Print Form

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: Sonoma
585 Fiscal Drive, #103F
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

From: (Public Agency): Santa Rosa City Schools
211 Ridgeway Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(Address)

Project Title: Albert Biella Elementary School Modernization Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:
2140 Jennings Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Project Location - City: Santa Rosa Project Location - County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would entail site improvements and new play yards, reconfiguration and modernization of Building C kindergarten classrooms, reconfiguration and modernization of Building E classroom pod, and reconfiguration and modernization of two Building F portables at the existing school. No new

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Rosa City Schools

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Rosa City Schools

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, 15301
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed improvements would be minor improvements to existing school facilities and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms, consistent withg the Class 1 exemption. The project is not located in a sensitive area. None of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply (See attached Discussion).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Mr. Erik Oden Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 967-2701

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: Erik Oden Digitally signed by Erik Oden DN: C=US, E=eoden@srcs.k12.ca.us, O=Santa Rosa City Schools, CN=Erik Oden Date: 2025.08.11 14:21:59-07'00' Date: 8/11/25 Title: Director, Maintenance and

☒ 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: _____

ALBERT BIELLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MODERNIZATION PROJECT
CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Albert F. Biella Elementary School, located at 2140 Jennings Ave., Santa Rosa, is part of Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 290 students.

The school is in the northwestern area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by single-family residences. The primary access to the school is off of Jennings Avenue.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of site improvements and new play yards, reconfiguration and interior modernization of Building C kindergarten classrooms, interior reconfiguration and modernization of Building E classroom pod, and interior reconfiguration and modernization of two Building F portables at the existing school. Bathrooms in those buildings also would be remodeled. Three new play areas would be developed in the existing school courtyard, including a kindergarten-specific playground. Exterior doors also would be replaced. The parking area would be reconfigured to have 46 standard stalls and 2 accessible stalls, and landscaped with trees and shrubs. New ADA-accessible ramps and drop-off facilities would be added to the parking area and school grounds. New fencing would be added. Eight landscape trees would be removed as part of the project.

The project would be constructed over a 8-month period from January 2026 – August 2026.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 1 Exemption

The CEQA Class 1 Exemption (Class 1-Existing Facilities [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301]) applies to operation and minor expansions of existing facilities. It includes upgrades of existing building interiors and exteriors, demolition and removal of small structures, addition of safety or health protection devices, restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated structures, and additions to existing structures that will not result in an increase of more than 50% of the floor area before the addition, or 2500 sq. ft., whichever is less.

The proposed project would consist of interior, landscaping, and parking lot modifications, and construction of new play areas and ADA access improvements in an existing school campus. No additional building footage would be constructed. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the project.

Exceptions to the Exemption

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

- Cumulative impact of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.
- 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.
- Significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

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

- The project is not located in a sensitive area.
- The project area is in a developed school campus, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing school campus, and exterior work would be limited new play areas, landscaping, parking lot, and access improvements, which would have minimal visual impacts. Trees proposed for removal will be replaced with new trees in the project landscape plan. Therefore no significant impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed August 6, 2025) [1]
- The proposed project would include interior modifications of modern structures, and would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. Therefore no historic resources would be affected.
- There do not appear to be any unusual circumstances that could result in significant environmental impacts at the site.

[1] https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=albert+biella+elmentary+school

Conclusions

The project is within the parameters of the Class 1 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply. Therefore, these exemptions would apply to the proposed project.