

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Fax (916) 323-3018

From: Trinity Alps Unified School District
PO Box 1227, 321 Victory Lane
Weaverville, CA 96093

Project Title: Draft Title – Trinity High School Rear Campus Vehicle Access
(as part of Trinity High School Gym and Campus Mold Rehabilitation)

Project Location - Specific: The project site is accessed from Lewiston Road.
The approximate latitude and longitude are 40.73874 and -122.94707, respectively.

Project Location - City: Weaverville, CA

Project Location - County: Trinity County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
Please refer to the attached Exhibit "A"

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Trinity Alps Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Trinity Alps Unified School District

Exempt Status:

15269 (b) - Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare.

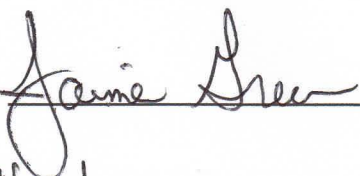
15304 (a) - Minor Alterations to Land

15314 - Minor Additions to Schools

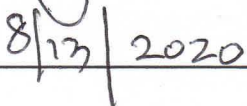
Reasons why project is exempt: Please refer to the attached Exhibit "A"

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jaime Green, TAUSD Superintendent
Jeff Morris, Trinity County Office of Education, Facilities Analyst

Area Code Telephone Extension: Mr. Green (530) 623 - 6104
Mr. Morris (530) 355 - 9880

Signature: 

Title: 

Date: 

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Aug 17 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

EXHIBIT "A"
TRINITY ALPS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL REAR CAMPUS VEHICLE ACCESS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Trinity High School (THS) currently has 350 students and 50 staff members on site on any given school day. Special events can add up to 2,000 people on campus using the facilities. The current rear access road was developed when the school was originally built in 1969.

In June 2019, Trinity Alps Unified School District first became aware of the likely presence of extensive toxic black mold at both its Weaverville Elementary School and Trinity High School campuses. The Board of Trustees immediately hired a licensed industrial hygienist who confirmed the presence of toxic air spores across both campuses. Following initial extensive deep cleaning and retesting, and a thorough detailed inspection of both campuses' facilities, a determination was made that large portions of both facilities were unsafe for students as well as staff. The facilities were ordered closed by the Trinity County Environmental Health Department. Subsequently, on July 2, 2019, County Superintendent of Schools Sarah Supahan declared an emergency. (A map of each campus and photographs showing the affected facilities are attached to this Request and incorporated by reference herein.)

Upon further inspection, and through the removal of surface facing of interior walls and underlayment layers of the roof, the extensive pervasiveness of mold incursion in both campuses was revealed.

Trinity High School was built 50 years ago and never modernized, and major building systems, including roofing, HVAC and plumbing have reached the end of their useful lives and need replacement. Affected areas at the high school included the Career Tech Education shops, locker rooms, gym, cafeteria, hallways, the offices and the majority of the classrooms.

As part of the reconstruction of the THS Gymnasium, the following are the major Project components as shown in **Figure 1**:

- **A replacement rear campus vehicle access pathway** will be implemented to replace the current pathway, which passes between student classrooms and is currently in conflict with regulations established by the California Department of Education.

LOCATION

The Project site is located at the Trinity High School campus at 321 Victory Way, Weaverville, CA 96093. The project site is accessed from Memorial Drive off of Highway 299 West / Main Street. The approximate latitude and longitude are 40.73874 and -122.94707, respectively.

REASONS FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION

CEQA allows certain government actions to proceed without further CEQA review if that type of action has been previously determined not to have a significant impact on the environment. Actions defined in a Categorical Exemption may be subject to further environmental review in the case of extraordinary circumstances under exemptions under CEQA. (14 CCR § 15061(b); 14 CCR § 15300.2.)

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300 identifies that Section 21084 of the State of California Public Resources Code requires that the CEQA Guidelines "include a list of classes of projects which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which shall, therefore, be exempt from the provisions of CEQA. "

In response to that mandate, the Secretary for Resources has found that various classes of projects "do not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore are declared to be categorically exempt from the requirement for the preparation of environmental documents."

Review of the 32 classes has led to a determination that the proposed Project would be categorically exempt under three classes – Emergency Repairs, Minor Alterations to Land, and Minor Additions to Schools. For each class, discussion of applicable "examples" cited in the CEQA Guidelines is provided explaining why the proposed project is Categorical Exempt under CEQA.

15269. Emergency Repairs

15269(b) states that an exemption may be granted due to *"Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare."*

The proposed project will remedy a situation that the Trinity County Department of Environmental Health has classified as essential to public health, safety and welfare.

15304. Minor Alterations to Land

15304 (a) states an exemption for *"Grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent, except that grading shall not be exempt in a waterway, in any wetland, in an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard such as an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or within an Official Seismic Hazard Zone, as delineated by the State Geologist."*

15314. Minor Additions to Schools

15134 states an exemption for *"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. This item is applicable to schools at which attendance satisfies the requirements of the compulsory education laws of the State of California."*