

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

5901 Schirra Ct., 2nd Floor West, Bakersfield, CA 93313

(Address)

Project Title: Three Elementary School Sites Improvement Project

Project Applicant: Panama Buena Vista Union School District

Project Location - Specific:

See attached

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See attached.

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));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 3:15303 (c), (d) 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: 19 March 2015 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 Panama Buena Vista Union School District (PBVUSD) proposes to upgrade three existing school sites: Whitley Elementary School, Sandrini Elementary School, and Williams Elementary School.

### **1) Dolores S. Whitley Elementary School**

The campus is located at 2923 McKee Road, Bakersfield, CA 93313 (APN 514-040-03, 514-040-04, and 514-040-07). The campus is located south of McKee Road and east of Wible Road and encompasses approximately 14.31 acres.

The existing Whitley Elementary School will be improved through the installation of a 48-foot by 40-foot (1,920 square-foot) portable classroom building, a 12-foot by 40-foot (480 square-foot) portable restroom building, and associated pedestrian improvements. Improvements are anticipated to be developed towards the eastern portion of the school and will require the removal of existing the paved outdoor recreational space that is currently utilized as basketball courts.

### **2) Louise Sandrini Elementary School**

The campus is located at 4100 Alum Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93309 (APN 403-011-03). The campus is located at the northeast corner of Alum Avenue and Dovewood Street and encompasses approximately 9.63 acres.

PBVUSD proposed to further improve the existing Sandrini Elementary School through the installation of a 40-foot by 36-foot (1,440 square-foot) portable classroom building, a 12-foot by 40-foot (480 square-foot) portable restroom building, an outdoor learning environmental consisting of a 20-foot by 44-foot (880 square-foot) shade structure, benches, and tables, and associated landscaping and pedestrian improvements. These improvements are anticipated to be developed towards the western portion of the campus and will require the removal of existing improvements including existing turf and landscaping, an outdoor recreational backstop and associated foundations, removal and replacement of utility box rings and lid, and a gate and associated concrete pad. One ornamental tree is anticipated to be removed from the site to accommodate the proposed improvements.

### **3) Bill L. Williams Elementary School**

The campus is located at 5601 Harris Road, Bakersfield, CA 93313 (APN 499-011-07). The campus is located at the southeast corner of Harris Road and Summer Springs Drive, and encompasses approximately 10 acres.

PBVUSD proposed to further improve the existing campus through the installation of a 48-foot by 40-foot (1,920 square-foot) portable classroom building, a 12-foot by 40-foot portable restroom building, associated landscaping and pedestrian improvements, storm drainage improvements, and crosswalk improvements. The proposed portable classroom and restroom buildings are planned to be installed toward the western boundary of the existing campus and will require removal of existing turf, pavement, an outdoor recreational backstop and associated foundations, a masonry wall, gate, bicycle racks, a storage unit and concrete pad. One tree at the Williams Elementary School is anticipated to be removed from the site to accommodate the proposed improvements.

## **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(d): Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.
  - 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 to improve three existing school sites through the addition of portable classroom buildings, portable restroom facilities, a shade structure, and associated utility infrastructure as described above. These improvements are proposed to be located within the existing footprint of the respective elementary school sites. The project would result in disturbance of previously disturbed and developed areas. The project would involve the development of one additional classroom at each school site and would not increase student capacity, as the purpose is to alleviate classroom overcrowding and meet California Department of Education requirements.

The project sites are proposed to be located on an existing elementary school campus where is no suitable habitat to support special status species. The schools are completely surrounded by existing urban development. Due to the existing built nature and human activity associated with the sites and surrounding areas, no known biological resources are anticipated to occur at any of the project sites and would not be adversely impacted by project construction and operations. Additionally, due to past ground disturbance related to development of the existing school sites, 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 at any of the sites, the project will comply with all applicable local, State and federal regulations and codes related to biological resources and cultural resources. Additionally, there are no scenic highways or resources that would be impacted by the project.

### **CONCLUSION**

The project will provide a minor upgrade to the existing schools. The project will not expand the student and faculty population at the school sites but will improve educational experience and provide additional amenities to each school. New walkways will improve accessibility and increase vehicle and pedestrian safety.

As discussed, the improvements at these existing schools 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.