

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: Kern
1115 Truxton Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: (Public Agency):
Panama Buena Vista Union School District
4200 Ashe Rd. Bakersfield, CA 93313

(Address)

Project Title: Christa McAuliffe Elementary School Improvement Project

Project Applicant: Panama Buena Vista Union School District

Project Location - Specific:

8900 Westwold Drive, Bakersfield, CA (APN 512-010-08)

Project Location - City: Bakersfield Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Panama Buena Vista Union School District proposes to further improve the Christa McAuliffe Elementary School through the installation of a portable classroom, portable restroom facility, and a shade structure. The project will provide an additional classroom and support facilities for the existing school site.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Panama Buena Vista Union School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Paul Johnson, Director of Facilities

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));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 3:15303 (c) and (e), and Class 14: 15314
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

See attached.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Paul Johnson Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 831-8331

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: 2/28/2025 Title: Director of Facilities

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:

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Christa McAuliffe Elementary School campus is located at 8900 Westwold Drive, between Oak Grove Street and Slender Oak Court, within the City of Bakersfield, CA (APN 512-010-08). The campus encompasses approximately 8.71 acres.

The Panama Buena Vista Union School District (as lead agency) proposes to further improve the existing elementary school through the installation of a 36-foot by 40-foot (1,440 square feet), a 48-foot by 40-foot (1,920 square feet) portable classroom building, a 12-foot by 40-foot (480 square feet) portable restroom facility, and a 30-foot by 30-foot (900 square feet) shade structure. The project will be developed within a 9,600 square-foot portion of the elementary school that is paved and currently used for basketball and bicycle storage. The project will result in approximately 4,000 square feet of disturbance to remove the existing equipment.

## EXEMPTION

- Class 3, Section 15303: *New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures* consists of construction and location of limited numbers or 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.
  - Section 15303(c): A store, motel, office, restaurant or similar structure not involving the use of significant amounts of hazardous substances and not exceeding 2500 square feet in floor area. In urbanized areas, the exemption also applies to up to four such commercial buildings not exceeding 10,000 square feet in floor area on sites zoned for such use if not involving the use of significant amounts of hazardous substances where all necessary public services and facilities are available and the surrounding area is not environmentally sensitive.
  - Section 15303(e): Accessory (appurtenant structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences.
- Class 14 Section 15314: *Minor Additions to Schools* 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.

## REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project proposes further improvement of the existing Christa McAuliffe Elementary School site through the addition of a portable classroom building, a portable restroom facility, a shade structure, and associated utility infrastructure. These improvements are proposed to be located within the existing footprint of the elementary school site that is currently developed with paved basketball courts and a series of bicycle racks. The project would result in approximately 4,000 square feet of disturbance on this previously disturbed and developed area. The additional classrooms will not increase student capacity, as the rooms will help alleviate classroom overcrowding and meet CDE requirements.

The project site is proposed to be located on the existing elementary school campus. The project site is predominantly developed with no suitable habitat to support special status species. The campus is surrounded by existing urban development. Due to the existing built nature and human activity associated with the site and surrounding area, no known biological resource is anticipated to occur at the project site and would not be adversely impacted by project construction and operation. Additionally, due to past ground disturbance related to development of the existing school site, the presence of a cultural or historical resource is unlikely. In the unlikely event a special status species

or cultural resources is observed during construction, the project will comply with all applicable local, State and federal regulations and codes related to biological resources and cultural resources.

A review of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Envirostor database and the State Water Resources Control Board, Geotracker database indicates that the project site does not contain a listed hazardous waste facility or known cleanup site. Additionally, there are no scenic highways or resources that would be impacted by the project.

## **CONCLUSION**

The project will provide a minor addition to the existing Christa McAuliffe Elementary School campus by allowing construction and operation of a portable classroom, portable restroom, and a shade structure. The Project proposes the development of one additional classroom, however there is no expansion or increase of the student and faculty population at the school. The proposed restroom and shade structure are support facilities for the proposed portable classroom and existing elementary school.

As discussed above the Project would not result in a significant environmental impact and is consistent the provisions of a Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as per Section 21084 of the Public Resources Code.