



**STANISLAUS COUNTY CLERK
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET**

Mail to:

Name: EMC Planning Group

Address: 601 Abrego Street

City, State, Zip Monterey, CA 93940

50-2024-084

FILED

May 14, 2024

DONNA LINDER

STANISLAUS COUNTY
CLERK-RECORDER

By: Maldita Cpa
Deputy Clerk

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

Stanislaus Elementary School Reconstruction

Check Document being Filed:

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- Other (Please fill in type):

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE STANISLAUS
 COUNTY CLERK ON 05/14/2024
 Posted 05/14/2024 Removed 06/17/2024
 Returned to agency on _____
 DEPUTY Maldita Cpa

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office. For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

Notice of Exemption

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

County Clerk-Recorder
County of Stanislaus
1021 I Street, Suite 101
Modesto, CA 95354

From: (Public Agency)
Stanislaus Union School District
2410 Janna, Avenue
Modesto, CA 95354

Project Title: Stanislaus Elementary School Reconstruction

Project Applicant: Stanislaus Union School District

Project Location – Specific: Stanislaus Elementary School, 1931 Kiernan Avenue (State Route 219), Modesto, CA 95356

Project Location – City: Unincorporated Stanislaus County

Project Location – County: Stanislaus

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of the Project:

The Stanislaus Union School District plans to demolish and reconstruct the existing school campus in order to become compliant with State building code and energy standards. The project includes a minor addition of four new classroom buildings and relocation of two existing portable classrooms. The proposed project would be reconstructed on the same site as the existing campus and would not increase student capacity by more than 50 percent. The reconstructed campus includes the construction of additional buildings, such as restrooms, administrative building, cafeteria/multi-purpose building, and a library. Associated site improvements are also included with reconstruction including, new asphalt paving, grass play areas, covered dining areas/entry canopies, new storm water retention, and landscape improvements, located entirely within the existing grounds of Stanislaus Elementary School.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Stanislaus Union School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Stanislaus Union School District

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Replacement or Reconstruction (Article 19, Section 15302)

Reasons why project is exempt:


The project includes reconstruction of the existing school campus and a minor addition of four new 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 by more than 50 percent. See attachment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Shannon Sanford, Superintendent **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (209) 529-9546

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: 5/9/24/24 Title: Consultant to School District

Signed by Lead Agency
 Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Revised 2011

Stanislaus Elementary School Reconstruction Description and Evidence for Categorical Exemption

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes demolition and reconstruction of the existing school campus in order to become compliant with State building code and energy standards, and a minor addition of four new classroom buildings. The proposed project would be reconstructed on the same site as the existing campus. Associated site upgrades are also included with reconstruction. The school is located at 1931 Kiernan Avenue (State Route 219), north of the City of Modesto in unincorporated Stanislaus County. The improvements are summarized below.

Campus Reconstruction

The proposed project includes the demolition and reconstruction of 20 existing classroom buildings at the elementary school with the addition of four new classroom buildings and relocation of two existing portable classroom buildings.

The reconstructed campus also includes the construction of additional buildings, such as restrooms, administrative building, cafeteria/multi-purpose building, and a library.

Other Improvements

Other improvements consist of new asphalt paving, grass play areas, covered dining areas/entry canopies, new storm water retention, and landscape improvements.

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION AND EVIDENCE

The proposed project qualifies for a categorical exemption under Article 19, Section 15302 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.

Evidence and Findings

The proposed project includes the reconstruction of 20 classroom buildings and minor addition of four classroom buildings, which will be built in accordance with California Building Code Title 24, providing earthquake resistant structures. Additionally, two existing portable classroom buildings will be relocated. Construction of four new classrooms may result in a minimal increase in student capacity by approximately 18 percent, which is within the thresholds identified in Article 19, Section 15302. Therefore, the proposed project would not increase capacity by more than 50 percent.

For these reasons, the proposed project is categorically exempt as the project is characterized as a reconstruction of an existing school campus to provide earthquake resistant structures and does not increase original student capacity by more than 50 percent.

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 Section 15302.

- 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 a Class 2 exemption 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 Caltrans Scenic Highway System Map website, the project site is located approximately 20 miles from the nearest officially designated State of California scenic highway (Interstate 5). 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 listed 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

Project Description and Evidence for Categorical Exemption

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 Stanislaus County General Plan Draft EIR (page 3.5-11 - attached), the project site is not on the list of Stanislaus County Historical Resources. Therefore, the project site does not contain any known historical resources and all proposed changes are limited to reconstruction of the existing school campus, minor addition of four new classroom 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.