 1 identifies these schools and applies travel distances to determine total Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) under the two scenarios. Table 1 demonstrates that students attending schools in MVSD would travel shorter distances than if attending SMCS D schools (9.3 miles vs. 26.2 miles). This reduction in VMT shows that the proposed territory transfer would not create significant impacts related to traffic related air pollution or noise. Further, the negligible volume of traffic generated by home-to-school trips by only ten residences is not sufficient to create traffic impacts. As shown in Figure 1 and Table 1, the proposed MVSD schools are closer to Tennessee Glen

Community than the existing assigned SMCS D schools. As a result of the closer distance, the territory transfer would result in less vehicle miles traveled, air pollution generated by vehicles, and traffic-related noise.

Table 1. Existing and Proposed Travel Distances

SCHOOL DISTRICT/SCHOOL	GRADE LEVELS	NO. OF GRADES	DISTANCE TO SCHOOL*	TOTAL MILES TRAVELED
Sausalito Marin City School District				
Dr. Martin Luther King Academy, 636 Nevada Street	K-5	6	2.9	17.4
Dr. Martin Luther King Academy 200 Phillips Drive	TK, 6-8	4	2.2	8.8
Total				26.2
Mill Valley School District				
Tamalpais Valley School	K-5	6	0.5	3
Mill Valley Middle School	6-8	3	2.1	6.3
Total				9.3

*Measured from the furthest residence (400 Tennessee Valley Way) to school via travel paths shown on Figure 2 (PlaceWorks, GIS, 2023).

The second test is whether the territory transfer from SMCS D to MVSD schools would require expansion of any campus, which might result in a significant impact. Both districts have experienced declining enrollment and have available student capacity as a result. The proposed territory transfer would involve only ten residences, and even if these homes are occupied by large families, the receiving schools in MVSD have considerable capacity to accommodate the additional students.

Table 2. Comparison of Existing Enrollment and Student Capacities

SCHOOL DISTRICT/SCHOOL	CURRENT ENROLLMENT	STUDENT CAPACITY	AVAILABLE CAPACITY
Sausalito Marin City School District			
Dr. Martin Luther King Academy (K-5)	391*	543	--*
Dr. Martin Luther King Academy (6-8)	--*	239	--*
Total	391*	782	391
Mill Valley School District			
Tamalpais Valley School (K-5)	394	571	177
Mill Valley Middle School (6-8)	816	1,404	588
Total	1,210	1,975	765

*K-8 students are housed on two campuses, but enrollment figures are combined.

As demonstrated above, the proposed territory transfer would not create any impact and is an activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. This activity is not subject to CEQA because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

Reasons why project is exempt

Jonathan Lenz, Deputy Superintendent
Marin County Office of Education

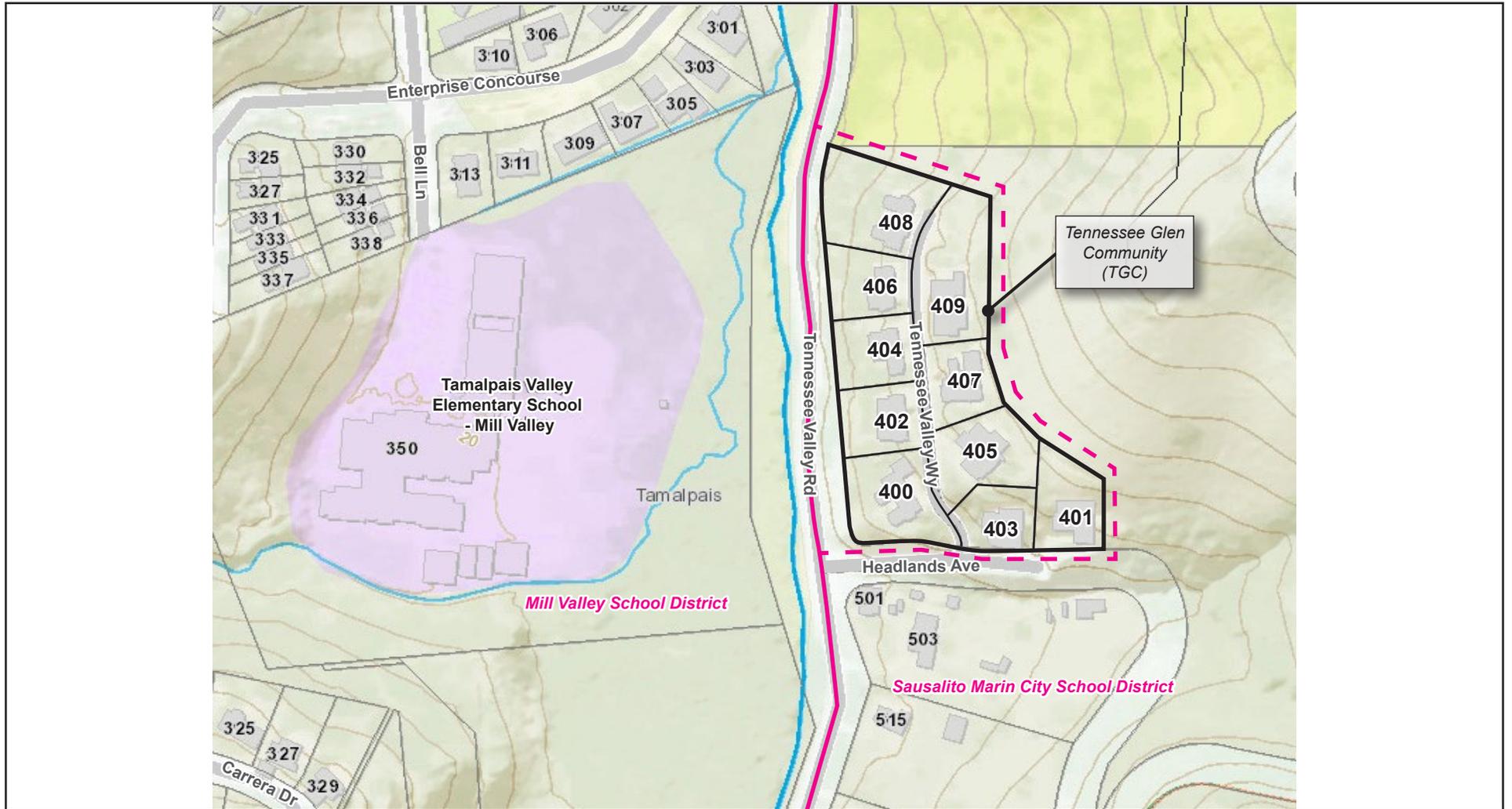
(415) 499.5850

Contact Person:

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

By _____
Debbie Butler, Chairperson
Marin County Committee on School District Organization
(415) 472-4110

Figure 1 - Proposed Territory Transfer Area



— Existing School District Boundary
- - - Proposed District Boundary Change

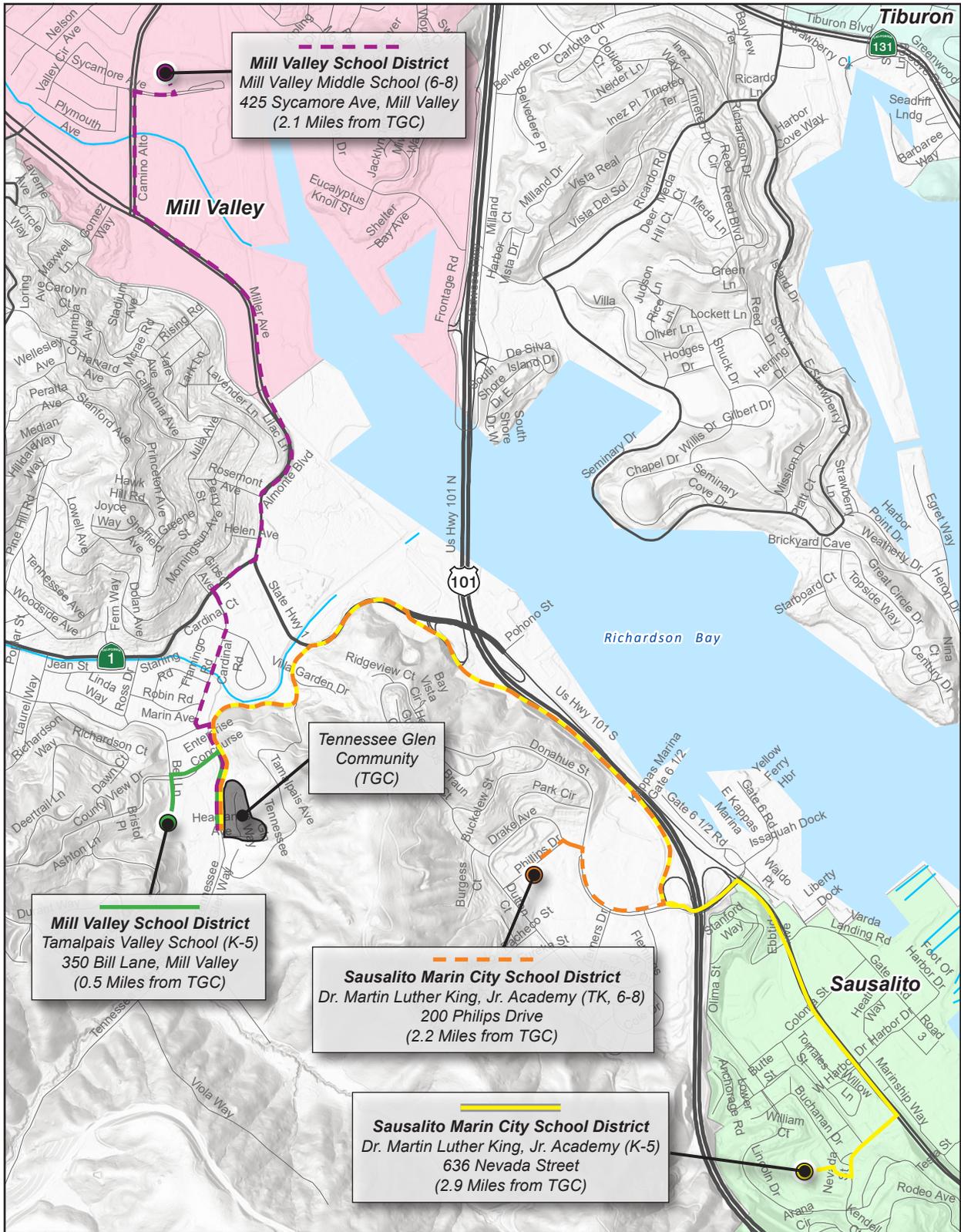
400,402-409 - Addresses on Tennessee Valley Way

401 - Address on Headlands Avenue

0 200
Scale (Feet)



Figure 2 - School Locations Map



Solid Lines Show Travel Path to K-5 Schools

Dashed Lines Show Travel Path to 6-8 Schools

0 2,000
 Scale (Feet)



Note: Unincorporated county areas are shown in white.

Source: Generated using ArcMap, 2023.