

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

Norwalk, CA 90650

From: (Public Agency): Downey Unified School District
11627 Brookshire Avenue
Downey, CA 90241

(Address)

Project Title: Downey High School New Construction and Modernization Project

Project Applicant: Not Applicable

Project Location - Specific:

Downey High School - 11040 Brookshire Ave, Downey, CA 90241

Project Location - City: Downey Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Construction of two new classroom buildings with fourteen (14) new classrooms and the removal of fourteen (14) portable classroom units to benefit students of Downey High School. See Attached Resolution.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Not Applicable

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Downey 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: Class 14-§15314
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Proposed Project is determined to be Categorically Exempt pursuant to CEQA Guideline Section 15314 (Minor Additions to Schools) because the modernization and new construction on the school site would not increase student capacity. See Attached Resolution.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Vince Madsen Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 562-469-6703

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:  Date: 10/6/23 Title: Senior Director

▪ 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. 202324-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, DETERMINING THAT THE DOWNEY HIGH SCHOOL NEW CONSTRUCTION AND MODERNIZATION 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, the Downey Unified School District (“District”) has developed the Downey High School New Construction and Modernization Project (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Project is located within the existing school grounds of Downey High School, located at 11040 Brookshire Ave, Downey, CA 90241 (“Site”); and

WHEREAS, the District, through the Project, seeks to enhance the learning environment for its students by providing modern classrooms that meet 21st century technology needs, while adding new security, technology, administrative and accessibility features throughout the school; and

WHEREAS, the District must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) for the Project before approving the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project consists of the construction of two new classroom buildings with fourteen (14) classrooms and removal of fourteen (14) portable classroom units; and

WHEREAS, categorical exemptions to CEQA are set forth in Article 19 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (“CEQA Guidelines”); and

WHEREAS, the Class 14 Categorical Exemption (CEQA Guidelines, § 15314) applies to minor additions to existing schools that do not increase student capacity by more than 25% or 10 classrooms, whichever is less; and

WHEREAS, the Project will add fourteen (14) classrooms and remove fourteen (14) portable classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the Project will result in no net change to the number of classrooms, which will not increase capacity by more than 25% nor 10 classrooms; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 provides five exceptions that would disqualify a project from being categorically exempt, which 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 with 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, the Project is the only project of the same type at the same place. No other similar, successive projects are proposed near the Site; and

WHEREAS, there are no known unusual circumstances that would be caused by the modernization of an established school campus; and

WHEREAS, the Project is not within or near a designated state scenic highway (<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa>); and

WHEREAS, the Site is not on a site designated as a Hazardous Waste Site; and


WHEREAS, as there are no designated historical resources on the Site, the Project would not cause a substantial adverse change to a historical resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Board of Downey Unified School District hereby finds, determines, declares, orders, and resolves as follows:

- Section 1.** The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
- Section 2.** The Project meets the definition of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15314.)
- Section 3.** There is no indication of unusual circumstances that would cause a potentially significant environmental impact related to the Project.
- Section 4.** There is no substantial evidence that a significant environmental impact would be caused by the Project.
- Section 5.** The applicable requirements of CEQA have been fulfilled for the Project.
- Section 6.** The Board hereby separately and finally decides to carry out the Project.
- Section 7.** The Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee is authorized and directed to file the attached Notice of Exemption for the Project with the Los Angeles County Clerk within five (5) days of the adoption of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of October 2023, by the Governing Board of the Downey Unified School District of Los Angeles County, California, by the following vote:

AYES: 7
NOES: —
ABSENT: —
ABSTENTIONS: —


Linda Salomon Saldaña
Clerk, Board of Education of the
Downey Unified School District