

## 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: San Diego

From: (Public Agency):

Sweetwater Union High School District

1130 Fifth Avenue

Chula Vista, California 91911

Project Title: San Ysidro High School Track and Field Rehabilitation

Project Applicant: Sweetwater Union High School District

Project Location – Specific: 5353 Airway Road, San Diego CA 92154

Project Location – City: San Diego

Project Location – County: San Diego

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

SUHSD is proposing to rehabilitate the existing track and field stadium facility at San Ysidro High School to improve the experience of student athletes, the student body, and visitor's to school sporting events. Project components would include the replacement of the existing infilled synthetic turf field and rubberized track surface with similar materials (an additional lane would be added to the track), replacement of existing stadium halogen light fixtures with light emitting diode (LED) fixtures, replacement of existing paving around the perimeter of the rubberized track with new paving, and replacement of the existing public address system (and additional of an emergency intercom). Compared to existing halogen fixtures, fewer LED fixtures would be needed to illuminate the playing surfaces and bleacher areas. New paving in the southwestern corner would extend to the area currently occupied by long and triple jump pits. Additional components include an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant path of travel with parallel handrailing alongside the existing Visitor's side bus turnaround/access road. The new path of travel would be illuminated by evening hours of stadium use by overhead lights and connect to an existing sloped accessible ramp that provides access to the field level from the top of bleacher area. Also, an additional paved sloped access ramp is proposed on the Visitor's side of the field and would connect to the nearby bus turnaround to the Visitor's bleachers. A new accessible walkway is also proposed to be constructed from the general campus parking lot located off Otay Mesa Road to the existing fire access lane to the north of the campus stadium. Lastly, minor updates to the existing press box and men's and women's restroom facilities are planned to ensure compliance with ADA requirements.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sweetwater Union High School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sweetwater 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:

Section 15301, Existing Facilities (Class 1)

Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land (Class 4)

Section 15311, Accessory Structures (Class 11)

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reasons why project is exempt:

Section 15301, Existing Facilities (Class 1): The existing track and field stadium at San Ysidro High School features a synthetic turf field, rubberized track, field lighting, PA system, pavement around the track perimeter, and restroom facilities. Because SUHSD is proposing to replace these features with the same or similar features and no (or negligible) expansion over existing use would occur, these components are exempt from CEQA under the Existing Facilities class of projects.

Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land (Class 4): The new paved pathways would be located within the existing right-of-way of the general campus parking lot and fire access road. The accessible pathways would be separated from the adjacent parking lot and the fire access road by a 6-inch high curb and would feature minimal slope (i.e., less than 5 percent). In

addition, no mature scenic trees would be removed to accommodate the pathways. Minor grading on previously disturbed land of less than 10 percent slope and lacking trees would be required to construct the new Visitor's side access ramp that would provide a second access path from the bus turnaround to the Visitor's bleachers. Both pathways are exempt from CEQA under the Minor Alterations to Land class of projects.

**Class 15311, Accessory Structures (Class 11):** In addition to the replacement of existing features at the SYHS track and field stadium, the proposed project would involve the installation of ADA-compliant features in restrooms and accessible pathways. These are considered small accessory structures.

Please also see Attachment A to this form that further details the existing environmental setting, proposed project components, and construction activities.

Exceptions to the exemptions do not apply:

**Location:** The proposed project is not located in a sensitive location. Rather, the project site is located at an existing high school. The project site is not located on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern. Furthermore, this locational circumstance does not apply to Class 1 exemptions, which is the primary exemption that applies to the project. For these reasons, this exception has no application here.

**Cumulative Impact.** The proposed project would not result in a significant impact. The proposed project entails rehabilitation/renovation of existing features and facilities and would include new pathways. The western walkway is located on previously disturbed land that does not support environmental resources. Compliance with applicable land use and environmental regulations, would ensure that environmental effects associated with the proposed project do not combine with effects from reasonably foreseeable future development in the City to cause cumulatively considerable significant impacts.

**Significant Effect.** The proposed project would not result in a significant impact. Further, the project site is not located in an environmentally sensitive location and the nature of the project would not create any unusual circumstances by which the project would result in a significant impact. For example, existing stadium light poles do not support avian nests and replacement of existing halogen lights with LED fixtures would not impact nesting birds. Therefore, this exception has no application here.

**Scenic Highway.** The project site is not located within the vicinity of a state scenic highway. The San Ysidro High School campus is approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the nearest State Scenic Highway (I-5 is an eligible state scenic highway from the international border north to approximately SR-75) and thus, would not have a significant adverse impact on scenic resources within a State Scenic Highway. Further, the site is located within an existing developed school campus would not include the installation of new visually prominent features. As such, the proposed project would not affect scenic resources, such as state scenic highways, in the area. Therefore, this exception has no application here.

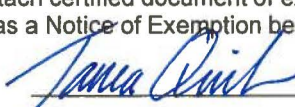
**Hazardous Waste Site.** The project site does not contain a hazardous waste site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, this exception has no application here. See Attachment A for additional detail and support.

**Historical Resources.** The proposed project site is located on a developed portion of the existing SYHS campus. The proposed project would not involve the demolition of any structures or other campus facilities that could potentially be considered historical resources. The proposed project site has been substantially disturbed by previous grading activities associated with the existing high school facilities on site. Therefore, it is unlikely that any historical resources would be found or disturbed during proposed project construction. Therefore, a substantial adverse change in the significance of historical resources is not anticipated and this exception has no application here.

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: Janea Quirk Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 619.585.4439

**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:  Date: 12.16.2020 Title: DIRECTOR, PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION  
☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.