

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From: Santa Maria-Bonita School District
708 S. Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA, 93454

Clerk of the Board
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Battles Elementary School Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten (TK/K) Classrooms Project
Project Title

605 E. Battles Road
Project Location - Specific

Santa Maria
Project Location - City

Santa Barbara
Project Location - County

The proposed project includes the demolition of one building with four classrooms, one play area, and partial demolition of a second play area to construct one L-shaped TK/K building with a new play area, walkways, and a mechanical yard. Access to the new TK/K Building, new play area, and mechanical yard will be limited by fencing and will be accessed via three new gates. The new building will be single story with seven classrooms, a conference room, restrooms, and a mechanical/storage room. In addition, the proposed project includes the reconstruction of parking lots onsite, such as an improved fire access lane, pick up/drop off area, battery storage enclosure, and landscaping. The new western lot will have 42 parking spaces for visitors, and the new eastern lot will have 65 parking spaces for staff. The proposed project results in a net increase of three classrooms. The campus is expected to serve up to 870 students which is below existing the campus's existing enrollment design capacity.

L-Shaped TK/K Classroom Building

The proposed project will include the construction of an approximately 13,000 square foot building which will include seven new classrooms with restrooms, a conference room, and storage and electrical/mechanical rooms. This new building will be constructed over a portion of the existing western parking lot and play areas on the western side of the Battles ES campus. This new TK/K building will include exterior improvements/construction such as an adjoining play area and utility yard.

The proposed project includes an adjoining, fenced-in play area for the new TK/K building. This new play area will be located to the northeast of the new L-shaped TK/K classroom building. The play area will contain a new hard surface with colored track, landscaping, and perimeter fencing with access gates.

The proposed project will also include an outdoor utility yard that is approximately 459 square feet, on the southwest corner of the proposed TK/K classroom building. This area will be fenced.

Parking Lot Improvements and Circulation

The proposed project includes the reconstruction of the parking lots onsite. The proposed project will construction a new western and eastern parking lot that will serve visitors and staff, respectively. The proposed eastern parking lot separates the main parking area and loading zone and eliminates the shared driveway. The number of driveways is also reduced from four to three access points. Additionally, a new pickup/drop-off zone located in the western parking lot will measure approximately 476 feet. This provides an additional 202 feet of queuing length compared to the existing pickup/drop-off zone that is located in the existing southern parking lot. The new pick-up/drop-off zone will also serve school buses. The western parking lot (visitor parking lot) will provide 42 parking spaces, including two ADA parking spaces and a walking path that provides access to the school. The visitor parking lot will provide vehicle access via East Battles Road by one ingress-only driveway on the eastern side, and provide one egress-only on the western side of the parking lot. A one-way student drop-off/fire lane is separated from the western parking lot to the north, which will also include a new student drop-off area and new flagpole.

The eastern parking lot (staff parking lot) will provide 65 parking spaces, including four ADA parking spaces. This parking lot will be served by one ingress-egress driveway near the southeast corner of the project site. This driveway will be accessible via East Battles Road. The eastern parking lot will be fenced and provide two pedestrian access gates into the campus and an enclosed trash area.

Utilities

The proposed project will include the installation of new underground utility lines for potable water, sanitary sewer, and fire water that will connect to existing lines on the project site. One 3-inch water line will connect to an existing 10-inch water main in Battles Road. The fire water line will include installation of a backflow preventer and fire hydrant. Additionally, the proposed project includes installation of stormwater drain lines throughout the project site.

The proposed project will also install dry utilities lines and connections, including electricity and telecommunications, including battery storage that would be enclosed.

Construction

Construction of the proposed project is tentatively scheduled to start March 2025 and be completed by July 2026. All construction equipment and workers will be located within the boundaries of the campus and contractors will adhere to construction noise regulations to avoid disruption to campus operations. As part of the proposed project, the removal of 18 trees is also proposed.

The proposed project will benefit the district and students and staff by providing enhanced educational services and modernized facilities.

CEQA: California Environmental Quality Act

Santa Maria-Bonita School District

Name of Public Agency Approving Project

Santa Maria-Bonita 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: §15302 Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, §15303 Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, §15314 Class 14, Minor additions to schools
 - Statutory Exemptions. State code number:
-

The proposed parking lot improvements and play area are exempt from CEQA under Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (Section 15302). The proposed parking lot improvements and play area will be constructed within the same campus and located within the same area. The reconstruction of the parking lots are within the campus and general area of the existing parking lots. The new play area will be located on the same site. The parking lots and play area would have substantially the same purpose and the facilities they are replacing. The proposed project will also include the demolition of the existing classroom building, in order to construct the proposed L-shaped building. This building would continue to serve as the TK/K classroom building. The improvements will be located on campus to serve students, visitors, and staff; the project is exempt from CEQA under Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (Section 15302).

The proposed utility yard, utility improvements and connections, battery storage enclosure, landscaping, paving, fencing, and play area are exempt from CEQA under Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (Section 15303). These components of the proposed project are small new equipment and facilities that will support the proposed project. The improvements will be located on campus to serve students; the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15303.

The proposed project will include the construction of a new approximately 13,000 square-foot one-story building. This new L-shaped building will include seven classrooms, a conference room, restrooms, and mechanical/storage rooms and an attached mechanical yard. With the implementation of the proposed project, school enrollment capacity would increase by 72 students. This additional 72 students will increase the student population by 8 percent and would not exceed 25 percent. Additionally, the proposed building will have a total net increase of three classrooms, which is below 10 classrooms. Since the proposed project will 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. See Attachment to Notice of Exemption for further explanation of the evaluation, which is available at the Santa Maria-Bonita Vista School District, 708 S. Miller Street, Santa Maria, CA, 93454.

Reasons why project is exempt

Javier Cavazos Jr

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Email:

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:

2/25/2025

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Title:

Deputy Superintendent for Business

Attachment to Notice of Exemption

Battles Elementary School Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten (TK/K) Classrooms Project

SANTA MARIA-BONITA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

This supplemental information provides justification for the Categorical Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines under California Code of Regulations, Title 14 Sections 15302 (14 CCR §§ 15302), 15303 (14 CCR §§ 15303), and 15314 (14 CCR §§ 15314).

1. EXISTING CONDITIONS

PROJECT LOCATION

The Battles Elementary School (Battles ES) campus is located at 605 E. Battles Road, Santa Maria (City) and is associated with the Assessor parcel number (APN) 128-066-020. The City is surrounded by unincorporated San Luis Obispo County to the north, the unincorporated town of Orcutt in Santa Barbara County to the south, and unincorporated Santa Barbara County to the west and east. Regional access to the project site is provided by U.S. Route 101 (US 101) and California State Route 135 (SR 135) which approximately 0.56 miles east and 0.43 miles west of the project site, respectively. The campus is bounded by the Santa Maria Cemetery to the east and residential uses to the north, west, and south (see Figure 1, *Regional Location* and Figure 2, *Local Vicinity*). The project site is located on the south side of the Battles ES campus.

EXISTING PROJECT SITE CONDITIONS

The Battles ES campus is part of the Santa Maria-Bonita School District (District) and serves students grades TK through 6th. The Battles ES had a 2023-2024 enrollment of 768 students, of which, approximately 167 are TK/K students. The campus has an existing enrollment capacity of 959 students. Vehicular access to the project site is provided by four driveways located on East Battles Road, which provides access to three parking lots. Two driveways are egress only with one driveway being ingress only and one driveway providing ingress/egress access. The project site has two parking lots with pick-up/drop-off areas. The campus topography is relatively flat. (see Figure 3, *Aerial View with Photo Locations*).

The proposed project is located on the south side of the Battles ES campus. The project site includes one existing classroom building (with four classrooms), two play areas, two parking lots with pick-up/drop-off areas, two paved basketball courts, walkways and landscaping, fencing and gates, and landscaping. The project site is primarily developed with hardscape/paved surfaces (see Figure 3, *Aerial View with Photograph Locations*).

GENERAL PLAN LAND USE AND ZONING

The project site encompasses one parcel (APN 128-066-020). The City designates the project site as Public Facilities (PF) and the Santa Maria General Plan designates the project site as Community Facilities (CF) (Santa Maria 2024). The proposed project is consistent with both the zoning and the general plan land use designations.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes the demolition of one building with four classrooms, one play area, and partial demolition of a second play area to construct one L-shaped TK/K building with a new play area, walkways, and a mechanical yard. Access to the new TK/K Building, new play area, and mechanical yard will be limited by fencing and

will be accessed via three new gates. The new building will be single story with seven classrooms, a conference room, restrooms, and a mechanical/storage room. In addition, the proposed project includes the reconstruction of parking lots onsite, such as an improved fire access lane, pick up/drop off area, battery storage enclosure, and landscaping. The new western lot will have 42 parking spaces for visitors, and the new eastern lot will have 65 parking spaces for staff. The proposed project results in a net increase of three classrooms. The campus is expected to serve up to 870 students which is below the campus's existing enrollment design capacity.

L-Shaped TK/K Classroom Building

The proposed project will include the construction of an approximately 13,000 square foot building which will include seven new classrooms with restrooms, a conference room, and storage and electrical/mechanical rooms. This new building will be constructed over a portion of the existing western parking lot and play areas on the western side of the Battles ES campus. This new TK/K building will include exterior improvements/construction such as an adjoining play area and utility yard.

The proposed project includes an adjoining, fenced-in play area for the new TK/K building. This new play area will be located to the northeast of the new L-shaped TK/K classroom building. The play area will contain a new hard surface with colored track, landscaping, and perimeter fencing with access gates.

The proposed project will also include an outdoor utility yard that is approximately 459 square feet, on the southwest corner of the proposed TK/K classroom building. This area will be fenced.

Parking Lot Improvements and Circulation

The proposed project includes the reconstruction of the parking lots onsite. The proposed project will construction a new western and eastern parking lot that will serve visitors and staff, respectively. The proposed eastern parking lot separates the main parking area and loading zone and eliminates the shared driveway. The number of driveways is also reduced from four to three access points. Additionally, a new pickup/drop-off zone located in the western parking lot will measure approximately 476 feet. This provides an additional 202 feet of queuing length compared to the existing pickup/drop-off zone that is located in the existing southern parking lot. The new pick-up/drop-off zone will also serve school buses (DJA 2024).

The western parking lot (visitor parking lot) will provide 42 parking spaces, including two ADA parking spaces and a walking path that provides access to the school. The visitor parking lot will provide vehicle access via East Battles Road by one ingress-only driveway on the eastern side, and provide one egress-only on the western side of the parking lot. A one-way student drop-off/fire lane is separated from the western parking lot to the north, which will also include a new student drop-off area and new flagpole.

The eastern parking lot (staff parking lot) will provide 65 parking spaces, including four ADA parking spaces. This parking lot will be served by one ingress-egress driveway near the southeast corner of the project site. This driveway will be accessible via East Battles Road. The eastern parking lot will be fenced and provide two pedestrian access gates into the campus and an enclosed trash area.

Utilities

The proposed project will include the installation of new underground utility lines for potable water, sanitary sewer, and fire water that will connect to existing lines on the project site. One 3-inch water line will connect to an existing

10-inch water main in Battles Road. The fire water line will include installation of a backflow preventer and fire hydrant. Additionally, the proposed project includes installation of stormwater drain lines throughout the project site.

The proposed project will also install dry utilities lines and connections, including electricity and telecommunications, including battery storage that would be enclosed.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the proposed project is tentatively scheduled to start March 2025 and be completed by July 2026. All construction equipment and workers will be located within the boundaries of the campus and contractors will adhere to construction noise regulations to avoid disruption to campus operations.

As part of the proposed project, the removal of 18 trees is also proposed.

3. REASONS WHY THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project is exempt from further environmental review under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.) because it is consistent with Classes 2 (replacement or reconstruction), 3 (new construction or conversion of small structures), and 14 (minor additions to schools) as explained below.

CLASS 2, REPLACEMENT OR RECONSTRUCTION

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, 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 have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced (CEQA Guidelines 15302).

The proposed parking lot improvements and play area are exempt from CEQA under Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (Section 15302). The proposed parking lot improvements and play area will be constructed within the same campus and located within the same area. The reconstruction of the parking lots are within the campus and general area of the existing parking lots. The new play area will be located on the same site. The parking lots and play area would have substantially the same purpose and the facilities they are replacing. The proposed project will also include the demolition of the existing classroom building, in order to construct the proposed L-shaped building. This building would continue to serve as the TK/K classroom building. The improvements will be located on campus to serve students, visitors, and staff; the project is exempt from CEQA under Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (Section 15302).

CLASS 3, NEW CONSTRUCTION OR CONVERSION OF SMALL STRUCTURES

Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure (CEQA Guidelines § 15303).

The proposed utility yard, utility improvements and connections, battery storage enclosure, landscaping, paving, fencing, and play area are exempt from CEQA under Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (Section 15303). These components of the proposed project are small new equipment and facilities that will support the proposed project. The improvements will be located on campus to serve students; the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15303.

CLASS 14, MINOR ADDITIONS TO SCHOOLS

Class 14, 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 (CEQA Guidelines 15314).

The proposed project will include the construction of a new approximately 13,000 square-foot one-story building. This new L-shaped building will include seven classrooms, a conference room, restrooms, and mechanical/storage rooms and an attached mechanical yard. With the implementation of the proposed project, school enrollment capacity would increase by 72 students¹. This additional 72 students will increase the student population by 8 percent and would not exceed 25 percent. Additionally, the proposed building will have a total net increase of three classrooms, which is below 10 classrooms. Since the proposed project will 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.

4. REVIEW OF EXCEPTIONS TO THE CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

The project has been reviewed under CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2 - Exceptions, for any characteristics or circumstances that might invalidate findings that the project is exempt from CEQA. Each exception is listed below followed by an assessment of whether that exception applies to the project.

- (a) **Location.** Classes 3, 4, 5, 6 and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project would 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.

The project site is completely within the Battles ES campus within a highly developed area in the City of Santa Maria. The proposed project is limited to the project site and will not affect off-site properties. The Battles ES campus is entirely developed with permanent and modular buildings, play areas, walkways, and parking lots throughout campus. There are no critical habitats identified on campus nor in the immediate vicinity of campus (FWS 2024). As discussed in section (e) below, there is also no evidence of hazardous materials or substances onsite. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the proposed project.

- (b) **Cumulative Impacts.** 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.

The proposed project will construct a new L-shaped classroom building, improve the play areas on campus, and reconstruct the existing parking lots to promote increased circulation for students, staff, and visitors. One other project may occur at the campus, which includes the installation of solar panel canopies over the parking lots. The installation of the solar canopies may overlap with the construction of the proposed project; however, this project is focused and limited in scope and would enhance the parking lots. The Battles ES campus is generally flat and does

¹ The proposed project includes the net increase of three classrooms. Assuming a classroom loading of 24 students, three new classrooms would increase enrollment capacity by 72 students.

not include subterranean levels nor extensive earthwork. All construction equipment and activities will occur within the boundaries of each campus and will not extend to the other campuses.

Therefore, this exception does not apply to the proposed project.

- (c) **Significant Effects.** 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.

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. The determination whether this exception applies involves two distinct questions: (1) whether the project presents unusual circumstances, and (2) whether there is a reasonable possibility that a significant environmental impact will result from the unusual circumstances. The lead agency considers the second prong of this test only if it finds that some circumstance of the project is unusual. *Berkeley Hillside Preservation v City of Berkeley (2015) 60 C4th 1086, 1104.*

The proposed project presents no unusual circumstance or special environmental constraint that might lead to a significant impact. The proposed project will construct a new L-shaped classroom building, improve the play areas on campus, and reconfigure the existing parking lots to promote increased circulation for students, staff, and visitors. Construction methods will be typical for school facilities and will comply with the current California Building Code, water quality and air emissions regulations, and best management practices (BMPs) during construction and operation. Also, the operation of the proposed project will support existing educational uses at the Battles ES campus.

Vehicle Miles Traveled Analysis

The City of Santa Maria follows Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis guidance consistent with the Senate Bill 743 (SB 743), the State of California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) which was directed to amend the CEQA Guidelines to provide an alternative to level of service (LOS) for evaluating transportation impacts. As part of the OPR guidelines, local serving schools are identified as locally serving uses that will not create significant impacts related to VMT and can be excluded from VMT analysis. Therefore, no impacts to VMT are anticipated because of the proposed project (DJA 2024). See Appendix A.

Circulation Review

The Traffic Memo (see Appendix A) evaluates the proposed project's site access and design which included driveway sight distance, pick-up/drop-off area length, driveway impacts and corner clearance, pedestrian and bicycle access, and transit stop access.

The driveway sight distance will provide sufficient driveway sight distance and no significant horizontal curves are present or are proposed on East Battles Road. The total length of the proposed pick-up/drop-off area is approximately 476 feet. This pick-up/drop-off area is proposed to accommodate incoming and outgoing traffic on the school site and to minimize vehicle queuing onto Battles Road and would include AM drop-off and PM pick-up. The average PM afterschool vehicle queue is forecast to be 1,434 feet in length, corresponding to about 65 cars while an existing second off-street pick-up/drop-off zone located on school property on the north side of the school site would provide an additional 560 feet of queuing area via two rows that are about 280 feet in length. Together, these two pick-up-drop-off zones are anticipated to provide sufficient space to accommodate PM vehicle queues and no impact is anticipated.

Regarding driveway impacts and corner clearance, the City of Santa Maria has established its own roadway design standards. City Standard Plan No. RD-13A requires that non-residential driveways be separated by at least 20 feet from other driveways on the same parcel. Based on a review of the conceptual site plan for the school, all project driveways are proposed to be separated by more than a 20-foot distance. No impact is anticipated. Additionally, no pedestrian or bicycle improvements are being proposed and pedestrian and bicycle access to the project site and campus would continue via Battles Road, with street crossing opportunities at the intersection of Battles Road and College Drive and Battles Road and Miller Street. No existing or planned public transit services provide connections to the project site.

Therefore, parking lot and circulation improvements do not represent an unusual circumstance and do not represent a significant effect.

Tree Removals

The proposed project will remove 18 trees that include the following species: Lophostemon Confertus (Lophostemon confertus), California Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), Ornamental Callery Pear (Pyrus calleryana), Southern Magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora), Giriba Palm (Syagrus romanzoffiana), American Sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua). None of the trees are state or federally endangered, threatened, nor rare plants of California (CDFW 2024).

Nesting birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), which governs the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests (US Code, Title 16, Sections 703–712). The MBTA prohibits the take, possession, import, export, transport, sale, purchase, barter, or offering of these activities, except under a valid permit or as permitted in the implementing regulations. Construction of the proposed project will be required to comply with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, such as the MBTA. Therefore, tree removals do not represent an unusual circumstance and do not represent a significant effect.

There is no reasonable possibility that the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. This exception does not apply to the proposed project.

- (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.

According to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) California Scenic Highway Mapping System, the closest officially designated state scenic highway is California State Route 1 (CA-1) approximately 4.7 miles southwest of the campus (Caltrans 2024). The closest eligible state scenic highway is SR-101—from Paso Robles to Woodland Hills- approximately 0.56-miles east of the campus (Caltrans 2024). The proposed project will not affect scenic resources along these highways due to the distance and intervening buildings, structures, and vegetation between the project site and these highways. The project will not affect scenic resources along any officially designated or eligible scenic highways. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the proposed 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 Government Code § 65962.5.

California Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the compiling of lists of the following types of hazardous materials sites: hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action; hazardous waste discharges for which the State Water Quality Control Board has issued certain types of orders; public drinking water wells containing detectable

levels of organic contaminants; underground storage tanks with reported unauthorized releases; and solid waste disposal facilities from which hazardous waste has migrated.

Six environmental databases were searched for hazardous materials sites on the site and within a quarter mile radius:

- » GeoTracker: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB 2024)
- » EnviroStor: Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC 2024a)
- » EJScreen: US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA 2024a)
- » EnviroMapper: US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA 2024b, USEPA 2024c)
- » Solid Waste Information System (SWIS): California Department of Resources Recovery and Recycling (CalRecycle 2022)
- » Cortese List: Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC 2024b)

Table 1, Hazardous Waste Sites within 0.25 miles

Site Address	Database	Identifier	Cleanup Status	Proximity to Site
605 E. Battles Road, Santa Maria, California 93454	EnviroStor	School Cleanup (42820001)	Certified as of 7/15/2003	On the Battles ES campus
570 E. Battles Road, Santa Maria, California 93454	EnviroMapper	Handler ID: CAD982041105	Both Active and Inactive	0.05 miles south
		Handler ID: CAL000429957		

Source: DTSC 2024a, USEPA 2024b, USEPA 2024c

The Battles Elementary School campus was located on the DTSC Envirostor database as having a past School Cleanup. On 7/15/2003, the campus agreed to undergo a voluntary agreement school cleanup due to a presence of various hazardous materials located in the campus soil. The chemicals of concern included DDD, DDE, DDT, Dieldrin, and Endrin, which were due to past agricultural operations and oil production activities at the project site. The project site school cleanup was completed in Early 2004, with a final Certification status as of 3/19/2004. A neighboring address located at 570 E. Battles Road, approximately 0.05 miles south of the project site contains a Hazardous Waste Generator and a Small Quantity Generator. The associated facilities and the information regarding these facilities were not disclosed on EnvironMapper. The campus contains a permanent ID to dispose of the typical hazardous waste in accordance with state and federal policy; thus, would not affect the proposed project. These listings are common and are not associated with Government Code Section 65962.5. The project site and its surroundings are not identified in any of the other databases pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, the proposed project will not create a hazard to the public and is not located on a site which is included on a list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. This exception does not apply to the proposed project.

- (f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of historical resources. Under Public Resource Code § 21084.1, a historical resource is a resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. Additionally, historical resources included in a local register of historical resources are presumed to be historically or culturally significant, and a lead agency can determine whether the resource may be an historical resource.

Battles ES is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a California Historical Landmark, California Point of Historical Interest nor is there a listed historic resource within a 0.25-mile radius of the project site (NPS 2024; OHP 2024a, OHP 2024b). Neither the school nor any adjoining property are listed as historic resources or landmarks by the

County of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara 2024). No historical resources have been identified on-site during preparation of this Notice of Exemption. Therefore, the historical sites exception does not apply to the proposed project.

5. CONCLUSION

The proposed project at Battles Elementary School is exempt from CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15302, 15303, and 15314. As substantiated in this document, the proposed project will not meet the conditions specified in § 15300.2, Exceptions, of the CEQA Guidelines, and the proposed project is categorically exempt under Classes 2, 3 and 14.

6. REFERENCES

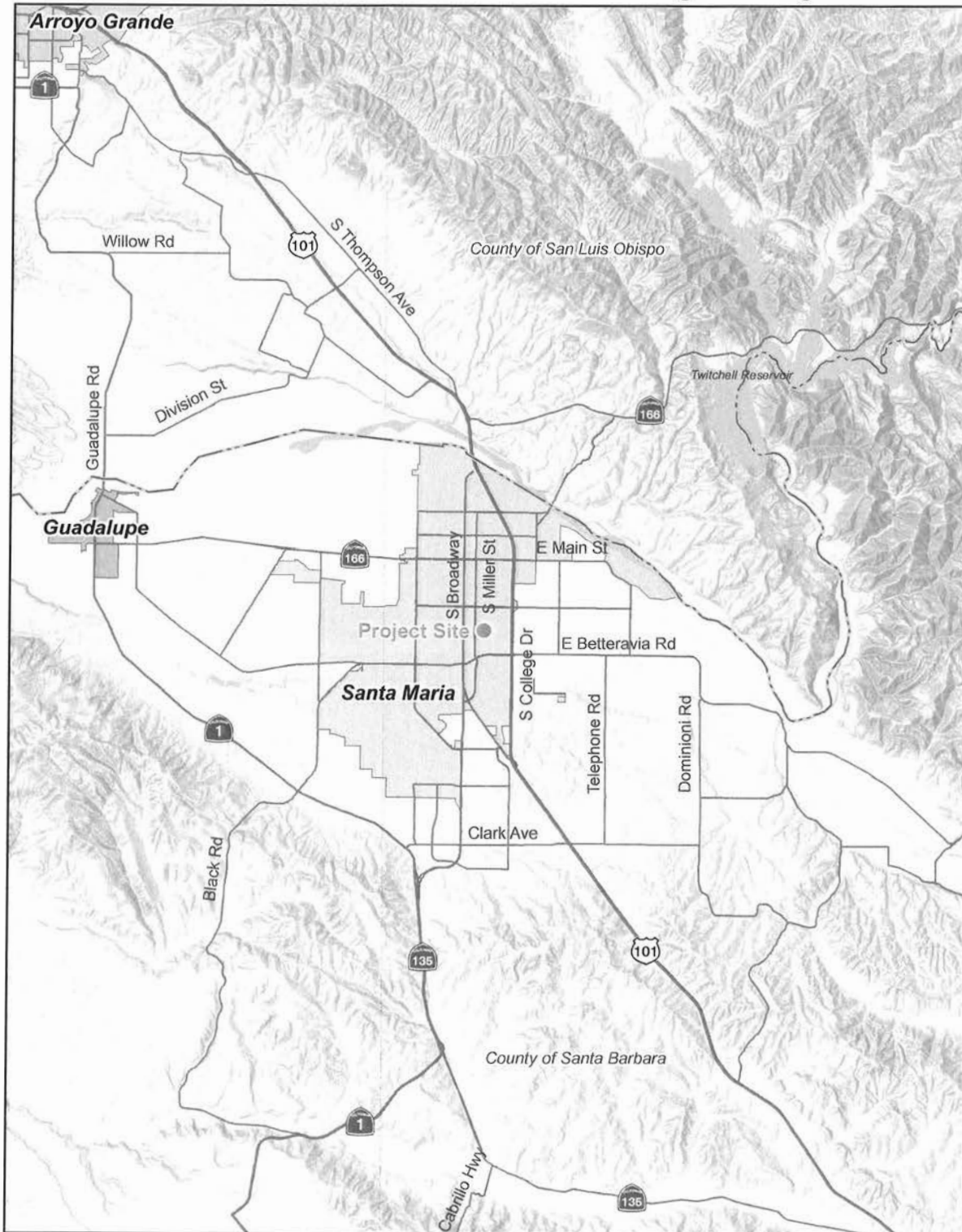
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<https://santamariacity.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=339101b932d94df89466e3f3437522d0>
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Figure 1 - Regional Location



--- County Boundary

Note: Unincorporated county areas are shown in white.
Source: Generated using ArcMap 2024.

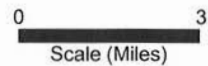
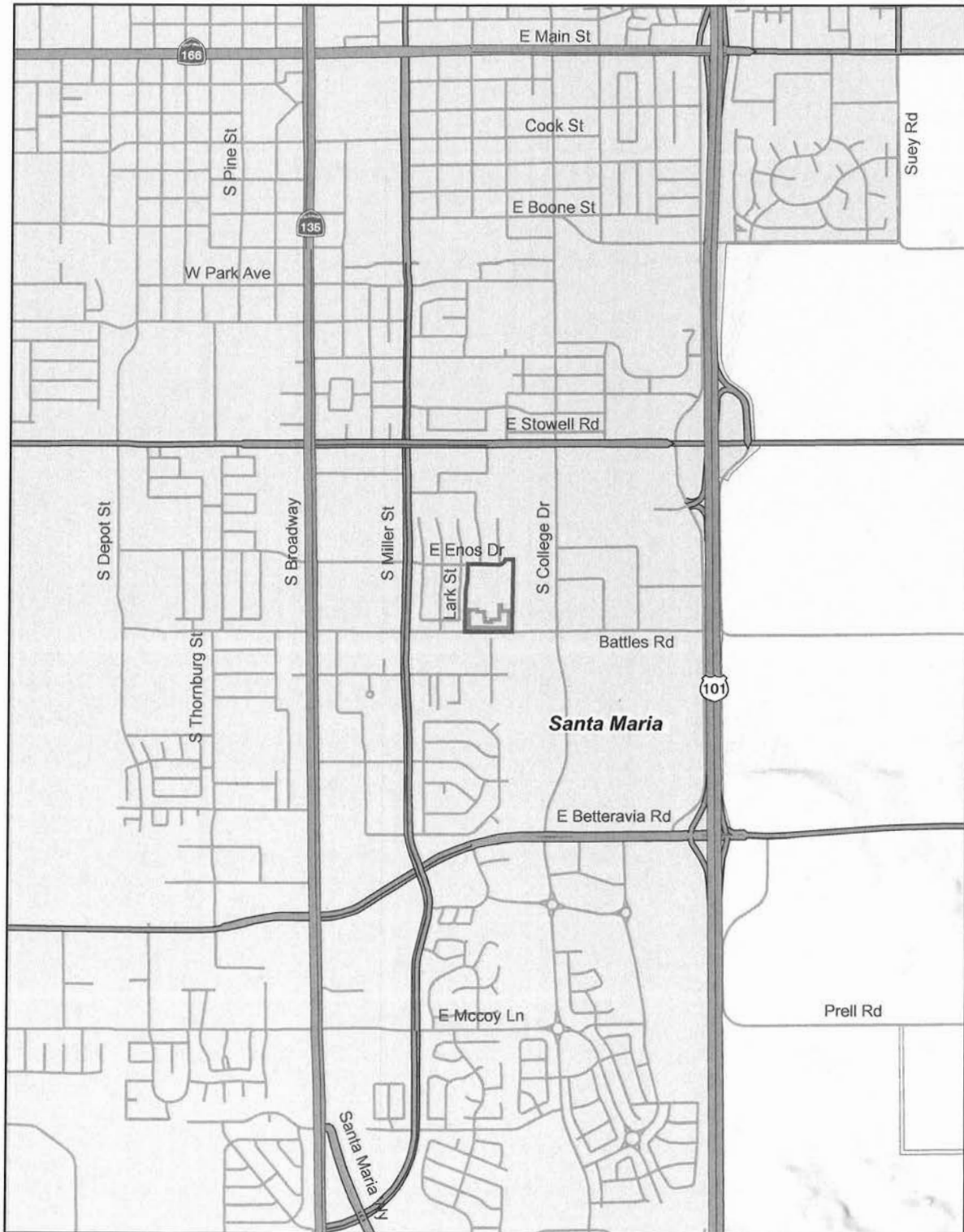


Figure 2 - Local Vicinity

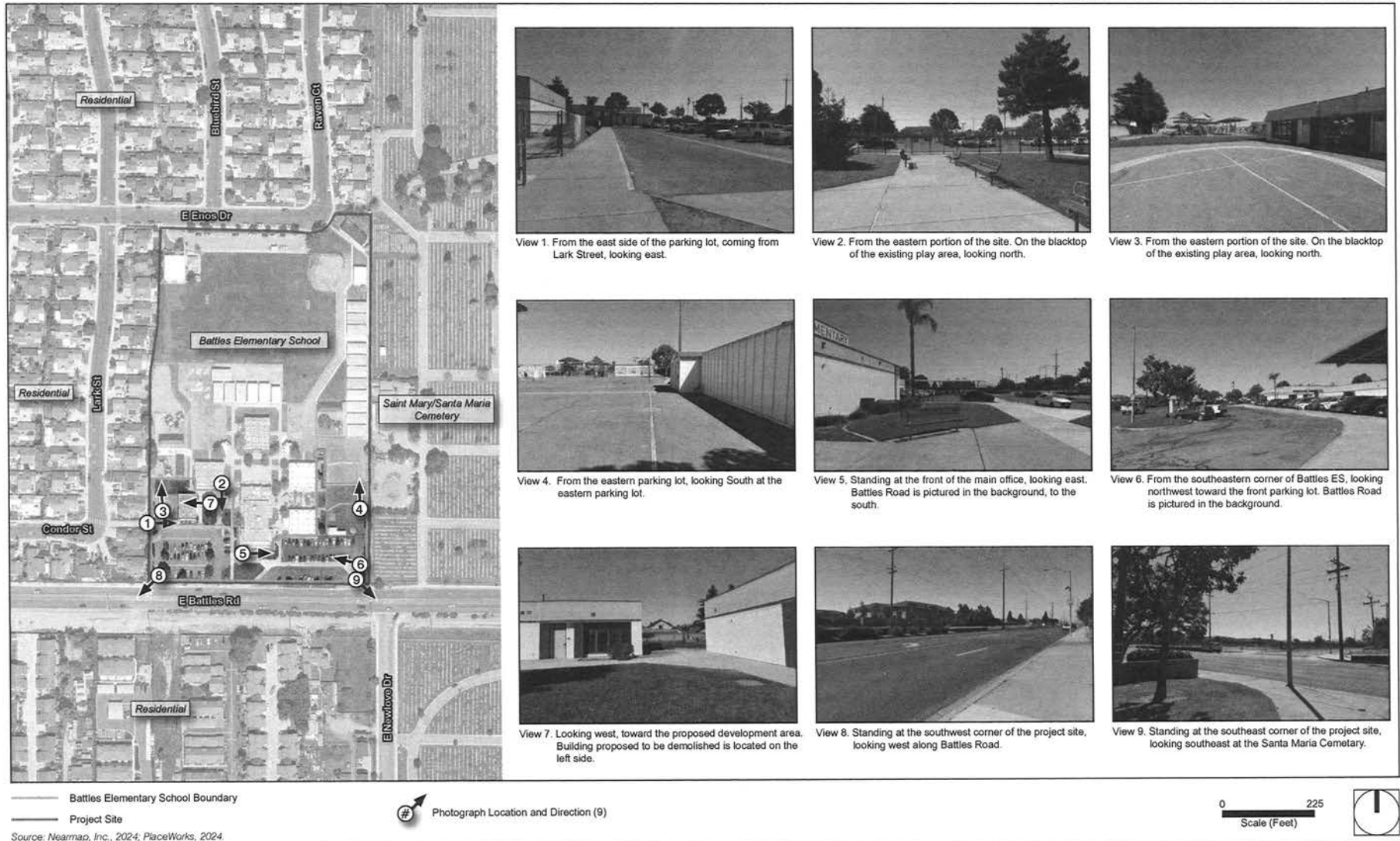


— School Boundary
— Project Boundary

Note: Unincorporated county areas are shown in white.
Source: Generated using ArcMap 2024.

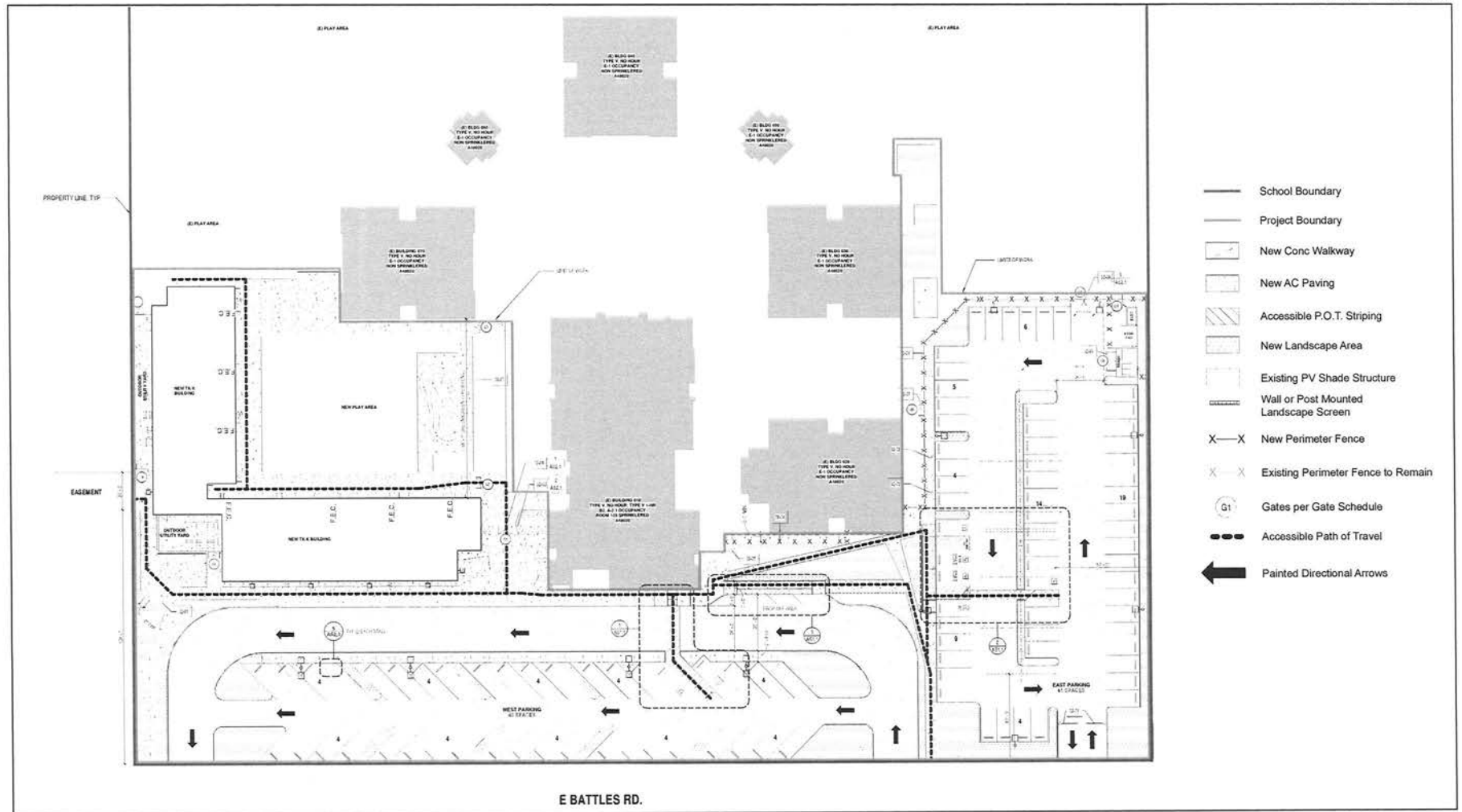


Figure 3 - Aerial View with Photograph Locations



Source: Nearnap, Inc., 2024; PlaceWorks, 2024.

Figure 4 - Site Plan



- School Boundary
- Project Boundary
- ▭ New Conc Walkway
- ▭ New AC Paving
- ▨ Accessible P.O.T. Striping
- ▭ New Landscape Area
- ▭ Existing PV Shade Structure
- ▭ Wall or Post Mounted Landscape Screen
- X—X New Perimeter Fence
- X—X Existing Perimeter Fence to Remain
- ⊙ G1 Gates per Gate Schedule
- Accessible Path of Travel
- ← Painted Directional Arrows



Appendix A

Battles Elementary Traffic Memo



**BATTLES
ELEMENTARY
TRAFFIC
MEMO**

Prepared for:
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October 4, 2024



- 1. Project Description1
- 2. Existing and Proposed Site Conditions.....1
 - 2.1 Existing Site Circulation and Queuing.....1
 - 2.2 Proposed Site Circulation and Queuing1
- 3. Methodology.....3
 - 3.1 Site Access Analysis.....3
 - 3.2 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Analysis3
- 4. Project Description3
 - 4.1 Proposed Driveway Configurations.....3
 - 4.2 Project Trip Generation.....5
- 5. Site Access Design Analysis.....6
 - 5.1 Driveway Sight Distance.....6
 - 5.2 Pick-off/Drop-off Area Length.....6
 - 5.3 Driveway Impacts and Corner Clearance.....6
 - 5.4 Pedestrian and Bicycle Access6
 - 5.5 Transit Stop Access7
- 6. Conclusions.....7
- References8
- Appendices9
- List of Tables
 - Table 1 Existing Parking Availability1
 - Table 2 Proposed Parking Availability1
 - Table 3 Trip Generation for Existing Capacity5
 - Table 4 Trip Generation for Proposed Capacity5
- List of Figures
 - Figure 1 Project Site Plan.....2
 - Figure 2 Project Driveway Locations and Geometry4

1. Project Description

The Santa Maria-Bonita School District (District) is proposing to renovate the Battles Elementary School, demolishing one existing classroom building and a play area, and partially demolishing a second play area to construct a new L-shaped TK/K building with a modern play area, walkways, and a mechanical yard. The Battles Elementary School project would include development of a new 13,000 square foot one-story building with a capacity of 460 students. The school is forecasting that with the remodeling of the site, enrollment can grow from the current number of 768 students to 870 students, an increase of 102 students.

Figure 1 shows the proposed school site plan. Access to the property would occur via three driveways located along Battles Road. The access driveways located along Battles Road would provide access to both staff and visitor parking areas, as well as student pick-up and drop-off areas.

2. Existing and Proposed Site Conditions

The scope of this traffic study is focused on proposed direct site access driveways. No analysis of off-site intersections is presented in this report since the proposed changes at the school would not generate enough new vehicle trips to trigger the need for a larger traffic study.

2.1 Existing Site Circulation and Queuing

Current access to the school includes four driveways along Battles Road. The eastern most driveway provides access to the student pickup and drop-off area and the back parking lot. The current drive aisle for pick-up/drop-off activities measures approximately 274 feet. Assuming 22 feet between vehicles, the current pickup/drop-off zone accommodates about 13 cars in queue during pick-up and drop-off times. When this queue fills up, vehicles in the back parking lot are blocked due to the shared driveway.

Table 1 Existing Parking Availability

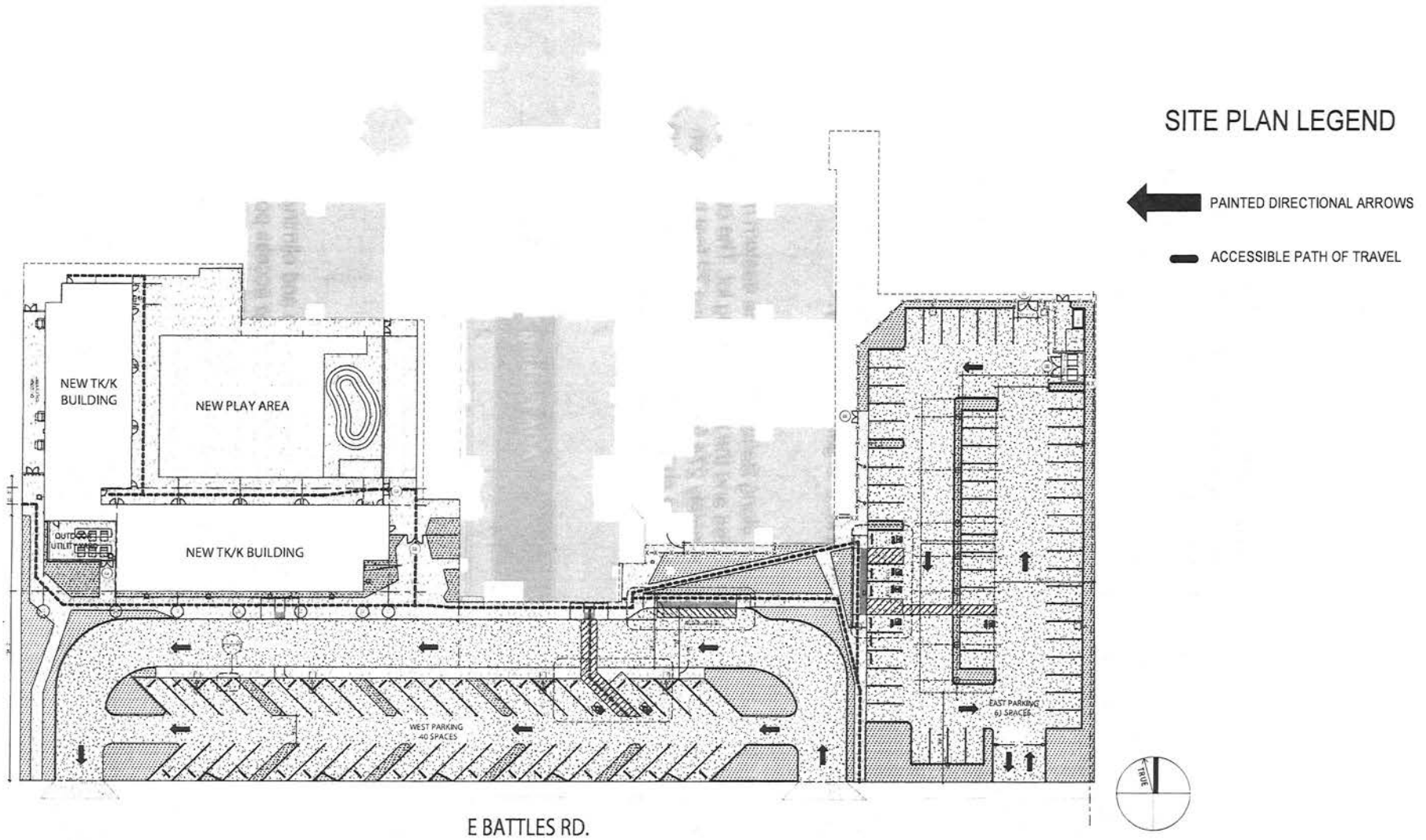
Parking Location	Parking Spaces	ADA Parking Spaces
Western Lot	37	2
Northern Lot	44	-
Southern Lot	9	2
TOTAL	90	4

2.2 Proposed Site Circulation and Queuing



The proposed parking lot separates the main parking area and loading zone and eliminates the shared driveway. The number of driveways is also reduced from four to three access points. Additionally, the new pickup/drop-off zone in front of the school building measures approximately 476 (see Figure 1 for Project Site Map). This provides an additional 202 feet of queuing length compared to the existing pickup/drop-off zone. This new pick-up/drop-off zone would also serve school buses.

Table 2 Proposed Parking Availability

Parking Location	Parking Spaces	ADA Parking Spaces
Eastern Lot	61	4
Western Lot	40	2
TOTAL	101	6



SITE PLAN LEGEND

-  PAINTED DIRECTIONAL ARROWS
-  ACCESSIBLE PATH OF TRAVEL

BATTLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"

FIGURE 1: PROJECT SITE PLAN

3. Methodology

3.1 Site Access Analysis

The following site access elements are discussed for the With Project condition:

- a) Driveway Sight Distance: Intersection sight distance is evaluated for project driveways to public roadways using the latest edition of the Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM) or locally developed standards.
- b) Driveway Length: Primary project driveways will be evaluated for sufficient length to allow vehicles to enter the project area without causing subsequent vehicles to back up into the public street system.
- c) Limit Driveway Impacts: Driveways and local street accesses will be evaluated to maintain a reasonable distance from an adjacent intersection and/or driveway.
- d) Corner Clearance: Project driveways will be evaluated to determine if there is sufficient distance from a signalized intersection so that right-turn egress movements do not interfere with the right-turn queue at the intersection.
- e) A review of the adequacy of pedestrian facilities to/from the project site providing convenient and direct access for pedestrians.
- f) A review of the bicycle accessibility from bike routes near the project site.

3.2 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Analysis

The City of Santa Maria follows VMT analysis guidance consistent with the Senate Bill 743 (SB 743), OPR which was directed to amend the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines to provide an alternative to level of service (LOS) for evaluating transportation impacts. As part of the OPR guidelines, local serving schools are identified as locally serving uses that would not create significant impacts related to VMT and can be excluded from VMT analysis. Therefore, no impacts to VMT are anticipated because of the Battles Elementary School project.

4. Project Description

4.1 Proposed Driveway Configurations

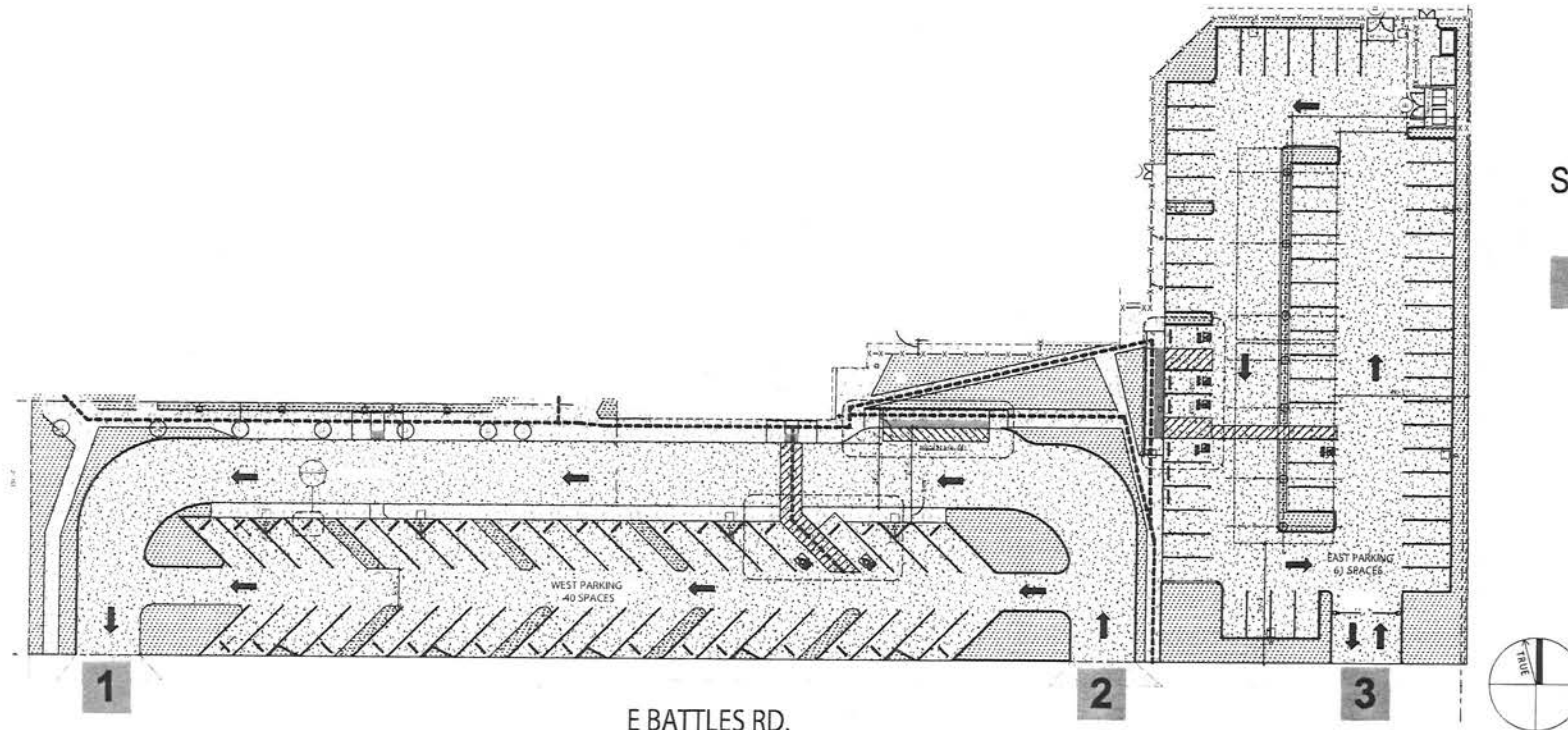
The following driveways are analyzed:

1. Driveway 1 and Battles Road
2. Driveway 2 and Battles Road
3. Driveway 3 and Battles Road

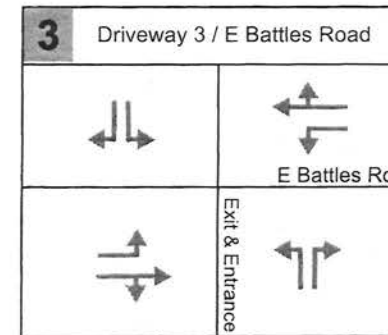
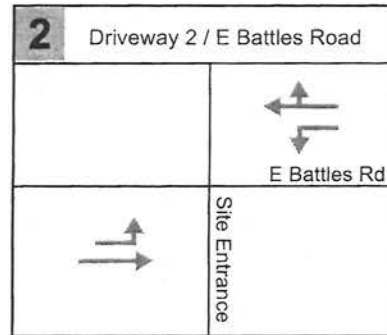
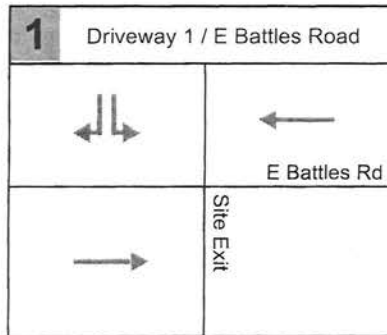
Figure 2 shows the location of each driveway, along with the proposed lane geometry for each location. Driveway 1 would operate as an inbound only driveway, facilitating traffic flow for pick-up/drop-off activities and access to staff and visitor parking areas. Driveway 2 would operate as outbound only. Driveway 3 facilitates access to the student/staff parking area.

SITE PLAN LEGEND

 Project Driveway



E BATTLES RD.



BATTLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"

FIGURE 2: PROJECT DRIVEWAY LOCATIONS & INTERSECTION GEOMETRY

4.2 Project Trip Generation

The trip generation for the Battles Elementary School project is estimated using rates published in the ITE Trip Generation Manual 11th Edition. The trips are based on rates for an elementary school (ITE Code 520). School days typically operate between 8:00AM and 3:00PM. With this anticipated duration of operation, trip generation forecasts are developed for the daily condition and the peak hour condition. The PM peak hour for adjacent street traffic does not overlap with anticipated school operations, therefore analysis of this time period shows a significantly lower trip generation rate.

Table 3 and 4 present the trip generation forecasts for the project for the weekday daily condition and AM and PM peak hours. Trip generation forecasts are based on the projected school capacity of 870 students and compared to the existing capacity of 768 students.

Table 3 Trip Generation for Existing Capacity

Land Use and Time Period	Trip Generation Rate	Distribution		Trips		Total
		Inbound	Outbound	Inbound	Outbound	
Elementary School – AM Peak Hour	.75 trips / student	54%	46%	307	261	568
Elementary School – PM Peak Hour	0.16 trips / student	46%	54%	57	66	123
Elementary School – Daily	2.27 trips / student	50%	50%	872	871	1743

Table 4 Trip Generation for Proposed Capacity

Land Use and Time Period	Trip Generation Rate	Distribution		Trips		Total
		Inbound	Outbound	Inbound	Outbound	
Elementary School – AM Peak Hour	.75 trips / student	54%	46%	348	296	644
Elementary School – PM Peak Hour	0.16 trips / student	46%	54%	64	75	139
Elementary School – Daily	2.27 trips / student	50%	50%	987	988	1975

The proposed project would result in a net difference of 76 trips in the AM peak hour, 16 trips in the PM peak hour, and 232 daily trips.

5. Site Access Design Analysis

This section examines several focused issues related to the proposed driveways for the Battles Elementary School project. This review is completed at a high level based on the conceptual site plan provided by DLR for the School District. Specific details and dimensions are unavailable at this time, which does preclude a more detailed analysis of the issues below.

5.1 Driveway Sight Distance

Both proposed project driveways would provide sufficient driveway sight distance. No significant horizontal curves are present or are proposed along Battles Road in the vicinity of the proposed project driveway locations.

5.2 Pick-off/Drop-off Area Length

The proposed project site plan includes a long on-site pick-up and drop-off area that extends the full length between the two proposed project driveways. The total length is approximately 476 feet. This pick-up/drop-off area is proposed to accommodate incoming and outgoing traffic on the school site and to minimize vehicle queuing onto Battles Road. The pick-up/drop-off zone would serve parent trips and school bus trips. There two daily school buses serving Battles Elementary. One for the general student population and one for kindergarten only.

To analyze the potential number of vehicles that would travel to the school for pick-up activities in the PM time period (school release), this analysis utilized a school trip calculator published by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). This calculator provides forecasts of project trips and vehicle queues during the afterschool pick-up time period based on the number of students and level of busing provided for the school. Currently, only two buses per day serve Battles Elementary. One for general student population and one for kindergarten students. This assumption was carried forward in this analysis.

Using the NCDOT school trip calculator, the average PM afterschool vehicle queue is forecast to be 1,434 feet in length, corresponding to about 65 cars. The new 476-foot pick-up/drop-off area on campus is wide enough to accommodate two rows of parked or queued vehicles, leaving about 482 feet of queued vehicles (22 cars). There is a second off-street pick-up/drop-off zone located on school property on the north side of the school site. This zone is accessed from Enos Street and provides an additional 560 feet of queuing area via two rows that are about 280 feet in length. Together, these two pick-up-drop-off zones are anticipated to provide sufficient space to accommodate PM vehicle queues.

No modifications to the proposed driveway length are proposed in this report. No impact is anticipated.

5.3 Driveway Impacts and Corner Clearance

The City of Santa Maria has established its own roadway design standards. City Standard Plan No. RD-13A requires that non-residential driveways be separated by at least 20 feet from other driveways on the same parcel. Based on a review of the conceptual site plan for the school, all project driveways are proposed to be separated by more than a 20-foot distance. No impact is anticipated.

5.4 Pedestrian and Bicycle Access

Pedestrian and bicycle access to the site would be permitted via Battles Road, with street crossing opportunities at the intersection of Battles Road and College Drive and Battles Road and Miller Street. Sidewalks are proposed on both sides of Battles Road. No striped bicycle lanes are proposed on Battles Road at this time. Designated crossing locations at both intersections shall include striped crosswalks and signage indicating school crossing locations, consistent with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), 11th Edition. No additional pedestrian or bicycle crossing locations are recommended at this time. School crossing guards should be stationed at the designated crossing locations along Battles Road.

5.5 Transit Stop Access

No existing or planned public transit services provide connections to the proposed school site. The closest bus stops are location along Miller Street, about ¼ mile west of the school site. Therefore, no analysis is provided related to this item.

6. Conclusions

No significant traffic impacts are identified based on the analysis completed for the proposed site access driveways. A review of the conceptual driveway designs does not identify any concerns related to sight distance, driveway location, proximity, or driveway length. No significant traffic impacts are identified due to the project.

References

State of California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act*. 2018

ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers). *Trip Generation Manual*. 11th ed. 2021

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Municipal School Transportation Assistance (MTSA), <https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/School/Pages/default.aspx>



Appendices

- AM Peak Hour ITE Report
- PM Peak Hour ITE Report

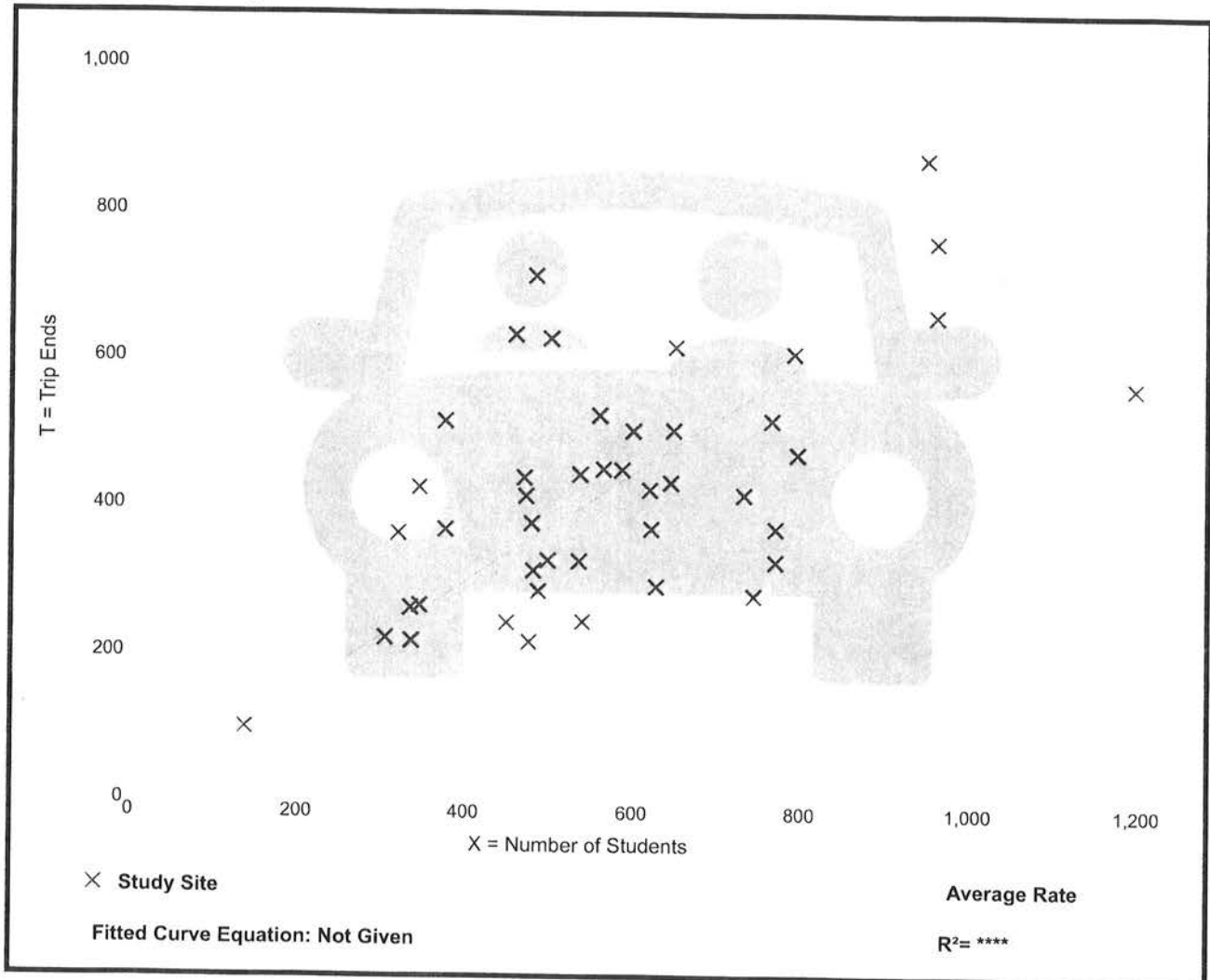
Elementary School (520)

Vehicle Trip Ends vs: Students
On a: Weekday,
Peak Hour of Adjacent Street Traffic,
One Hour Between 7 and 9 a.m.
Setting/Location: General Urban/Suburban
 Number of Studies: 44
 Avg. Num. of Students: 575
 Directional Distribution: 54% entering, 46% exiting

Vehicle Trip Generation per Student

Average Rate	Range of Rates	Standard Deviation
0.74	0.38 - 1.47	0.25

Data Plot and Equation



Elementary School (520)

Vehicle Trip Ends vs: Students
On a: Weekday,
Peak Hour of Adjacent Street Traffic,
One Hour Between 4 and 6 p.m.

Setting/Location: General Urban/Suburban
 Number of Studies: 47
 Avg. Num. of Students: 576
 Directional Distribution: 46% entering, 54% exiting

Vehicle Trip Generation per Student

Average Rate	Range of Rates	Standard Deviation
0.16	0.05 - 0.44	0.10

Data Plot and Equation

