

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From: Newport-Mesa Unified School District

2985 Bear Street

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

County Clerk-Recorder  
County of Orange

601 N Ross Street

Santa Ana, CA 92701

## FILED

MAR 22 2024

Victoria Elementary School Improvement Project

Project Title

ORANGE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT

BY: LI DEPUTY

1025 Victoria Street

Project Location - Specific

Costa Mesa

Project Location - City

Orange

Project Location - County

The District proposes to convert one existing classroom into a TK classroom to accommodate the 20 incoming TK students and construct four modular classrooms in the southeast portion of the campus. Specifically, Room 9, in Building D would be converted into a TK classroom. The proposed project would create a new shared TK/K area on campus. An existing shade structure shall be removed from the TK/K play area and the paving shall be extended to provide additional room for a larger shade structure. The TK/K play area would receive new playground equipment to accommodate TK and Kindergarten ages. The project would require the removal of existing fencing to extend and enclose the new shared TK/K area.

The proposed project would develop a new concrete hardscape area to construct and place four modular classrooms upon, south of the existing basketball courts. The classrooms would be utilized for a counselor, psychologist, speech and language room, a reading intervention room, and Room 14 would be relocated to one of the new modular classrooms. With the construction of four modular classrooms the existing containers on-site would be required to be relocated 20 feet away from the classroom buildings. The storage container would be placed on the southern portion of campus along the eastern boundary of the school boundaries.

The proposed project would also provide improvements to the existing library building on campus. These improvements would include internal finishings and technology upgrades. Additionally, some of the existing fencing separating the Kindergarten areas from the rest of the campus will be demolished and new fencing will be placed to accommodate the new shared TK/K area. The proposed project will benefit the district, students, and staff by improving the educational environment and safety.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project

Newport-Mesa Unified School District

Name of Public Agency Approving Project

Newport-Mesa Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project

Exempt Status: (check one below)

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 1, CCR §15301, Existing Facilities; Class 3, CCR §15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; Class 14, CCR §15314, Minor Additions to School

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

The proposed improvements to one existing classroom, the existing library building, and the relocation of the storage containers are exempt from CEQA under Class 1, Existing Facilities (Section 15301), which includes interior or exterior alterations, involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances and restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment. Building improvements would include internal finishings and technology upgrades. The existing storage containers on the school blacktop would be relocated further south along the eastern boundary of the Victoria ES boundaries and would still serve the same function and purpose as before. Existing playground equipment will also be added and or replaced to accommodate the new incoming TK students and existing Kindergarten students. Existing fencing will also be demolished while new fencing will be installed to create a new shared TK/K area. The improvements would not alter the basic functions of the facilities and would not increase student capacity. Since the renovations are located in the same site and will not expand any renovated structure, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301.

The proposed construction of a shade structure, playground equipment, and extending fencing are exempt from CEQA under Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (Section 15303). The proposed shade structure and fencing are small new structures that will be located within the school campus. The shade structure would require an extended paved area for the shade structure. The shade structure and fencing improvements will create an enlarged TK/K area on campus to serve students on campus and not increase student capacity; the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15303.

The proposed construction of four modular classrooms is exempt from CEQA under class 14, Minor Additions to Schools (Section 15314). The four new modular classroom buildings will be located within the school campus and will increase the total number of classrooms by four and would not increase student capacity by more than 25 percent. The four modular classrooms would be required to accommodate the TK/K program and existing students on campus and would not itself increase student capacity on campus. Additionally, the student population will increase by 20 students, which is an approximately 7 percent increase in the student population. Consequently, the project would not increase student capacity by more than 25 percent. Since the new buildings would be located within the same campus and will not increase the school classrooms by ten nor increase student capacity by 25 percent, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15314.

The proposed project was also reviewed for possible exceptions under Section 15300.2 and found that the exceptions do not apply.

Reasons why project is exempt

Erica DiCioccio, Facilities Planning Coordinator (714) 424-8993  
Contact Person: Area Code/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

Date Received for Filing:

Signature:  Title: Facilities Planning Coordinator

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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BY:  DEPUTY