

# 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: Santa Rosa High School Parking Lot Improvement Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City High School District

Project Location - Specific:

1235 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa CA

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would entail repaving of the existing parking lot, installing 12-foot light poles around the lot, adding flashing at adjacent buildings, and renovating a restroom in the Media Center building. The current lot, accesses off of Mendocino Avenue, has 14 spaces including one accessible space. The

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Rosa City High School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Rosa City High School District

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:

The parking lot improvements "repair and maintenance" as described in Section 15301(d). The slight expansion of the lot would fall under the Class 1 parameters of minor additions to existing facilities. None of the exceptions to the exemption 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 Digally signed by Erik Oden  
DN: C=US, E=eoden@sarcs.k12.ca.us, O=Santa  
Rosa City Schools, CN=Erik Oden  
Date: 2025.08.19 17:01:44-0700 Date: 8/19/25 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# **SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION**

## **Project Description**

### Existing Facilities

Santa Rosa High School, located at 1235 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by the Santa Rosa City High School District, which is part of Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 2,000 students.

The school is in the central area of Santa Rosa, with single-family residential uses to the south and east, the Santa Rosa Junior College campus to the north, and other institutional facilities (National Guard and Ridgeway High School) to the west. Highway 101 lies just west of these institutional uses. The primary access to the school is off of Mendocino Avenue, to the east.

The parking lot proposed for renovations is at the southeast corner of the school, near the intersection of Mendocino Avenue and Ridgeway Avenue.

### Proposed Project

The current lot, accesses off of Mendocino Avenue, has 14 spaces including one accessible space. The renovated lot would have 15 regular spaces, three future EV charging spaces, and two accessible van spaces. The parking lot driveway would be improved to extend to the large parking lot off of Ridgeway Avenue

The project would also entail repaving of the existing parking lot, installing 12-foot light poles around the lot, adding flashing at adjacent buildings, and renovating a restroom in the Media Center building. Two mature oak trees (one valley oak and one coast live oak) would be removed; replacement oak trees would be planted as part of the project. Tree removal would occur after the end of the nesting season (September 1) to avoid impacting nesting birds. A tree protection plan would be implemented as recommended by the District's consulting arborist for the remaining 6 mature oak trees in the project vicinity.

The project would be constructed from starting September 25, 2025 and be completed by March 30, 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 repairs and maintenance of existing buildings, demolition and removal of small structures, addition of safety or health protection devices, restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated structures, and small additions to existing structures.

As described above, the proposed project would consist of renovating and slightly expanding the existing parking lot and extending a driveway to connect to the nearby larger parking lot. This would qualify as repairs/rehabilitation and small additions to the lot. No expansions of classroom space, other interior spaces, or overall school capacity are proposed. Therefore, this exemption would apply.

*Analysis of Possible Exceptions to Class 1 Exemption*

The exemptions are subject to the following exceptions:

- **Cumulative Impact.** This exception would apply if the project were to contribute to significant impacts to a resource in combination with other proposed new development nearby. The proposed project improvements are small in scale, and are limited to improving and slightly expanding an existing parking lot on the existing school campus. No other substantial projects are proposed at the school that would overlap this project. The project neighborhood is fully developed with residential and institutional uses. No other substantive development is proposed at the school or in the neighborhood that could contribute to cumulative impacts, so this exception would not apply
- **Scenic Highways.** This exception would apply if the project were to result in damage to scenic resources within a scenic highway corridor. Highway 101 in the project area has not been designated as a scenic highway by the California Department of Transportation. In addition, the project would not substantially change the appearance of the school (the primary visual change would be from the removal of the three trees) and would not be visible from the highway. Therefore, it would not affect any scenic resources.
- **Hazardous Waste Sites.** This exception would apply if the project were to be located on a hazardous waste site listed pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5. A search of the State Envirostor database found no listed hazardous wastes sites on or near the school site<sup>1</sup>.
- **Historical Resources.** This exception would apply if the project were to potentially significantly adversely affect an historical resource. The main building at Santa Rosa High School was constructed in 1924 and may be considered historic. The proposed project includes no alterations to the existing school buildings beyond flashing at the base of two buildings and an interior bathroom remodel. Therefore, the project would not have the potential to adversely affect any historical resources.
- **Significant Effect.** The exception would apply if the project would have the potential for a significant effect to the environment due to unusual circumstances. Unusual circumstances may include historic structures, hazardous materials contamination, protected species or habitats, and other similar

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=santa+rosa+high+school> accessed August 13, 2025

conditions. There are no unusual circumstances on the site and there is no potential for significant effect, therefore this exception would not apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 1 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project.