

44-03042024-066
061-24

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)
Happy Valley School District
3125 Branciforte Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95065

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



Project Title: Happy Valley School Portable Classroom Replacement Project

Project Applicant: Happy Valley School District

Project Location – Specific: Happy Valley School, 3125 Branciforte Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95065

Project Location – City: Unincorporated Santa Cruz County

Project Location – County: Santa Cruz

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of the Project:

The Happy Valley School District plans to demolish two existing portable classroom buildings and construct two new PC modular classroom buildings of similar size. One classroom building will total 1,456 square feet and one classroom building will total 960 square feet. The project also includes associated site improvements, including removal and replacement of paved walkways and ADA ramps, and landscaping improvements, located entirely within the grounds of Happy Valley School.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Happy Valley School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Happy Valley 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 two existing portable classrooms, which will be built in accordance with California Building Code Title 24, providing an earthquake resistant structure, and does not increase the original student capacity. See attachment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Michelle Stewart
Principal/Superintendent

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (831) 429-1456

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 School District

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: ~~NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK~~
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A
PERIOD COMMENCING 3/4/2024
AND ENDING 4/8 2024
Revised 2011

Happy Valley School Portable Classroom Replacement Project Description and Evidence for Categorical Exemption



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes the replacement of two existing portable classroom buildings with two PC modular classroom buildings of similar size, and associated site upgrades at Happy Valley School. The school is located at 3125 Branciforte Drive, north of the City of Santa Cruz. The improvements are summarized below.

PC Modular Classroom Building

The proposed project includes the demolition and replacement of two existing portable classroom buildings at the elementary school with the construction of two PC modular classroom buildings (identified as Building 6 and Building 3 in the project site plan). Classroom Building 6 will be 1,456 square feet and will consist of a writing center, resource center, two offices, and two storage closets. Classroom Building 3 will be 960 square feet and will consist of one classroom.

Other Improvements

Other improvements consist of removal and replacement of surrounding paved walkways and ADA ramps, and landscaping improvements.

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:

Project Description and Evidence for Categorical Exemption

- (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 two existing portable classrooms with two new PC modular classroom buildings, which will be built in accordance with California Building Code Title 24, providing earthquake resistant structures. 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 two new classroom buildings are characterized as both replacements of existing portable classrooms 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.

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 not identified as being within a scenic resource area. According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway System Map website, the project site is located approximately 15 miles from the nearest officially designated State of California scenic highway (State Route 9). However, State Route 17 is considered an "eligible" scenic route, which is located approximately two miles from the proposed project site. The proposed project site is not visible from State Route 17. 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.

Discussion. According to the Santa Cruz County list of designated historic resources, there are nine County-designated historic resources located in the Carbonera general plan area where the proposed project site is located. However, the project site does not contain any historical resources and all proposed changes are limited to replacement of two existing buildings and associated site upgrades, 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

Print **StartOver** **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:
 44 — 03/04/2024 — * 066
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY Happy Valley School District	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 03/04/2024
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Santa Cruz	DOCUMENT NUMBER 061-24	

PROJECT TITLE

Happy Valley School Portable Classroom Replacement Project

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER 831-454-2371
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 7001 Ocean Street	CITY Santa Cruz	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95060

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) | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW | \$ | 0.00 |
| <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 | \$ 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Check #2707 3/4/2024 | \$ | 50.00 |

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE

Lori Welch Bettencourt

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Lori Welch Bettencourt, Administrative Aide



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2023 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 763.5a (REV. 01/01/23) Previously DFG 763.5a

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