

County of San Mateo  
Clerk-Recorder  
Mark Church  
555 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
(650) 363-4500

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Receipt No.: RPT20240034383

Finalization No.: 2024033860

Cashier: 89

Register: 022

Date/Time: 06/25/2024 03:06 PM

Item	Title	Count
1	NOE	1

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Document No.: 128947

Filing Time: 03:06 PM

Filing Total: \$50.00

Filing Fee: \$50.00

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Total Amount Due: \$50.00

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Total Paid

Credit Card Tendered: \$50.00

#46141

Amount Due: \$0.00

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State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

**Print**  **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 41-06252024-0005  
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 06/25/2024
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SAN MATEO COUNTY	DOCUMENT NUMBER 128947	

PROJECT TITLE  
 HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (650) 558-2201
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 650 NORTH DELAWARE STREET	CITY SAN MATEO	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 94401

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

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


CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) \$ 4,051.25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) \$ 2,916.75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW \$ 1,377.25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exempt from fee  
      Notice of Exemption (attach)  
      CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)  
 Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) \$ 850.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 County documentary handling fee \$ 50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 50.00  
 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash     Credit     Check     Other   
 TOTAL RECEIVED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 50.00

SIGNATURE X 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Henry Salgado Deputy Clerk
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Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): San Mateo Union High School District
650 North Delaware Street
San Mateo CA 94401

County Clerk
County of: San Mateo
555 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063-1665

(Address)

FILED ENDORSED
IN THE OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER
SAN MATEO COUNTY CALIF.

JUN 25 2024

MARK CHURCH County Clerk
By Henry Salgado Deputy Clerk

Project Title: Hillsdale High School Photovoltaic Project

Project Applicant: San Mateo Union High School District

Project Location - Specific:
3115 Del Monte Street in San Mateo

Project Location - City: Millbrae Project Location - County: San Mateo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The District proposes to install three parking-lot-canopy photovoltaic (PV) systems at the school, along with accessible parking re-stripping. The canopy arrays would be about 153, 143, and 134 feet long and 37 feet wide, and each would contain 210, 200, and 180 modules, respectively. The purpose of this project is to provide renewable electricity to the grid and reduce energy costs to the District.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Mateo Union High School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Mateo Union High School District

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: 15301 (existing facilities); 15311 (accessory)
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 21080.35 (rooftop and parking lot solar system exemption)

Reasons why project is exempt:

Project would be a minor alteration of existing facilities (15301). Project also may be considered accessory structures to the existing institutional use (15311). Project would fall under parking lot and rooftop solar exemption assuming trees are not over 25 years old or protected by City standards. See discussion attached.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Yancy Hawkins Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 650-558-2201

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: [Signature] Date: 6/10/24 Title: Chief Business Officer

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:

# HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM PROJECT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

## **Project Description**

### *Existing Facilities*

The Hillsdale High School, located at 3115 Del Monte Street in San Mateo, is a grades 9-12 school owned and operated by the San Mateo Union High School District. The school site is approximately 35 acres and has a current enrollment of approximately 1385 students.

The school is immediately adjacent to single-family houses to the south, and across the street from single-family houses to the north, east, and west (across 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Alameda de las Pulgas, and Del Monte Street, respectively). West Hillsdale Blvd. runs to the south of the adjacent homes. The proposed solar array site is on an existing parking lot on the southern edge of the school.

### *Proposed Project*

The District proposes to install three parking-lot-canopy photovoltaic (PV) systems at the school, along with accessible parking re-striping. The canopy arrays would be about 153, 143, and 134 feet long and 37 feet wide, and each would contain 210, 200, and 180 modules, respectively. These arrays would be tilted, ranging from 14 to 18 feet in height, with a minimum of 13'6" clearance beneath. Thirteen trees would be removed for this project. However all would be landscape species, there is a mix of ages of the trees, a few more mature trees over 25 years and the rest are younger under 25 years.

The purpose of this project is to provide renewable electricity to the grid and reduce energy costs to the District.

The project would be constructed over between July and December of 2024. No new or expanded uses of the school facilities are proposed as part of this project. Two minor projects, installation of EV chargers and electrical switchgear replacement may overlap with this project.

## **Exemption Analysis**

### *Rooftop/Parking Lot Solar Exemption*

The project would qualify for exemption under the CEQA rooftop/parking lot statutory exemption (CEQA Statutes, Section 21080.35). This exemption applies to rooftop and parking lot photovoltaic systems located on the same parcel as the existing buildings, with associated equipment not occupying more than 500 sq. ft. and not containing protected plants.

This exemption does not apply if the associated equipment would otherwise require one of the following:

(1) An individual federal permit pursuant to Section 401 or 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1341 or 1344) or waste discharge requirements pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7 (commencing with Section 13000) of the Water Code).

(2) An individual take permit for species protected under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.) or the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code).

(3) A streambed alteration permit pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 1600) of Division 2 of the Fish and Game Code.

(e) This section does not apply if the installation of a solar energy system at an existing parking lot involves either of the following:

(1) The removal of a tree required to be planted, maintained, or protected pursuant to local, state, or federal requirements, unless the tree dies and there is no requirement to replace the tree.

(2) The removal of a native tree over 25 years old.

(f) This section does not apply to any transmission or distribution facility or connection.

The project would conform with the requirements of tis exemptions, and none of the exceptions are present on the site.

#### Class 1 Exemption

The CEQA Class 1 Exemption (Existing Facilities - CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301) applies to repairs and maintenance of existing facilities including interior or exterior alterations involving no or negligible expansion of the facilities, and restoration and rehabilitation of deteriorated structures and facilities, as well as health and safety improvements. The Project qualifies for the Class 1 exemption because it involves the minor alteration of existing facilities at the Property with improvements that would lead to negligible or no expansion of use beyond the use existing at this time. The Project would result in net environmental benefits by reducing traditional electrical energy consumption at the Property.

#### Class 11 Exemption

The CEQA Class 11 Exemption (Accessory Structures, CEQA Guidelines section 15311) applies to

construction or placement of minor structures accessory or appurtenant to existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities. The Project is also exempt from CEQA because it involves the construction of minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities.

#### Analysis of Possible Exceptions to Class 1 and Class 11 Exemptions

The exemptions are subject to the following exceptions:

- **Cumulative Impact.** This exception would apply if the project were to contribute to significant impacts to a resource in combination with other proposed new development nearby. As noted above, project construction may overlap with construction of two minor projects, EV charging stations and switchgear replacement. However, those are very small projects so no cumulatively significant impacts would be expected.
- **Scenic Highways.** This exception would apply if the project were to result in damage to scenic resources within a scenic highway corridor. There are no highways or roadways in the project area or from which the project area can be seen that are designated as Scenic or are eligible for scenic designation. Highway 280, which runs north-south approximately three miles to the west of the project area, is the nearest designated scenic roadway. The roadway nearest to the project area that is eligible for scenic designation is the segment of State Route 92 west of Highway 280. The City of San Mateo General Plan does not designate any roadways in the project vicinity as locally scenic. Hillsdale Boulevard is indicated in the Urban Design Element of the General Plan as a major corridor in the City, but is not given any formal scenic designation.

The project facilities would be low-lying and in a relatively secluded area of the campus, not visible from public roadways. In addition, a light and glare study of under-canopy lighting was prepared and no significant light spillage was identified. Therefore no significant impact is likely.

- **Hazardous Waste Sites.** This exception would apply if the project were to be located on a hazardous waste site listed pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5. A search of the State Envirostor database conducted on April 29, 2024, found no listed hazardous wastes sites on or near the school site. A School Investigation was conducted but no action was required<sup>1</sup>. In addition, no past uses that caused contamination, or actual potential contamination, are known for the school.
- **Historical Resources.** This exception would apply if the project were to potentially significantly adversely affect an historical resource. When it opened in 1955, Hillsdale High School was awarded the School Design Award from the American Institute of Architects for its “Neo-Brutalist” style. It served as the prototype for Bay Area high schools, with indoor/outdoor passages, landscaped courtyards, and skylights in classrooms. Therefore, the school may be of architecturally historical significance. The project’s installation of solar canopies over a parking lot at the edge of campus would

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Hillsdale+High+School>

not alter the school buildings or the overall layout of the buildings, passages, skylights, or courtyards. No buildings would be expanded or demolished. Therefore the proposed project would not have the potential to significantly alter the school's historical architectural characteristics.

- **Significant Effect.** The exception would apply if the project would have the potential for a significant effect to the environment due to unusual circumstances. Unusual circumstances may include historic structures, hazardous materials contamination, protected species or habitats, and other similar conditions. There are no unusual circumstances on the site and there is no potential for significant effect, therefore this exception would not apply.

### **Conclusions**

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 1 and 11 exemptions and, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project. The project also is within the parameters of the Section 21081.53 exemption and none of the exceptions to that exemption would apply.