

## 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

☐ County Clerk

Temecula, CA 92592

County of: Riverside

2724 Gateway Drive

Riverside, CA 92507

Chaparral High School Practice Field Lighting Project  
**Project Title**

Temecula Valley Unified School District  
**Project Applicant**

27215 Nicolas Road (APN 920-090-005)  
**Project Location – Specific**

Temecula

Riverside

**Project Location – City**

**Project Location – County**

Temecula Valley Unified School District (District) proposes to add nighttime sports lighting to the existing multiuse practice field at Chaparral High School. Field lighting would consist of four 80 feet tall galvanized steel poles with LED luminaires mounted at 80 feet. Four light poles would each have five luminaires for a total of 20 luminaires. Average light levels for the multi-use field would be approximately 30.2 foot-candles (fc) for the lined soccer field and 3.05 fc for the surrounding grass area outside of the soccer field. The proposed project would extend the field use hours into the evening hours, but no additional sports program would be added that could increase participants or spectators. As with the existing conditions, the newly lit multi-use 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 is prompted by the passage of Senate Bill 328, which requires high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 am. The proposed project would require limited demolition of hardscape and softscape to install lighting poles and trenching and backfilling for electrical utility improvements. The proposed project could disturb up to 6,000 square feet of surface area of the approximately 51 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 January 2023, 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):** The multiuse field already exists on the Chaparral High School campus. The proposed project would install four light poles on the multiuse field to light the soccer 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 four light poles on the existing athletic would involve negligible expansion of existing uses into the evening hours, 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):** The proposed project involves the installation of four light poles with a total of 20 LED luminaires, which requires the extension of electrical utilities to power the light poles. The light poles would have a total electrical load of 28.60 kilowatts. The electrical utility system meets the criteria for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines § 15303.

**Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (CEQA Guidelines § 15304):** The proposed project could disturb up to 6,000 square feet of surface area on the 51-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 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):** The light poles are accessory structures to the existing multiuse field at the Chaparral 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. The after-school sports activities currently occurring at Chaparral High School 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"). The Supplement to Notice of Exemption is available for review at Temecula Valley Unified District's Facilities Development office at 31350 Rancho Vista Road, Temecula, CA 92592.

**Reasons why project is exempt**

Janet Dixon, Director, Facilities Development  
Lead Agency Contact Person

(951) 506-7914  
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:

  
☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date:

11/18/22

Title:

Director, Facilities Development

☐

Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing at OPR: