

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: Tulare
221 South Mooney Blvd, Room 105
Visalia, CA 93291

From: (Public Agency): Tulare City School District
600 N Cherry St
Tulare, CA 93274
(Address)

Project Title: Roosevelt Elementary Addition & Modernization Project

Project Applicant: Tulare City School District

Project Location - Specific:
1046 W Sonora Ave, Tulare, CA 93274

Project Location - City: Tulare Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
See attachment A.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tulare City School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Joyce Hauff Nunes

Exempt Status: (check one):

- 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:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

See attachment A.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Joyce Hauff Nunes Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 685-7206

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: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 5-13-24 Title: Assistant Superintendent of Business

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR:
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Attachment A – Roosevelt Elementary School/Mulcahy Middle School Addition and Modernization Project

Project Description and Beneficiaries:

The Tulare City School District (District) Roosevelt Elementary School Addition and Modernization Project (project) is located along West Sonora Avenue, between South Sacramento and South Howard Street in Tulare, California.

The Roosevelt Elementary is Grades 1-4 and is adjacent to Mulchay Middle School, a pre-kindergarten/kindergarten and Grades 5-8 campus. The District has developed plans to expand the Roosevelt site to accommodate/shift all the transitional kindergarten/kindergarten (TK/K) classrooms. Currently, TK/K students must cross West Sonoma Avenue. The proposed project will eliminate the need for students to cross a busy city street to access the other campus, thus improving both pedestrian and vehicular safety and creating efficient traffic flow. In addition, the District proposes to shift the main entrance to the campus from West Sonora Avenue to South Howard Street. Currently, West Sonora Avenue is closed in the morning and afternoon so that parents can drop off and pick up their children, which also creates traffic congestion and safety concerns.

The proposed project includes five new buildings: a multi-purpose building, an administrative/library building, and three classroom buildings. The project also includes the removal of two existing classrooms, remodeling and repurposing the existing multi-purpose room, cafeteria, and select classrooms, replacement of the existing play areas, installation of a small new parking lot, paved walkways, bike racks, an entry signage, and shade structures with photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, as well as the re-landscaping the campus.

The purpose of the project is to increase safety, streamline access to school grounds, increase energy efficiency, bring buildings into compliance with California Department of Education (CDE) Title 5 regulations, offer improved amenities and construct new classrooms to create an atmosphere that will provide an enhanced learning and teaching experience. The proposed project will not increase the capacity of the student population and faculty by more than 25%.

The project will modernize facilities, upgrade school infrastructure and add solar panels as parking lot shade structure. These features will lower the District's energy demand and offset electricity that is generated by fossil fuel burning plants with clean, renewable solar energy. The project would also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and lower emissions of criteria pollutants generated by idling cars in the morning and afternoon. Beneficiaries of the project include the students, faculty and staff, the District, the community, and the region.

Reasons why project is exempt:

- Under Section 15301 (a) and (c), the project includes the repair, maintenance and upgrades to existing structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment involving no significant expansion of the existing use.

- Under Section 15303 (e), the project includes the installation of new fencing and other accessory structures, such as the installation of PV solar panel shade structures to help offset electrical demand at the school and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.
- Under Section 15304 (b), the project includes minor alterations to the campus with new landscaping to accommodate the new improvements.
- Under Section 15311 (b), the project includes the construction of a small parking lot appurtenant to the existing school grounds.
- Under Section 15314, the project proposes new classrooms within the existing school campus that will not increase the student population or the capacity of the schools by more than 25%. The project will upgrade existing buildings to be in compliance with CDE requirements, improve safety conditions for students, faculty and staff, parents, and the community, streamline access to school grounds, increase accessibility, and result in added amenities to enhance the educational experience for the students and similarly the benefit faculty, staff and the community.