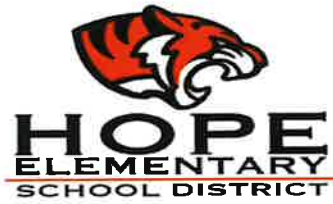


613 W. TEAPOT DOME AVE.
PORTERVILLE, CA. 93257
PHONE: 559 784-1064
FAX: 559-784-1905



BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
TOM CEMO, CLERK
TIM NEWBY, MEMBER
LORI WITT, MEMBER

MELANIE MATTA, SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Subject:

Project: Hope Elementary School Gymnasium/Classroom Building Project

Lead Agency: Hope Elementary School District

Applicant: Hope Elementary School District

Review Period: March 11, 2025 to April 10, 2025 (30 days)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Hope Elementary School District (District) has prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Hope Elementary School Gymnasium/Classroom Building Project (proposed project). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21165 and the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15050, the Hope Elementary School District is the lead agency for the proposed project. The purpose of this notice is to (1) serve as a Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt the IS/MND and (2) advise and solicit comments regarding the content of the IS/MND.

PROJECT LOCATION: Hope Elementary School (ES) is located at 613 West Teapot Dome Avenue in the southwestern portion of unincorporated Tulare County, within the City of Porterville's urban area boundary. The proposed project would occur adjacent to the existing Hope ES campus on property owned by the District. The proposed project encompasses approximately 2.45 acres, which includes approximately 0.03-acres of the developed eastern section of the Hope ES campus (APN 303-060-009) and approximately 2.42 acres of the District-owned parcel (APN 303-060-041) adjacent to Hope ES (project site). The proposed project would redevelop the project site and would not disturb other areas of the Hope ES campus.

Regional access to the Hope ES campus and the project site is provided by State Route (SR) 65 located 0.45 miles west of the project site and SR-190 located approximately 2.0 miles north (see Figure 1, Regional Location). West Teapot Dome Avenue provides local access to the Hope ES campus and the project site (see Figure 2, Local Vicinity).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The District is proposing to develop an 11,462 gross-square foot gymnasium and classroom building (Building L), with an interior square footage of 11,182 square feet (i.e. interior/functional space). The proposed project includes the demolition of the existing unpaved parking lot, removal of approximately 223 citrus trees, and demolition of one driveway onto the project site. As part of the proposed project, a chain link fencing and rolling gate on the east side of Hope ES campus would be removed and replaced to allow for grading and installation of new concrete walkway that would connect the proposed Building L to the campus.(see Figure 3, Hope Elementary School Site Plan)

The Building L would include three classrooms; a multi-use gymnasium (5,798 square feet) with basketball striping and a ceiling mounted basketball hoop, two water fountains, and four direct entrances; two student bathrooms with

a vestibule area (Vestibule-1); a janitor closet; a stage area/ music classroom (1,325 square feet) with one accessible ramp and one wheelchair lift, folding partitions and associated vestibule area (Vestibule-2), electrical, instrument and data rooms; and a roof access space. The gymnasium would include lighting, sound system, and HVAC. Additionally, Building L would include a rooftop solar photovoltaic system that would service the building.

The proposed Building L would be surrounded by 17 ornamental trees. The project also proposes a new 8-inch wet-type fire hydrant and Fire Department Connection (FDC)/check valve for Building L. The proposed project would include construction of a new septic tank system connected to the proposed gym/classroom building. Additionally, the proposed project would construct new stormwater drain inlets and 46,448 cubic feet (CF) stormwater retention basin. A new 3,000-gallon septic tank, located on the east side of the project site, would capture the wastewater generated by the proposed project.

The proposed project would increase enrollment capacity at Hope ES by a total of 60 students, from 260 to 320 students. To serve the increase in enrollment capacity, the proposed project would increase on-campus staff by four. Typical daily use of the proposed building would have approximately 100 persons.

Existing events on campus, which include physical education, basketball, volleyball, assemblies, and graduation would maintain the same number of participants and staff per event. However, spectators would increase for basketball and volleyball events from 50 spectators to 100 spectators, and spectators for assemblies and graduations would increase from 250 spectators to 400 spectators. The theater performances would be a new event as a result of the proposed project. Theater performances would occur periodically and would include approximately 5 staff, 50 performers, and 400 spectators on campus during the theater event.

The construction of the proposed project would occur in one phase. Construction is anticipated to begin Spring 2027 and complete Spring 2028. Construction activities would include demolition, site preparation, grading, construction, paving and architectural coating and landscaping/finishes. As part of the construction activities, the proposed project would include approximately 2,990 cubic yards of soil export.

The District is seeking the following discretionary actions: 1) exempt the project site from local zoning, 2) approval of the proposed project, 3) adoption of the IS/MND, and 4) adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The District has prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) to determine the proposed project's potential impact on the environment. The District has determined that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, but by implementing the identified mitigation measures in the IS/MND, the proposed project's impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels. Accordingly, the District intends to adopt an IS/MND.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT: The District invites you to comment on the IS/MND. The IS/MND will be available for a 30-day public review from **March 11, 2025, through April 10, 2025**. The District asks that any person wishing to comment on the IS/MND provide written comments by the end of the public review period at 5:00 p.m., **April 10, 2025**.

Copies of the IS/MND are available for review at the following location:

Hope Elementary School District

613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue

Porterville, California, 93257

The document can also be accessed online at: <https://www.hope-esd.org/Maintenance-and-Operations>.

You may send comments by email to mmatta@hope-esd.org or mail to the addresses below:

Hope Elementary School District

Attn: Melanie Matta, Superintendent/Principal

613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue

Porterville, California, 93257

Board Meeting: A board meeting has not yet been scheduled. A separate notice of board meeting will be circulated pursuant to all applicable public noticing requirements once a board meeting has been scheduled.

Date: March 11, 2025

Signature:



Melanie Matta, Superintendent/Principal

Hope Elementary School District

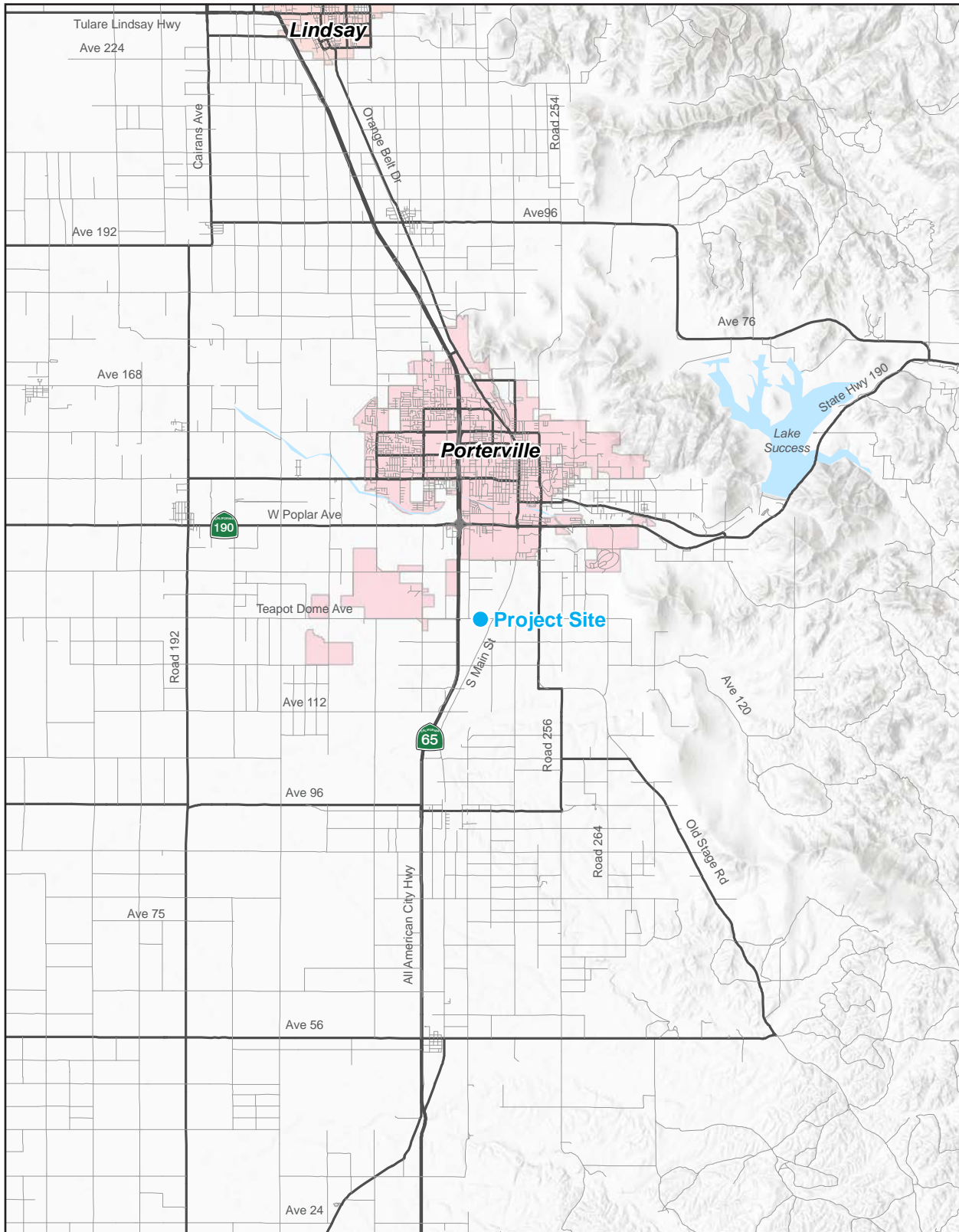
Includes:

Figure 1, Regional Location

Figure 2, Local Vicinity

Figure 3, Hope Elementary School Site Plan

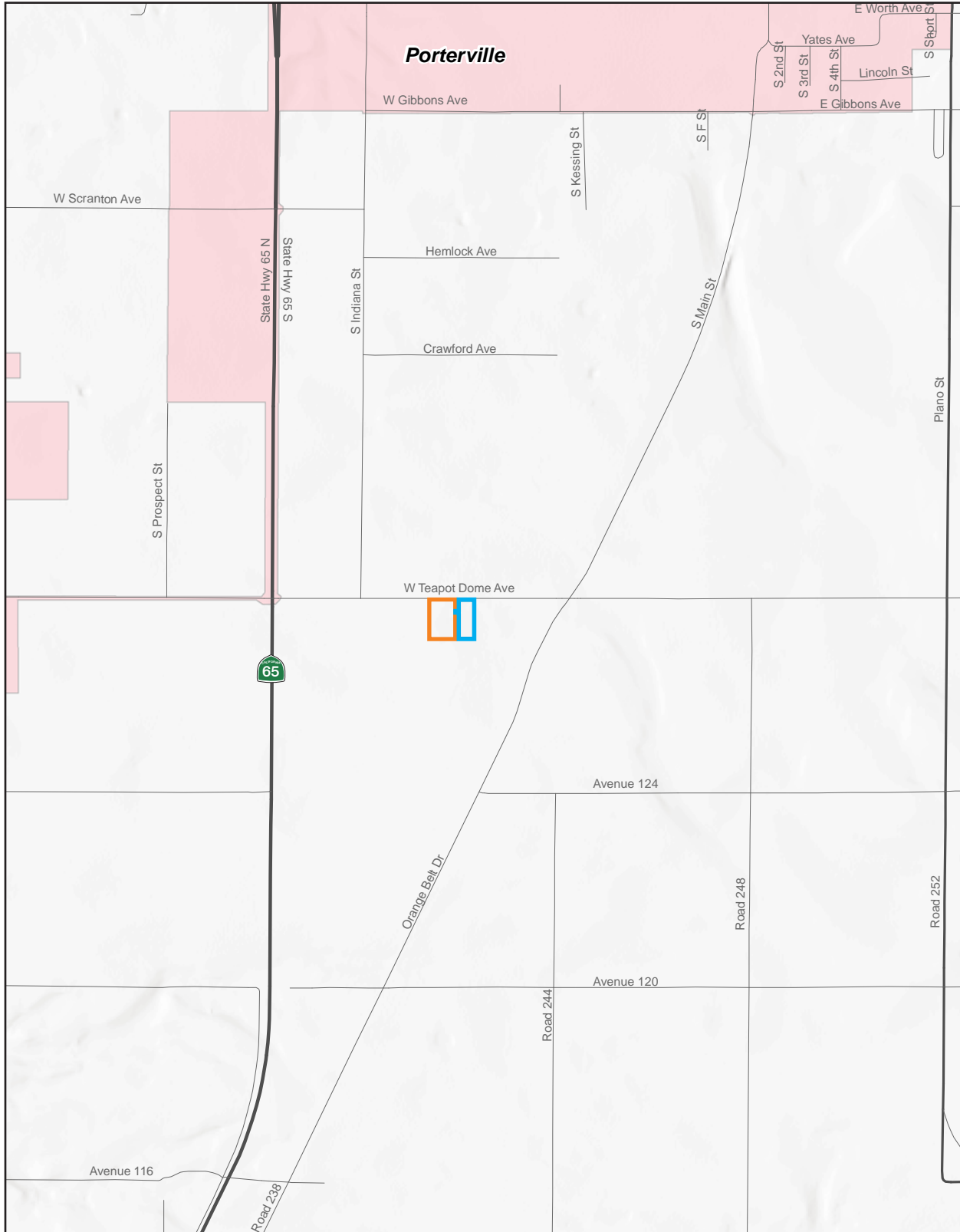
Figure 1 - Regional Location



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



Figure 2 - Local Vicinity



Project Site Hope Elementary School

0 2,000
Scale (Feet)



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

Figure 3 - Hope Elementary School Site Plan

