

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Whittier Union High School District
9401 South Painter Avenue
Whittier, CA 90605

County Clerk, Los Angeles
PO Box 1208
Norwalk, CA 90650-1208

Whittier Union High School District Performing Arts Center

Project Title

Sierra Education Center, 9401 South Painter Avenue (Assessor's Parcel Number 816-70-169-00)

Project Location – Specific

Whittier

Los Angeles

Project Location – City

Project Location – County

The Whittier Union High School District (District) proposes a new performing arts center on underutilized land within the Sierra Education Center campus, which operates Frontier High School, Sierra Vista High School, Whittier Union Adult School, and District administrative offices. The new facility would be used by the District's seven high schools. The proposed facility would offer similar programs as those currently at Vic Lopez Auditorium, which is the current venue for all of the District's high school performance productions, including band, orchestra, chorus, musical theater, and drama. Productions with a large audience would continue to use the Vic Lopez Auditorium. The proposed facility, when not used by the District, would be available for community use, compliant with the Civic Center Act. The proposed building would provide approximately 30,000 square feet of new programming space, including a performance theater, rehearsal warm-up room, and a chorus/green room, which are considered instructional spaces, i.e., classrooms.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project

Whittier Union High School District

Name of Public Agency Approving Project

Same as above.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (CEQA Guidelines §15304) and Class 14, Minor Additions to Schools (CEQA Guidelines §15314)

The Class 4 exemption applies as the project would require minor alterations of the project site, including the clearing of existing improvements and debris and restoring it with new improvements (proposed building, pavement, and/or landscaping) to minimize erosion. Project implementation would not require the removal of any trees. The Class 14 exemption applies as the proposed facility would result in the minor addition to an existing campus. The proposed performing arts center would be shared by all seven District schools and would not increase any of the schools' classroom count or student enrollment capacity by the limits of 10 classrooms or 25 percent student capacity. None of the exceptions listed under CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 apply to the Project.

Reasons why project is exempt

Steven Rodriguez, Director of Business Operations

(562) 698-8121 Ext.1500

Lead Agency Contact Person

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:


Kevin Samero

Date:

12-12-23

Title:

Deputy Superintendent

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant