

Notice of Exemption

2019110240

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: San Mateo

555 County Center

Redwood City, CA 94063-1665

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

(Address)

Project Title: Hillsdale High School Solar Lights Beta Testing Project

Project Applicant: San Mateo Union High School District

Project Location - Specific:

3115 Del Monte Street, San Mateo, CA

Project Location - City: San Mateo

Project Location - County: San Mateo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would involve installing up to five solar-powered, dual-lamp lights (up to ten total lamps) on 24-foot tall poles in an existing school parking lot to test the feasibility of solar lighting for use on other School District properties. Fixtures would be located and aimed to avoid impacting adjacent houses.

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: Class 1 -Section 15301

☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project proposes minor addition of safety lighting to an existing school parking lot (Class 1 - 15301 (f)). none of the exceptions to this exemption would occur (see attached discussion).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Brad Barncord

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 650-558-2471

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: 11-6-19 Title: General Manager of Maintenance

☒ 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: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

NOV 12 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR LIGHTS BETA TESTING 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 31st Avenue, Alameda de las Pulgas, and Del Monte Street, respectively). To the south of the adjacent homes is West Hillsdale Blvd.

The parking lot proposed for the light testing project is located at the southeast corner of the school campus, adjacent to Alameda de las Pulgas on the east and the rear yards of the adjacent single-family homes to the south. The houses are separated from the site by a six-foot-high wooden fence. The school's football field is directly north of the site, and undeveloped school lands are to the west.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of the installation of five solar-powered dual-arm lights on 24-foot-tall poles, each with two four-foot arms, lined up in the central portion of the parking lot (10 total lamps). The purpose of these lights is public safety. The purpose of the test is to determine the effectiveness of the lights and their potential for use at other District-owned facilities. Because the lights are solar-powered and include both the solar collectors and the electrical storage on the poles, there is no need for trenching or electrical hookups. Each light includes a 780-watt solar collector and two 24-vlt, 75 amp-hour lithium batteries, as well as controllers. The lights themselves are 60-watt, adjustable-angle, LED lamps with 100,000-hour minimum lifespans.

The lamps poles would be anchored to six-foot-deep, 24-inch diameter concrete bases.

The testing includes provisions to place the lights on timers, remove lights, and/or re-aim the lights if nearby residents are disturbed by the lighting.

The project would be constructed over a two-week period, in December 2019 or January 2020. No new or expanded uses of any school facilities are proposed as part of this project.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 1 Exemption

The CEQA Class 1 Exemption (Class 1-Existing Facilities [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301]) applies to operation and minor expansions of existing facilities. It includes "addition of

safety or health protection devices to existing facilities.” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(f)). The proposed project would consist of addition of safety lighting to an existing parking lot. Therefore, this exemption would apply.

Analysis of Possible Exceptions to Class 1 Exemption

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. No other such development is proposed at the school or in the neighborhood, so this exception would not apply
- **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 designation.

Additionally, a photometric study of the proposed lights has been conducted by the manufacturer. That study indicated that the lighting as viewed by all of the adjacent homes would be less than 0.2 foot-candles, with most homes subjected to under 0.5 foot-candles. At this level, although the light would be visible, it is not expected to cause significant disturbance inside the houses. Lighting disturbance to neighbors would be further minimized by the existing six-foot high wooden fence separating the school from the rear yards of the homes.

- **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 November 4, 2019, found no listed hazardous wastes sites on or near the school site. (http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?global_id=21880002) In addition, no past uses that caused contamination, or actual potential contamination, are known for the school (https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=41820005)
- **Historical Resources.** This exception would apply if the project were to potentially significantly adversely affect an historical resource. The proposed project includes no alterations to the existing school buildings, and therefore would not have the potential to adversely affect any historical resources.
- **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.

In addition to the above exceptions, which apply to both classes of exemptions, the Class 3 Exemption is also subject to an exception if it is located in a particularly sensitive environment. The parking lot on the school campus where the lights would be located is not a sensitive environment.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 1 Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

NOV 12 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE