

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: Santa Clara

70 West Hedding Street

San Jose, CA 95110

From: (Public Agency): Union School District

5175 Union Avenue

San Jose, CA 95124

(Address)

Project Title: Dartmouth Middle School Room 617 HVAC Upgrade Project

Project Applicant: Union School District

Project Location - Specific:

5575 Dartmouth Drive, San Jose, CA. 95118

Project Location - City: San Jose

Project Location - County: Santa Clara

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would install a new roof-mounted HVAC unit and ducting in Building 2, the school's multi-purpose building, to serve Activity Room 617. Soffit and lighting replacement also would be installed in the Activity Room.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Union School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Ms. Rita Sohal, Assistant Superintendent of Bus. Svcs.

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: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Replacement of existing HVAC system at existing buildings are proposed (Section 15301). No expansion of school facilities or use are proposed. See attached Discussion.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Ms. Rita Sohal, Asst Supt

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 408-377-8010

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: 2/9/21 Title: Assistant Superintendent

☒ 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: _____

DARTMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL ROOM 617 HVAC UPGRADE PROJECT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Conditions

Dartmouth Middle School, located at 5575 Dartmouth Drive in San Jose, is owned and operated by the Union School District. The school is in a single-family residential neighborhood, with houses adjacent to the school on the west and north (along Dwight Avenue and Princeton Drive, respectively), and across the street from the school on the east (across Dartmouth Drive) and south (across Blossom Hill Road). The multi-purpose building is on the southern side of the school campus, facing the school parking lot and Blossom Hill Road.

Proposed Project

The project would install a new roof-mounted HVAC unit and ducting in Building 2, the school's multi-purpose building, to serve Activity Room 617. Soffit and lighting replacement also would be installed in the Activity Room.

Accessible path of travel upgrades from the school's parking lot, adjacent to the multi-purpose building, also would be implemented, including restriping and access ramps.

The project would be constructed in the summer of 2021, with a 2.5-month construction period.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 1 Exemption

The CEQA Class 1 Exemption applies to minor alteration of existing facilities, including mechanical equipment and electrical conveyances, where there would be negligible or no expansion of capacity (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15301). Installation of additional safety or health protection devices in conjunction with existing structures is also covered under this exemption (Section 15301 (f)).

The project would install a new HVAC system to serve one existing classroom, and would not expand the building area or number of classrooms. It also would include accessibility improvements to the parking area, which would increase safety. Therefore, this exemption would apply.

Analysis of Exceptions to Categorical Exemptions

Per CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2, exceptions to the Section 15301 categorical exemption can apply where the following occur:

- Cumulative impact of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.
- Significant effect due to unusual circumstances.
- Damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a state scenic highway.
- Hazardous Waste Sites included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
- A substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

As summarized below, none of these exceptions appear to apply to this project and this exemption would apply:

- The school project area is a developed residential neighborhood, and, based on a review of the project plans, because of the very small size of the project work, it would not have any potential to contribute to any other impacts of potential cumulative development in a in a cumulatively considerable manner. No overlapping projects have been identified at or near the School.
- There do not appear to be any unusual circumstances that could result in significant environmental impacts at either of the sites.
- The existing multi-purpose building is not a scenic resource, nor are there any such resources on the school campus. In addition, the proposed exterior improvements would consist of a single roof-mounted HVAC unit and restriping and installation of accessibility ramps and signage in the school's parking lot, adjacent to the multi-purpose building. These improvements would not be noticeable to off-campus viewers. Therefore, this impact would not be potentially significant.
- Neither site is on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed November 19, 2020):
https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?global_id=&x=-119&y=37&z=18&ms=640,480&mt=m&findaddress=True&city=2421%20Carleton%20Avenue,%20San%20Jose,%20CA%2095124&zip=&county=&federal_superfund=true&state_response=true&voluntary_cleanup=true&school_cleanup=true&ca_site=true&tiered_permit=true&evaluation=true&military_evaluation=true&school_investigation=true&operating=true&post_closure=true&non_operating=true
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures at either school. The project would entail only minor exterior work to place lighting on the exterior of school buildings. There are no historic resources at either school. Therefore, no historic resources would be affected.