

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☐ County Clerk
County of San Bernardino
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415

From: Chaffey Joint Union High School District (Lead Agency)
211 West Fifth Street
Ontario, CA 91762

Project Title: School Modernization Project at Etiwanda High School

Project Location – Specific: 13500 Victoria Street

Project Location – City: Rancho Cucamonga

Project Location – County: San Bernardino

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Chaffey Joint Union High School District (District) is planning to modernize two existing buildings, Building J and the Multipurpose Room on the Etiwanda High School campus in Rancho Cucamonga, CA. Additional details are provided in the Attachment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Chaffey Joint Union High School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Chaffey Joint Union High School District

Exempt Status: (check one below)

- ☐ 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. Sections 15301 and 15303 of CEQA Guidelines, Class 1 and Class 3,
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

SEP 25 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment

Contact Person:

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

Robert Slagle, Director Operations Chaffey Joint Unified School District

(909) 988.8511

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption findings
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project

☐ Yes

☐ No

Date Received for Filing: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Director of Operations & Planning

Attachment to Notice of Exemption

School Modernization Project at Etiwanda High School

Chaffey Joint Union High School District

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The Chaffey Joint Union High School District (District) proposes to modernize two buildings at Etiwanda High School (HS). This supplemental information justifies the Categorical Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines under California Code of Regulations, Title 14 §§ 15314.

1. EXISTING SETTING

PROJECT LOCATION

The existing high school campus is approximately 47-acres and the proposed project involves the modernization of two existing buildings, Building J and the Multipurpose Room (MPR). Etiwanda High School is located at 13500 Victoria Street, Rancho Cucamonga, in San Bernardino County (APN 0227-071-10-0000). The City of Rancho Cucamonga is located north of the City of Ontario, west the City of Fontana and the City of Rialto, east of the City of Upland, and south of the San Gabriel Mountains (see Figure 1, *Regional Location*, and Figure 2, *Local Vicinity*).

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Etiwanda HS has a 2019/20 enrollment of 3,588 students in grades 9th through 12th (CDE 2020). The campus consists of a parking lot and access driveways via East Avenue to the west and Victoria Street to the south, hardcourts and playfields to the north, and the main campus in the middle, with portable classrooms buildings on the east. There is also a football stadium on the east side of campus, See Figure 3. The high school campus opened in 1983.

SURROUNDING LAND USES

The school is in a residential neighborhood and is bounded by East Street to the west, Victoria Street to the south, residential properties to the north, and a flood control basin to the east, as shown in Figure 3 *Aerial Photograph*. Residential homes, primarily single-family, are present across the bordering streets in all directions.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The District plans on the modernization of Building J and the Multipurpose Room (MPR) at Etiwanda High School. The two project areas are located adjacent to each other near the southern side of the campus as shown on Figure 3. Building J modernization includes improvements to classroom and science labs, replacement of windows, accessibility upgrade to restrooms, and new parking lot asphalt and striping to the adjacent parking lot. Upgrades to the MPR include a new interior layout for food service, kitchen, office, receiving, staff restroom, janitor room, fire riser room and creating space for food service equipment, freezer, cooler, dry storage, and the remodel of restrooms to be accessible.

Implementation of the proposed modernization would not lead to an increase or a decrease in the number of classrooms or student capacity. The design and construction of the building would comply with the California Building Standards Code (CBSC) California Code of Regulations, Title 24, for fire, life, safety, and access. The modernization plans will be reviewed and approved by a project inspector in compliance with the Division of the State Architect's (DSA).

3. REASONS WHY THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The proposed project is exempt from further environmental documentation under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.) categorical exemption Class 1:

Class 1, Existing Facilities (CEQA Guidelines § 15301) consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

The project involves modernization to two existing buildings on the campus, the MPR and Buildings J. There would be no total increase in classroom or student capacity. Therefore, the proposed project meets the criteria for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines § 15314.

The proposed project is exempt from further environmental documentation under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.) categorical exemption Class 3:

Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (CEQA Guidelines § 15303) consists of construction and location of limited numbers of 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.

The project involves rearranging the interior layout of the MPR building to create space for food service equipment, freezer, cooler, and dry storage. The plans also involve modernization the MPR building and Building J. The modernization plan outlines improvements to classroom and science labs, new windows, and accessibility upgrade to restrooms. There would be no total increase in classroom or student capacity. Therefore, the proposed project meets the criteria for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines § 15314.

4. REVIEW OF EXCEPTIONS TO THE CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

The proposed project has been reviewed under CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2, Exceptions, for any characteristics or circumstances that might invalidate findings that the project is exempt from CEQA. Each exception is listed below followed by an assessment of whether that exception applies to the proposed project.

- (a) **Location.** Classes 3,4,5,6 and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project would be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The exemption applied to the proposed project is Class 14 exemption; therefore, consideration of location under classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 does not apply.

- (b) **Cumulative Impacts.** All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

The proposed improvements are the only known and planned improvements at the school campus during the planned construction. There are no other known successive projects—planned, approved, or under

construction—of the same type at and/or near the project site that when combined with the proposed project would result in a cumulative environmental impact. Although the District plans to modernize 11-buildings at Rancho Cucamonga High School, within the District boundaries, Rancho Cucamonga is approximately 1.7-miles west from the project site in the City of Rancho Cucamonga. This exception does not apply to the proposed project.

- (c) **Significant Effects.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The determination whether this exception applies involves two distinct questions: (1) whether the project presents unusual circumstances, and (2) whether there is a reasonable possibility that a significant environmental impact will result from those unusual circumstances. The lead agency considers the second prong of this test only if it first finds that some circumstance of the project is unusual based on the court case *Berkeley Hillside Preservation v City of Berkeley* (2015) 60 C4th 1086, 1104.

There is no reasonable possibility that the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment as planned or under "unusual circumstances". The site is already developed with a school and is located in a built-out residential neighborhood in the City of Rancho Cucamonga; therefore, impacts to sensitive biological receptors, cultural resources, or scenic views would not occur. Similarly, because the project would not change the capacity of the school or alter transportation routes or drop-off zones, there would be no impacts on population, public services, recreation, utilities, and transportation systems. Due to the project scale, air, noise, and transportation impacts during the construction would be temporary and less than significant and would be governed by local ordinances for construction projects. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the proposed project.

- (d) **Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

The existing school site and surrounding environs are generally developed, and the campus does not contain any scenic resources, including historical buildings, rock outcroppings, or tress of biological or exceptional aesthetic significance. There are no state scenic highways in the vicinity of the project site. The nearest eligible state scenic highway is State Route 2 (Angeles Crest Scenic Highway) on the north side of the San Gabriel Mountains approximately 18-miles north of the site (Cal Trans 2011). Considering the distance, intervening development, and topography between the project site and this roadway, the project site would not be recognizable, and no impact is anticipated. This exception does not apply to the proposed project.

- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Hazardous materials sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 include all hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action pursuant to Section 25187.5 of the Health and Safety Code (HSC), all land designated as hazardous waste property or border zone property pursuant to former Article 11 (commencing with Section 25220) of Chapter 6.5 of Division 20 of the HSC, all information received by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) pursuant to Section 25242 of the HSC on hazardous waste disposals on public land, and all sites listed pursuant to Section 25356 of the HSC. Five environmental lists were searched for hazardous materials sites on the school campus and within a 500-foot radius:

- » GeoTracker. State Water Resources Control Board
- » EnviroStor. Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
- » EJScreen and EnviroMapper. US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- » Solid Waste Information System (SWIS). California Department of Resources Recovery and Recycling (Cal Recycle).

The project site is located on a school site that received a No Further Action (NFA) determination from the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) in 2004. As part of a Preliminary Environmental Assessment done for that project, it was determined that the project site was not listed on any of the dozens of federal, state, and local agency databases searched, including those identified under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code. Therefore, the proposed project would not create hazards related to the disturbance of, or exposure to, a hazardous waste site.

- (f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of historical resources. Under Public Resource Code § 21084.1, a historical resource is a resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. Additionally, historical resources included in a local register of historical resources are presumed to be historically or culturally significant, and a lead agency can determine whether the resource may be an historical resource.

The project site is located on an existing school site. Historically the site was developed with an orchard and then left as disturbed vacant land. No historical resources are located on the site. The project would involve the removal of portable classrooms and the installation of a classroom building. There are no historic resources reported on or adjacent to the project site based on a review of those listed on the California Register of Historic Resources (COHP 2018) and the National Register of Historic Places (NPS 2014). Project implementation would not cause significant impacts to historical resources, and the historical resources exception would not apply to this project site.

CONCLUSION

As substantiated in this document, the proposed project would not meet the conditions specified in Section 15300.2, Exceptions, of the CEQA Guidelines, and the project is categorically exempt under Class 1 and Class 3.

5. REFERENCES

California Department of Education (CDE). 2020, August 31 (accessed). DataQuest Home, Enrollment Report, 2019-2020 Enrollment by Grade, Etiwanda High Report.
<https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqcensus/enrgrdlevels.aspx?agglevel=School&year=2019-20&cds=36676523630373>

California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Cal Recycle). 2020 SWIS Facticity/Site Search, LEA Jurisdiction, San Bernardino County.
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/SearchList/List?COUNTY=San+Bernardino>.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2011, September 7. California Scenic Highway Mapping System.
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/.

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2020 EnviroStor. <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>.

National Park Service. 2020. National Register of Historic Places. <https://www.nps.gov/Nr/research/>,
<https://www.nps.gov/maps/full.html?mapId=7ad17cc9-b808-4ff8-a2f9-a99909164466>

Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). 2020. California Historical Resources, San Bernardino County.
<http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/ListedResources/?view=county&criteria=36>.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2020. GeoTracker. <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>.

US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 2020. EJSCREEN. <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>.

US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 2020. EnviroMapper for EnviroFacts. <https://www3.epa.gov/enviro/index.html>

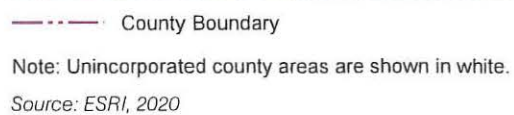


Figure 2 - Local Vicinity



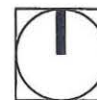
Source: ESRI, 2020

Figure 3 - Aerial Photograph



— School Boundary — Project Boundary
- - - - - City Boundary

0 450
Scale (Feet)



Source: ESRI, 2020

Harmon, Georgann

From: Denise Clendening <dclendening@placeworks.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Harmon, Georgann; Slagle, Robert; M Prokop
Subject: Etiwanda NOE
Attachments: County Form.doc; OPR Form.doc; NOE_Etiwanda HS_Attachment.pdf

Attached are the NOE forms for Etiwanda. One form labeled OPR Form goes to the Office of Planning and Research in Sacramento with the pdf called NOE Etiwanda HS_Attachment. The other form labeled County form goes to the County Clerk in San Bernardino with the same pdf NOE Attachment. The county has a fee of \$50.

Please send two signed copies of the NOE form to both the State Clearinghouse and to the County Clerk of the Board in San Bernardino. Please sign in blue ink on the form. One NOE attachment is needed per filing. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive a returned stamped copy.

I will be sending over the forms for Rancho Cucamonga High School today too.

DENISE CLENDENING, PhD
Associate Principal
Cell: 909.286.3097

<http://www.placeworks.com/>" style='position:absolute;margin-left:0;margin-top:127.85pt;width:108pt;height:21.55pt;z-index:251659264;visibility:visible;mso-wrap-style:square;mso-width-percent:0;mso-height-percent:0;mso-wrap-distance-left:0;mso-wrap-distance-top:0;mso-wrap-distance-right:9.35pt;mso-wrap-distance-bottom:0;mso-position-horizontal:left;mso-position-horizontal-relative:text;mso-position-vertical:absolute;mso-position-vertical-relative:text;mso-width-percent:0;mso-height-percent:0;mso-width-relative:page;mso-height-relative:page' o:button="t">

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