

## Notice of Exemption

To: ☐ Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95814-3044

From: (Public Agency): Temecula Valley Unified School District

31350 Rancho Vista Road

Temecula, CA 92592

☐ County Clerk

County of: Riverside

2724 Gateway Drive

Riverside, CA 92507

Temecula Valley High School Practice Field Lighting Project

**Project Title**

Temecula Valley Unified School District

**Project Applicant**

31555 Rancho Vista Road (APN 955-020-001)

**Project Location – Specific**

Temecula

**Project Location – City**

Riverside

**Project Location – County**

Temecula Valley Unified School District (District) proposes to add nighttime sports lighting to the existing multiuse practice field at Temecula Valley High School. Field lighting would consist of five galvanized steel poles (three 90 feet tall, one 80 feet, and one 70 feet) with LED luminaires mounted at 70 to 90 feet. Each light pole would have 4 to 6 luminaires per pole for a total of 25 luminaires, including a back-to-back mounting configuration for one 90-foot pole and one 70-foot pole. Average light levels for the multiuse practice field would be approximately 30.1 foot-candles (fc) for the soccer field and 15.4 fc for the surrounding grass area outside of the soccer field. No additional sports program would be added that could increase participants or spectators. As with the existing conditions, the newly lit practice field would be available for use by community groups after school hours, when the facilities are not in use by students, and during weekends, as provided by the District's use policy under the Civic Center Act. The proposed project would require limited demolition of hardscape and softscape to install lighting poles as well as trenching and backfilling for electrical utility improvements. The proposed project would disturb approximately 6,000 square feet of surface area of the approximately 65 acres of high school campus. No structural demolition would be required, and no PA system would be installed. The District is tentatively scheduled to start construction in November 2022, and the construction would take approximately six weeks.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project**

Temecula Valley Unified School District

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project**

Janet Dixon, Director, Facilities Development

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project**

**Categorical Exemption**

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: 14 CCR §15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities; §15303 Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; §15304 Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land; and §15311 Class 11, Accessory Structures.

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

The proposed project is exempt from further environmental documentation under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.), categorical exemptions Class 1, Class 3, Class 4, and Class 11.

**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 existing or former use.

The multiuse practice field already exists on the Temecula Valley High School campus. The proposed project would install five light poles on the practice field to allow for evening use of the field. The proposed project is not intended to expand the use of the existing school facility but is prompted by SB 328, which requires high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 am. Thus after-school sports activities start later, affecting how long such activities can last unless the practice field is lighted for evening use. The addition of five light poles on the existing school facility would involve negligible expansion of existing uses, and the proposed project meets the criteria for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

**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.... Examples of this exemption include ... (d) Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

The proposed project involves the installation of five light poles with a total of 25 LED luminaires, which requires the extension of electrical utilities to power the light poles. The light poles would have a total electrical load of 30.02 kilowatts. The electrical utility system meets the criteria for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines § 15303.

**Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land** (CEQA Guidelines § 15304), consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

The proposed project would disturb approximately 6,000 square feet of surface area on the 65-acre campus, removing approximately 800 square feet of concrete and 4,000 square feet of grass, fine grading 4,500 square feet, and excavating and exporting 183 cubic yards of soils for placement of the light poles and for trenching and backfilling for electrical utility improvements. These improvements would be minor alterations to the existing multiuse practice field and would not involve removal of healthy, mature, and/or scenic trees. Therefore, the proposed disturbance of soils for trenching and backfilling surfaces would meet the criteria for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines § 15304.

**Class 11, Accessory Structures** (CEQA Guidelines § 15311), consists of construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities.

The light poles are accessory structures to the existing multiuse practice field at the Temecula Valley High School. These accessory structures would not change the nature of the use but would extend use of the field into evening hours, which became necessary because of SB 328. SB 328 does not allow high schools to start before 8:30 am, and after-school sports activities will need to start later and end later. These after-school sports activities cannot continue unless the practice field is lighted for evening use. The proposed light poles are accessory structures to the existing field and meet the criteria for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines § 15311.

A review of the possible exceptions to the exemption, as outlined under CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2, determined that no characteristics or circumstances would invalidate findings that the project is exempt from CEQA (see "Supplement to Notice of Exemption").

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**Reasons why project is exempt**

Janet Dixon, Director, Facilities Development

(951) 506-7914

**Lead Agency Contact Person**

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension**

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

**Signature:**



**Date:**

10/26/22

**Title:**

Director, Facilities Development



Signed by Lead Agency



Signed by Applicant

**Date Received for Filing at OPR:**