

2019048201

## 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 Classroom Wing 4 Modernization 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 proposed modernization consists of remodeling four existing classrooms for general-purpose use while converting a sports equipment area to a smaller classroom with two offices. No expansion of the building would occur. Minor handicapped access improvements would occur in the school parking area.

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: Classes 2 and 14 (Secs. 15102, 15314)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

Repairs and reconstruction of existing building are proposed (Section 15302). No expansion of school facilities (no net classroom increase) (within Class 14 expansion limits). See attached Discussion.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Ms. Rita Sohal, Asst Sup of Bus 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: RK Sohal Date: 3/28/19 Title: Assistant Superintendent

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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: \_\_\_\_\_

APR 09 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

2019048201

DARTMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM WING 4 MODERNIZATION 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 east and south, and across the street from the school on the west and north. The site proposed for the entry improvement project is the southernmost of four existing classroom wings in the interior of the school campus. The building is separated from the nearest homes by the football field and track, to the east, baseball fields and playfields to the south, and school buildings to the north and west.

Proposed Project

Classroom Wing 4 is roughly a 6,590 square-foot (sf) building consisting of four over-sized classrooms with storage rooms, a sports storage room and office. The proposed modernization consists of remodeling the four classrooms for general-purpose use while converting the sports equipment area to a smaller classroom with two offices. Exterior doors on the courtyard side of the building would be removed and the wall openings would be increased to accommodate new metal door frames with side lights. Interior work would consist of limited framing, new insulation, drywall and finishes. New casework would be installed, the existing acoustic ceiling tiles would be replaced with new lighting, electrical, fire alarm, data, HVAC and mechanical systems. A new roof would also be installed with added skylights to increase natural lighting in the classrooms.

Existing hardscape on the northwest side of the building would be removed, and new paving would be installed. Minor loading area improvements (new striping and storm drain inlet) also will be made at the school parking area.

The purpose of the project would be to update and improve the school classrooms in this wing, and better provide for handicapped access in the parking area.

The project would be constructed from June 2019 to August 2019.

No other construction on the school grounds is proposed as part of this project.

**Categorical Exemption Analysis**

Class 2 Exemption

The CEQA Class 2 Exemption applies to replacement and reconstruction of existing facilities or structures, where the new structure will be on the same site and serve the same purpose as the existing structure, with negligible or no expansion of capacity (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15302).

The project would renovate an existing school classroom building, and would not expand the building area or number of classrooms. The remaining project work would be comprised of modification of the existing building and landscaped/paved areas and would not add to the school's overall square footage or change any building size or use.

#### Class 14 Exemption

The CEQA Class 14 Exemption (Minor additions to schools (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15314)) applies to minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than twenty-five (25) percent or ten (10) classrooms, whichever is less.

The project would be a remodeling one classroom building at the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

#### Analysis of Exceptions to Categorical Exemptions

Per CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2, exceptions to Section 15302 and 15314 categorical exemptions 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 therefore this exemption would apply:

- The project area is a developed residential neighborhood, and, based on a review of the San Jose Planning Division's Development Monitoring GIS database and the Town of Los Gatos Pending Planning Projects Map (January 24, 2019), no development has been identified that would have impacts to which the project's impacts would contribute to in a cumulatively considerable manner.
- There do not appear to be any unusual circumstances that could result in significant environmental impacts at the site.
- The existing building is not a scenic resource, nor are there any such resources on the school campus. In addition, it is located in the interior of the school campus, distant from any public or neighbors' views. The site also is not within

2019048201

the viewshed of a State Scenic Highway.

- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed January 24, 2019):  
[https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?global\\_id=&x=-119&y=37&zl=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](https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?global_id=&x=-119&y=37&zl=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. The project would entail only minor exterior work on renovation of a wing of an existing school. There are no historic resources at the school. Therefore, no historic resources would be affected.