

FEB 16 2024

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency)
Pacific Elementary School District
50 Ocean Street
Davenport, CA 95017

Clerk of the Board
c/o CEQA Clerk
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Rm. 520
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Project Title: Pacific Elementary School Kindergarten Classroom Building Addition

Project Applicant: Pacific Elementary School District

Project Location – Specific: Pacific Elementary School, 50 Ocean Street, Davenport, CA 95017

Project Location – City: Near Unincorporated
Community of Davenport

Project Location – County: Santa Cruz

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of the Project:

The Pacific Elementary School District plans to demolish an existing classroom and associated decking and play area, and construct a new 1,115 square foot transitional kindergarten classroom building, playground upgrades, and associated infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of the new building, located entirely within the grounds of Pacific Elementary School. The district also proposed to make improvements to the existing administration building, without expanding the building. See the attached for a discussion of the improvements.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Pacific Elementary School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pacific Elementary School District

Exempt Status:

- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Replacement or Reconstruction (Article 19, Section 15302) and Minor Additions to Schools (Article 19, Section 15314)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project includes the replacement of an existing portable classroom, which will be built in accordance with California Building Code Title 24, providing an earthquake resistant structure, and does not increase original student capacity. See attachment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Eric Gross, Superintendent

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (831) 425-7002

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: *Teri Wessler Adam*

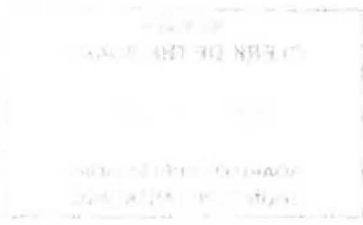
Date: 2/13/24

Title: Consultant to District

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A
PERIOD COMMENCING 2/16/2024
AND ENDING 3/23/2024



Pacific Elementary School Classroom Replacement and Infrastructure Improvements Project Description and Evidence for Categorical Exemption

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes the construction of a new transitional kindergarten classroom building, playground upgrades, and associated infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of the new building at Pacific Elementary School, which is the single public elementary school in the Pacific Elementary School District (school district). The school is located at 50 Ocean Street in Davenport. The improvements are summarized below.

Transitional Kindergarten Classroom Building

The proposed project includes the demolition and replacement of an existing portable classroom building at the elementary school with the construction of a 1,115 square foot transitional kindergarten classroom building. The new classroom building will include an office, storage closet, two restrooms, and a transitional kindergarten classroom.

Playground Area Upgrades

The project also includes modifications to the existing playground area, which consist of the following:

- Installation of a new resilient play surface;
- Installation of a new play structure;
- Landscaping surrounding the playground area; and
- Installation of grass turf on one side adjacent to the playground area.

Administrative Building and Classroom Upgrades

The project also includes changes to an existing building, which consists of administrative offices and classrooms. Upgrades to the existing building consist of the following:

Project Description and Evidence for Categorical Exemption

- In-kind roof replacement, including complete and inclusive removal of existing building roofing material, flashings, underlayment, copings, and related features;
- Replacement of existing gutters and downspouts;
- Renovation of existing restrooms to include new plumbing fixtures, partitions, finishes, and toilet accessories;
- Installation of a drinking fountain outside of existing building;
- Installation of utility cabinetry in two locations adjacent to restrooms; and
- Installation of path of travel.

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION AND EVIDENCE

The proposed project qualifies for a categorical exemption under Article 19, Section 15302 and Section 15314 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

15302. Replacement or Reconstruction: 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 substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, including but not limited to:

- (a) Replacement or reconstruction of existing schools and hospitals to provide earthquake resistant structures which do not increase capacity more than 50 percent.
- (b) Replacement of a commercial structure with a new structure of substantially the same size, purpose, and capacity.
- (c) Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.
- (d) Conversion of overhead electric utility distribution system facilities to underground including connection to existing overhead electric utility distribution lines where the surface is restored to the condition existing prior to the undergrounding.

15314. Minor Additions to Schools: 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 addition of portable classrooms is included in this exemption.

Evidence and Findings

The project includes the replacement of an existing portable classroom with a new classroom building, which will be built in accordance with California Building Code Title 24, providing

an earthquake resistance structure. Additionally, the project would not create any new standard classrooms that would provide for an increase in student capacity. Therefore, the proposed project would not increase original student capacity.

For these reasons, the proposed project is categorically exempt as the transitional kindergarten classroom building is characterized as both a replacement of an existing portable classroom to provide earthquake resistant structures and a minor addition to an existing school within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25 percent or ten classrooms.

Exceptions to Categorical Exemptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines lists exceptions that would prohibit a project from qualifying for a Categorical Exemption, even if the project satisfies the requirements for one or more of the exemption classes. The school district's CEQA consultant, EMC Planning Group, conducted an independent review and evaluation of the proposed project, conducted independent research, and reviewed project plans prepared by the school district's architect. Based on its review, EMC Planning Group concluded that none of the exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 (a-f) apply to the proposed project (discussed below). Therefore, a Categorical Exemption is appropriate pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15302 and 15314.

- a) **Location.** Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply 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.

Discussion. The project qualifies for Class 2 and Class 14 exemptions and therefore, the location 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.

Discussion. The school district is not planning successive projects of the same type in the same place. Therefore, there is no cumulative impact that would be significant.

- 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.

Project Description and Evidence for Categorical Exemption

***Discussion.** Neither the school district nor the school district's consultants are aware of any unusual circumstances associated with the project such that the project would result in a reasonable possibility of resulting in a significant effect on the environment.*

- 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. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

***Discussion.** According to the Santa Cruz County General Plan Scenic Areas online map viewer, the proposed project site is identified as being within a scenic resource area. According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway System Map website, the project area is not located near any officially designated State of California scenic highways. However, Highway 1 is considered an "eligible" scenic route. The proposed project site is located approximately 250 feet from Highway 1. Existing school buildings on the project site range from 12 feet to 19 feet and three inches in height and are slightly visible from Highway 1.*

The proposed project includes the replacement of one existing portable classroom building with the construction of a transitional kindergarten classroom building and reroofing an existing administrative building. The proposed project buildings will be constructed to a height of 16 feet and 10 inches, which is lower than existing building heights at the school, resulting in no significant change. Therefore, no scenic highways, or scenic resources, would be affected as a result of the project.

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

***Discussion.** The proposed project is not located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. The site is not located on the California Environmental Protection Agency's Cortese List (Health and Safety Code Section 25187.5). The State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker (Health and Safety Code Section 25295 and Water Code Sections 13273 and 13301) does not indicate any hazardous sites within the project site. The project site is also not listed on the California Environmental Protection Agency's list of solid waste sites identified by the Water Board with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit (Health and Safety Code Section 116395).*

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

Pacific Elementary School Classroom Addition and Infrastructure Improvements

***Discussion.** According to the Santa Cruz County list of designated historic resources, there are six County-designated historic resources in Davenport. However, the project site does not contain any historical resources and all proposed changes are limited to replacement of existing an existing building and new roofing and interior changes to the administration building, all within existing school grounds. Therefore, the proposed project would not cause a change in the significance of a historical resource.*



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2023 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/23) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:
 44 — — * 050
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY Pacific Elementary School District	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE <input type="text" value="02/16/2024"/>
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING <input type="text" value="Santa Cruz"/>	DOCUMENT NUMBER 046-24	

PROJECT TITLE
 Application 241050

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Eric Gross, Superintendent	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL -	PHONE NUMBER 831-425-7002
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 50 Ocean St.	CITY Davenport	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95017

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)


Local Public Agency
 School District
 Other Special District
 State Agency
 Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- | | | |
|---|----------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR) | \$ | <u>0.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) | \$ | <u>0.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW | \$ | <u>0.00</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (attach) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) | \$850.00 | \$ <u>0.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee | \$ | <u>0.00</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other COB Col \$50 02/12/2024 #2687 | \$ | <u>50.00</u> |

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other
- TOTAL RECEIVED** \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Lori Welch Bettencourt, Administrative Aide
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State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2023 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/23) Previously DFG 753.5a

NOTICE

Each project applicant shall remit to the county clerk the environmental filing fee before or at the time of filing a Notice of Determination (Pub. Resources Code, § 21152; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subdivision (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5). Without the appropriate fee, statutory or categorical exemption, or a valid No Effect Determination issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Notice of Determination is not operative, vested, or final, and shall not be accepted by the county clerk.

COUNTY DOCUMENTARY HANDLING FEE

The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee of fifty dollars (\$50) per filing in addition to the environmental filing fee (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (e); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subd. (g)(1)). A county board of supervisors shall have the authority to increase or decrease the fee or charge, that is otherwise authorized to be levied by another provision of law, in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied (Gov. Code, § 54985, subd. (a)).

COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Filing Notice of Determination (NOD):

- Collect environmental filing fee or copy of previously issued cash receipt. *(Do not collect fee if project applicant presents a No Effect Determination signed by CDFW. An additional fee is required for each separate environmental document. An addendum is not considered a separate environmental document. Checks should be made payable to the county.)*
- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt and, if applicable, previously issued cash receipt, to NOD.
- Mail filing fees for CRP document to CDFW prior to filing the NOD or equivalent final approval (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 753.5 (b)(5)). The CRP should request receipt from CDFW to show proof of payment for filing the NOD or equivalent approval. Please mail payment to address below made attention to the Cash Receipts Unit of the Accounting Services Branch.

If the project applicant presents a **No Effect Determination** signed by CDFW, also:

- Attach No Effect Determination to NOD *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

Filing Notice of Exemption (NOE) (Statutorily or categorically exempt project (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15260-15285, 15300-15333))

- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt to NOE *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

Within 30 days after the end of each month in which the environmental filing fees are collected, each county shall summarize and record the amount collected on the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31) and remit the amount collected to the State Treasurer. Identify the remittance on Form No. CA25 as "Environmental Document Filing Fees" per Fish and Game Code section 711.4.

The county clerk shall mail the following documents to CDFW on a monthly basis:

- ✓ A photocopy of the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31)
- ✓ CDFW/ASB copies of all cash receipts (including all voided receipts)
- ✓ A copy of all CDFW No Effect Determinations filed in lieu of fee payment
- ✓ A copy of all NODs filed with the county during the preceding month
- ✓ A list of the name, address and telephone number of all project applicants for which an NOD has been filed. If this information is contained on the cash receipt filed with CDFW under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 753.5, subdivision (e)(6), no additional information is required.

DOCUMENT RETENTION

The county shall retain two copies of the cash receipt (for lead agency and county clerk) and a copy of all documents described above for at least 12 months.

RECEIPT NUMBER

- # The first two digits automatically populate by making the appropriate selection in the County/State Agency of Filing drop down menu.
- # The next eight digits automatically populate when a date is entered.
- # The last three digits correspond with the sequential order of issuance for each calendar year. For example, the first receipt number issued on January 1 should end in 001. If a county issued 252 receipts for the year ending on December 31, the last receipt number should end in 252. CDFW recommends that counties and state agencies 1) save a local copy of this form, and 2) track receipt numbers on a spreadsheet tabbed by month to ensure accuracy.

DO NOT COMBINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES WITH THE STATE SHARE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE FEES.

Mail to:
 California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Accounting Services Branch
 P.O. Box 944209
 Sacramento, California 94244-2090