

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:  Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Saddleback Valley Unified School District  
25631 Peter A. Hartman Way  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

County Clerk-Recorder  
County of Orange  
601 N Ross Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Rancho Canada Elementary School Improvements  
Project Title

21801 Winding Way  
Project Location - Specific

Lake Forest  
Project Location - City

Orange  
Project Location - County

The proposed Rancho Canada ES Modernization project includes improvements throughout the campus, including, improvements to the school blacktop, renovations to the administration building and the library including bathrooms and exterior improvements. The school blacktop asphalt will be resurfaced and restriped with 5 full basketball courts, 4 half basketball courts, 9 foursquare courts, 4 handball courts, 4 tetherball courts, 4 circles, 4 shade structures, a hopscotch area, a tessellation maze, and a world and state map. The existing baseball grass will be removed and replaced with turf and landscaping for a multipurpose field. The proposed project will benefit the district, students, and staff by improving the educational environment and safety.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project

Saddleback Valley Unified School District  
Name of Public Agency Approving Project

Saddleback Valley Unified School District  
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project

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: Class 1, CCR §15301, Existing Facilities; Class 3, CCR §15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

The proposed modernization of the existing administration building, the library, the school blacktop, and replacing the baseball fields with turf are exempt from CEQA under Class 1, Existing Facilities (Section 15301), which includes “[i]nterior or exterior alterations, involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances” and “[R]estoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment...”. The modernization includes the installation of new flooring, shelving, doors, countertops, bathroom fixtures, roofing, a courtyard, landscaping, resurfacing and repainting the school blacktop, and the replacement of damaged wood siding. Since the modernization/ improvements are located in the same site and will not expand any renovated structure, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301.

The proposed construction of four shade structures and associated outdoor learning area are exempt from CEQA under Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (Section 15303). Since four shade structures and associated outdoor learning area are small structures and considered minor additions to the existing school campus and will not increase student capacity the project is exempt from CEQA under Sections 15303.

The proposed project was also reviewed for possible exceptions under Section 15300.2 and found that the exceptions do not apply.

See Attachment to Notice of Exemption for further explanation of the evaluation, which is available for review at the District office.

Reasons why project is exempt

Doug Monfils

(949) 580-3250

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption findings

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: 

Date: 9/21/2023

Title: Director of facilities

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: \_\_\_\_\_