

Marysville Joint Unified School District

Notice of Exemption

Submitted to:

Yuba County Clerk
915 8th Street, Suite 109
Marysville, CA 95901

Office of Planning and Research
Submitted electronically via CEQASubmit

From: Marysville Joint Unified School District
1919 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901

PROJECT TITLE

Marysville High School Track and Field Improvement Project

Project Address:

12 E 18th Street, Marysville, CA 95901

Project Location:

City of Marysville

Assessor's Parcel Number:

009-020-005-000

County of:

Yuba County

Project Description:

The Marysville Joint Unified School District (MJUSD) is comprised of multiple schools that serve grades K-12 that serve the communities of Marysville, Linda, Olivehurst, Challenge-Brownsville, Dobbins, Loma Rica, and Plumas Lake. The school district includes two high schools, Lindhurst High school and Marysville High School.

Marysville High School is located in the City of Marysville. The high school was established in at another location 1871 and relocated to the current site in 1925. The campus has a current enrollment of approximately 1,000 students (MJUSD 2022). The project will reorganize and modernize the existing track and sports field facilities at the high school. The athletic facilities are located along Ramirez Street between 18th Street and the northern boundary of the Marysville High School property.

Existing conditions at the site include a dirt running track with a natural grass infield and a natural turf multi-purpose field north of the track. The Ward Pavilion Building and the gymnasium, which also encompasses the cafeteria, kitchen locker rooms, and sports medicine facility, are located directly west of the track while the tennis courts and a parking lot are located directly west of the multi-purpose field.

Under this project, the track will be shifted to the north while the softball and practice soccer fields will shift to the south. There will be no change in the uses and programming of the athletic facilities. The new track will be located directly east of the tennis courts and parking lot, where the multi-use field is currently located. The softball and practice soccer fields will be located south of the track, extending southerly to 18th Street. The project consists of the following elements:

- Replace the existing dirt track with an 8-lane all-weather track with a polyurethane surface in the northern portion of the site, with approximately 90,000 square feet of natural grass sports turf placed in the center of the track area to be used for the school's football and soccer programs. Existing lighting will be replaced with four light poles, each with ten luminaries, installed around the track, with two poles placed along Ramirez Street and two poles placed on the western side of the track.
- Create an approximately 5,500-square-foot terraced lawn with seat walls between the track and the existing tennis courts and provide three small portable bleachers within the adjacent hardscaped areas, each with a capacity for 15 spectators.
- Relocate the pole vault and high jump pitch to the northern end of the football field, relocate the long/triple and high jump pitch to the southern end of the football field, and relocate the shot-put sector and discus cage south of the track's southeast corner.


- Replace the existing turf with approximately 90,000 square feet of natural grass sports turf in the southern portion of the project site to support the school's soccer and softball programs. Existing lighting in this portion of the site will be replaced with four light poles, each with up to ten luminaries, installed around the softball/soccer field, with two poles placed along Ramirez Street and two poles placed on the western side of the field.
- Replace the existing chain link fencing, dugouts, and backstop at the multi-use fields with new fencing, dugouts, and backstop at the southwest corner of the soccer/softball field.
- Replace the existing 6-foot-tall perimeter fence with new 6-foot-tall security fencing around the perimeter of the track and sports fields, tying into existing security fencing at the northern track and field boundary, extending east along the property line to Ramirez Street, extending south along Ramirez Street, then heading west along 18th Street and north along the western edge of the softball field, and finally tying into existing fencing at Ward Pavilion. A neighborhood entry gate will be placed along Ramirez Street, between the two field areas.
- Create a paved walkway extending from Ramirez Street westerly across the site between the two fields where it will widen into a circular plaza, then continuing west into the campus north of the Ward Pavilion and connecting to the gymnasium and also extending northerly along the western side of the track.
- Improve the fire access route along the northwest corner of the soccer/softball field, connecting the existing row of parking to the new walkway.
- Construct an approximately 500-square-foot restroom building located between the two sports fields and an approximately 1,200-square-foot storage shed for sports equipment and field maintenance equipment and supplies, located at the northwest corner of the track.
- Construct a corner entry statement in the southeastern corner of the soccer/softball field, at the intersection of Ramirez Street and 18th Street.
- Install native and adapted landscaping surrounding the fields and track with medium to large shade trees and small accent trees planted around the perimeter of the site and between the two fields and install associated irrigation infrastructure.

Exempt Status:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ministerial Project (Section 21080(b)(1); 15268)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Categorically Exempt Classes: Sections 15302 and 15314
<input type="checkbox"/>	Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
<input type="checkbox"/>	Statutory Exemption (Code/Section _____)
<input type="checkbox"/>	The project clearly will not have a significant effect on the environment (15061(b)(3))

This project has been **approved by** and **will be carried out by** the Marysville Joint Unified School District.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jennifer Passaglia; Assistant Superintendent, Business Services;
Phone: 530.749.6115

Signature:  **Date:** 10-3-2023

Environmental Analysis

Reasons why project is exempt: CEQA provides several “categorical exemptions” which are applicable to categories of projects and activities that the Lead Agency has determined generally do not pose a risk of significant impacts on the environment. The project consists of new construction within an existing school campus within the developed urban area of the City of Marysville. The project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 – Replacement or Reconstruction and Section 15314 - Minor Additions to Schools. The project meets the conditions for these exemptions as explained below.

Replacement or Reconstruction (Class 2)

Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

The project will replace the existing track and sports field facilities at the high school. The track and sports fields will be reorganized, with the track shifting to the north and the sports fields shifting to the south, but there will be no change in the uses and programming of the athletic facilities. The project will also involve improving the fire access, adding a restroom and storage shed, and adding an approximately 5,500 square-foot spectator area. The project will support the existing athletics program at Marysville High School and will not support an increase in student capacity or the number of classrooms at the campus.

Minor Additions to Schools (Class 14)

Class 14 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.

The project will reorganize and modernize the existing track and sports field facilities at the high school, shifting the track to the north and the athletic fields to the south. There will be no change in the uses and programming of the athletic facilities and the project will not support an increase in student capacity or the number of classrooms at the campus.

Exceptions to Use of a Categorical Exemption: The project does not have the potential to trigger any of the exceptions identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 prohibiting the use of a categorical exemption.

- a. Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located - a project that ordinarily would have insignificant environmental impacts may result in significant impacts if it is located in a particularly sensitive environment. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

Although this exception is not required to be considered for Classes 2 and 14, it is evaluated here to ensure a conservative and comprehensive analysis.

Dudek biologists reviewed aerial photographs of the project site and mapping of critical habitat designations in the region. Dudek biologists determined that the project site does not support any biological environmental resources of critical concern. Dudek archaeologists conducted an archaeological inventory and survey for the project site and determined that the site does not support any archaeological environmental resources of critical concern (Dudek 2023a). Dudek CEQA practitioners reviewed databases of hazardous materials sites (DTSC 2023, SWRCB 2023), geologic hazard maps (California DOC 2023), and fire hazard severity maps (CalFire 2023). The site does not contain environmental resources of hazardous concerns. Thus, the project site is not environmentally sensitive, and this exception does not apply to the project.

- b. Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

The campus is adjacent to E 17th Street, Ramirez Street, State Route 70/B Street, and E 24th Street. E 18th Street bisects the southern portion of the campus. The properties and land uses surrounding the campus include a community center at the north end of campus and residential neighborhoods to the east and south.

There are no land development projects currently proposed or under construction adjacent to the campus (City of Marysville 2023). Future projects within the campus are expected to consist of ongoing facility maintenance and modernization, as described in the MJUSD Facility Master Plan. Proximate to the project site, the anticipated improvements include light modernization of the gymnasium, major modernization of the women's locker room, and resurfacing the tennis courts, and refurbishing/repairing the concession stand building's exterior (MJUSD 2022). These facilities are located in developed and interior portions of the campus, where no biological or cultural resources are known to be present. The Facility Master Plan also includes updates to wall, floor, and ceiling finishes in classroom buildings and the south auditorium building; updating/repairing/replacing the interiors of classroom and building portables; refurbishing the interior and exterior of the field house/weight room, multi-purpose building, and the M1-M4 classrooms; expansion of the library; and construction of a new outdoor learning space and shade structure (MJUSD 2022). Collectively, the improvements and projects identified in the Facility Master Plan would not expand the campus footprint, substantially change student enrollment capacity, introduce new noise sources, or create other adverse environmental effects.

As demonstrated above, there are no known recent past projects or future projects proposed on the school site or in the project vicinity that, when combined with the proposed project, would result in a cumulatively considerable effect on the environment. Thus, there are no anticipated significant cumulative impacts in the project area to which this project could contribute, and this exception does not apply to the project.

- c. Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

The project will reorganize and modernize the existing track and multi-use fields at the Marysville High School campus, which have been present at this location since 1940. There will be no change in the uses and programming of the athletic facilities that could result in an unusual circumstance. The campus does not support any unique biological resources. Construction will occur in an area that has been previously disturbed and improved and the project will not affect the known historic resources at the campus. Thus, there are no unusual circumstances that could cause the project to result in a significant effect and this exception does not apply to the project.

There are existing trees and shrubs vegetation within and surrounding the project site that could support nesting birds. Nesting birds are present throughout the state and thus this does not represent an unusual circumstance. MJUSD and its contractors would ensure that construction complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act by removing vegetation outside of the bird nesting season (February 1 to September 30) when feasible and/or by retaining a qualified biologist to conduct a preconstruction nesting survey when construction would begin during the nesting season. If this occurs, MJUSD and its contractors would ensure that the survey occurs no sooner than 7 days prior to construction and upon the direction of the qualified biologist, construction activities proximate to any active nests would be postponed until young have fledged.

Similarly, there are no known archeological resources within the project site and the site has a low potential to support subsurface resources (Dudek 2023a). Further, the project involves limited amounts of grading and trenching. There is a potential to encounter subsurface archaeological resources and/or human remains during earth-moving activities, however this is common to most development projects throughout the state and does not represent an unusual circumstance. Should any archaeological resources and/or human remains be encountered, MJUSD and its contractors would be required to comply with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, which requires that all construction work occurring within 100 feet of the find shall immediately stop, and in the case of human remain that the county coroner be notified

within 2 days, and the coroner comply with evaluation, notification, and consultation protocols as defined in the Health and Safety Code.

- d. Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

State Route 70 is not designated as a scenic highway. The only scenic highway in Yuba County is the section of State Route 49 in the easternmost portion of the county, east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir. The project site is not visible from any officially designated scenic highway (Caltrans 2023). Therefore, this exception does not apply to the project.

- e. Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

According to the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor database, there are no active hazardous materials sites within the project site or in the project vicinity (SWRCB 2023, DTSC 2023). This exception does not apply to the project because the project is not located on a site where hazardous materials or hazardous waste have been identified, nor is it located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

- f. Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

CEQA requires evaluation of structures and other human-built features for potential historic significance when such features are at least 50 years old. The original main school building was constructed in 1925, and several other campus buildings were constructed between 1940 and 1975. Dudek architectural historians prepared a Built Environment Inventory and Evaluation Report that documents the development history of Marysville High School and provides analysis that demonstrates the buildings within the project's Area of Potential Impact either do not meet local, state, and/or federal criteria for the identification of historic resources or would not be adversely affected by the project (Dudek 2023b). Thus, the project would not cause an adverse change in the significance of a historical resource and this exception does not apply to the project.

References

- California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2023. DOC Maps Data Viewer. Accessed August 8, 2023. Available: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/geologichazards/>
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2023. List of eligible and officially designated State Scenic Highways. Accessed May 3, 2023. Available: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2023. Envirostor. Accessed March 21, 2023. Available: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). 2023. Draft Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA – Yuba County. Accessed August 8, 2023. Available: https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/6852/fhszl06_1_map58.pdf
- City of Marysville. 2023. Projects Around Town – Development. Accessed August 8, 2023. Available: <https://www.marysville.ca.us/development>.
- Dudek. 2023a. Cultural Resources Inventory Report Marysville High School Track and Field Improvements Project, Yuba County, California. August 2023.

Dudek. 2023b. Built Environment Inventory and Evaluation Report Marysville High School Track and Field Improvements. August 2023.

Marysville Joint Unified School District (MJUSD). 2022. Facilities Master Plan. Prepared by PBK Architects, Inc on behalf of MJUSD. August 2022. Available:
<https://www.mjUSD.com/documents/District/Departments/Business%20Services%20Division/Buildings%20and%20Grounds/2022-23/Facilities%20Master%20Plan/Facilities-Master-Plan-Complete-9.15.22-new.pdf>

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). GeoTracker. Accessed March 21, 2023. Available:
<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>.