

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: Abraham Lincoln Elementary School Photovoltaic Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

850 West Ninth Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct two solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot and overhanging the adjacent play field on the eastern side of the school buildings at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint.

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 3, 15303(c) and (e); Class 14, Section 15061(b)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. The project is not located in a sensitive area. None of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b).

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT
CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION**

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, located at 850 West Ninth Street., Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 270 students.

The school is in the east-central area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by single- family residential development. The primary access to the school is off of West Ninth Street.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing two solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot and also overhanging the adjacent play field on the eastern side of the school buildings.

The project includes construction of solar panels (modules) atop metal frames. One of the canopies would hold 148 modules and would measure about 24 x 140 feet, and the other would have 68 modules and measure about 24 x 65 feet, for a total canopy area of about 4,920 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period from January 2024 to April 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)). The project's proposed 4,920 sq. ft. of canopies would conform to this exemption.

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

Exceptions to the Exemptions

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

- The location is environmentally sensitive (Class 3 only)
- 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 proposed on an existing school playfield and parking lot, which are not environmentally sensitive locations.
- The project area is a small project in a developed school campus, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be in the middle of the existing school campus and views of the structure from nearby houses on Simpson Street would be buffered completely by the intervening school buildings. Houses on West 9th Street face away from the school and their views would therefore not be affected by the project. The shade structures would be lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 22, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. Therefore no historic resources would be affected.

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Abraham+Lincoln+School+santa+rosa>

- There do not appear to be any unusual circumstances that could result in significant environmental impacts at the site.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

Notice of Exemption

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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: Elsie Allen High School Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City High School District

Project Location - Specific:

599 Bellevue Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95407

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


Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct four solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot of Elsie Allen High School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 14, Section 15314
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3); PRC 21080 

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 14 Categorical Exemption as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b). There would be no native trees over 25 years old removed, consistent with the exemption parameters established under Public Resources Code Section 21080.35.

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

**ELSIE ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT
CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION**

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Elsie Allen High School, located at 599 Bellevue Ave., Santa Rosa, is part of the Santa Rosa High School District, which is part of Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 1030 students.

The school is in the southern area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered single family residential development and undeveloped open space. The primary access to the school is off of Burgess Drive.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing four solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot at the school, accessed by Flapjack Way. The parking lot is located mid-campus, between high school buildings and the baseball and football fields.

The project includes construction of four metal frames with supports. Two of the canopies would hold 162 modules and would measure about 35 x 95 feet, and the other two would have 108 modules and measure about 35 x 65 feet, for a total canopy area of about 13,000 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period in the Fall of 2023.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

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 this exemption would apply:

- The project area is a small project in a developed school campus, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing paved parking lot on the existing school campus and views of the structure from nearby houses would be buffered completely by the distance from the residences to the proposed structure as well as by intervening buildings and trees. The shade structures would be lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Parking Lot Solar Exemption

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the installation of a solar energy system on the roof of an existing building or at an existing parking lot is statutorily exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.35. This exemption applies in cases where a solar energy project is proposed to be installed on the roof of either an existing building or at an existing parking lot which has been designated and used for parking vehicles for at least the previous two years and does not involve removal of a native tree over 25 years old, and associated equipment meets certain size, location and other conditions. Therefore this exemption would apply.

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=elise+allen+high+school>

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption and CEQA's statutory exemption for solar arrays over parking lots.

Notice of Exemption

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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 Ridgway Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

(Address)

Project Title: Brookhill Elementary School Roof Replacement Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

1850 Vallejo Street, Santa Rosa CA

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would consist of replacement of roof, and associated rooftop equipment (i.e. HVAC Units), on seven existing buildings at the Brookhill Elementary School. Beneficiaries would be students and staff at the school.

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; Section 15301
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed roof replacement would qualify for the exemption as "repair and maintenance" as described in Section 15301(d). None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under Guidelines Section 15061(b).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Lisa Cavin Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 890-3800

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: _____ Date: _____ Title: Associate Superintendent

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: _____

BROOK HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROOF AND HVAC REPLACEMENT PROJECT

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Brookhill Elementary School, located at 1850 Vallejo Street, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 400 students.

The school is in the western area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by single-family residential uses. State Route 12 lies just south of the school. The primary access to the school is off of Vallejo Street.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of removing and replacing the roofs and associated facilities, as well as HVAC replacements on 4 buildings at the school (Buildings A-D), as well as the covered walkways connecting the buildings.

The replacement will include placement of a new waterproof membrane and new asphalt shingles. The total area of roof to be replaced is approximately 30,050 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 9-week period in the Summer of 2023.

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 replacement of existing school building roofs, rooftop HVAC systems, and associated repairs on the school buildings. 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 replacement of existing roofing and HVAC equipment. The project neighborhood is fully developed with residential and associated 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 12 in the project area has been designated as a scenic highway by the California Department of Transportation. However, the proposed roof replacement would be similar in appearance to the existing roof and 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 site¹.
- **Historical Resources.** This exception would apply if the project were to potentially significantly adversely affect an historical resource. The proposed project includes no alterations to the existing school buildings beyond replacing the roofing materials and rooftop HVAC equipment. 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 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.

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=sebastopol+road+santa+rosa> accessed February 24, 2023

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: Brook Hill Elementary School Photovoltaic Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

1850 Vallejo Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct a solar canopy over an open space near the center of the Brook Hill Elementary School campus. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint.

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 3, 15303(c) and (e); Class 14, Section 15061(b)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed solar canopy would qualify for the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. The project is not located in a sensitive area. None of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b).

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

BROOK HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Brook Hill Elementary School, located at 1850 Vallejo Street, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 400 students.

The school is in the western area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by single-family residential uses. State Route 12 lies just south of the school. The primary access to the school is off of Vallejo Street.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing a solar canopy over an existing weedy open space area near the center of the school campus. The canopy would measure about 35 x 95 feet, for a total of 3325 sq. ft. The array would contain 162 solar panels and a single inverter.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period in the Spring of 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)).

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

Exceptions to the Exemptions

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

- The project is located in an environmentally sensitive area (Class 3 only).
- 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 a developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing unpaved area, near the center of the existing school campus and views of the structure from nearby houses would be buffered completely by the substantial distance from the residences to the proposed structure as well as by intervening buildings and trees. The shade structure would be relatively small, and would be lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Common Sense Exemption

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Brook+Hill+Elementary+School+Santa+Rosa>

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply. Therefore, this exemptions would apply to the proposed project. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

Notice of Exemption

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To: Office of Planning and Research
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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: Biella Elementary School Photovoltaic 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 construct two solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot of Biella Elementary School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 3, 15303(c) and (e); Class 14, Section 15061(b)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. The project is not located in a sensitive area. None of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b).

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

BIELLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC 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 single family residential development. The primary access to the school is off of Jennings Avenue.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing two solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot at the school, off of Jennings Ave.

The project includes construction of four metal frames with supports. One of the canopies would hold 162 modules and would measure about 35 x 95 feet, and the other would have 68 modules and measure about 24 x 60 feet, for a total canopy area of about 5,000 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 12-week period in the Summer of 2023.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)).

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

Exceptions to the Exemptions

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

- The project is located in a environmentally sensitive area (Class 3 only).
- 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 a small project in a developed school campus, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing paved parking lot on the existing school campus and views of the structure from nearby houses would be buffered completely by the distance from the residences to the proposed structure as well as by intervening buildings and trees. The shade structures would be lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Common Sense Exemption

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

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply. Therefore, these exemptions would apply to the proposed project. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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: Maria Carrillo High School Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City High School District

Project Location - Specific:

6975 Montecito Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct six solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot of Maria Carrillo High School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 14, Section 15314
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 14 Categorical Exemption as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b).

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

MARIA CARRILLO HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Maria Carrillo High School, located at 6975 Montecito Blvd, 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 1500 students.

The school is in the northwest area of Santa Rosa, and is surrounded by single-family residences on the north, east, and south (mobile home park across Montecito Blvd.). Rincon Valley Community Park lies just west of the school. The primary access to the school is off of Montecito Blvd. to the south, with minor access from Calistoga Road, to the east.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of six solar canopies over areas of the existing school parking lot adjacent to Montecito Blvd. Each of these would be 35 x 95-feet, with 162 modules/canopy. A total of 972 solar panels (modules) would be installed. The total area of the proposed canopies is approximately 20,000 sq. ft. Several mature trees in the parking lot may need to be removed for project installation

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period in the Summer of 2023.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

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 minor addition to the overall existing school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms or paved areas

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 this exemption would apply:

- The project area is a mostly developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing paved parking area, and views of the structure from residences across Montecito Blvd. would be buffered by the distance from the residences to the proposed structure as well as trees along the roadway and along the edge of the school property. Residences across Calistoga Road from the school would not have views of the site because of intervening school buildings. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply

Conclusions

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Maria+Carrillo+High+School>

CEQA Exemption Discussion

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply.. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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 Ridgway Avenue

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

(Address)

Project Title: Cesar Chavez Language Academy Roof Replacement Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

2480 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa

Project Location - City: Santa Rosa

Project Location - County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would consist of replacement of roof, and associated rooftop equipment (i.e. HVAC Units), on seven existing buildings at the Cesar Chavez Language Academy. Beneficiaries would be students and staff at the school.

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; Section 15301

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed roof replacement would qualify for the exemption as "repair and maintenance" as described in Section 15301(d). None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under Guidelines Section 15061(b).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Lisa Cavin

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 890-3800

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: _____ Date: _____ Title: Associate Superintendent

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: _____

CESAR CHAVEZ LANGUAGE ACADEMY ROOF AND HVAC REPLACEMENT PROJECT

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Cesar Chavez Language Academy, located in the former Lawrence Cook Middle School at 2480 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 950 students.

The school is in the eastern area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by the Cook School Park on the south and west, single-family residential uses to the east, and multiple-family residential buildings across Sebastopol Road to the north. State Route 12 lies one block north of the school. The primary access to the school is off of Sebastopol Road.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of removing and replacing the roofs and associated facilities, as well as HVAC replacements on 7 buildings at the school (Buildings A-G), as well as the covered walkways connecting the buildings.

The replacement will include placement of a new waterproof membrane and new asphalt shingles. The total area of roof to be replaced is approximately 74,396 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 10-week period in the Summer of 2023.

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 replacement of existing school building roofs, rooftop HVAC systems, and associated repairs on the school buildings. 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 replacement of existing roofing and HVAC equipment. The project neighborhood is fully developed with residential and associated 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 12 in the project area has been designated as a scenic highway by the California Department of Transportation. However, the proposed roof replacement would be similar in appearance to the existing roof and 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 site¹.
- **Historical Resources.** This exception would apply if the project were to potentially significantly adversely affect an historical resource. The proposed project includes no alterations to the existing school buildings beyond replacing the roofing materials and rooftop HVAC equipment. 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 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.

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=sebastopol+road+santa+rosa> accessed February 24, 2023

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: Cook School-Cesar Chavez Language Academy Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

2480 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95407

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


Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct five solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot of the Cesar Chavez Language Academy. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 14, Section 15314
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3); PRC 21080 

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 14 Categorical Exemption as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b). There would be no native trees over 25 years old removed, consistent with the exemption parameters established under Public Resources Code Section 21080.35.

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

COOK SCHOOL-CESAR CHAVEZ ACADEMY PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Cesar Chavez Language Academy, located in the former Cook Middle School at 2480 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 950 students.

The school is in the eastern area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by the Cook School Park on the south and west, single-family residential uses to the east, and multiple-family residential buildings across Sebastopol Road to the north. State Route 12 lies one block north of the school. The primary access to the school is off of Sebastopol Road.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing five solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot at the school, off of Sebastopol Road.

The project includes construction of five metal frames with supports in the median landscaped areas in the parking lot. Each of the canopies would hold 162 modules and would measure about 35 x 95 feet, for a total of 16,625 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period in the Spring of 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

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 this exemption would apply:

- The project area is a developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing paved parking lot on the existing school campus and views of the structure from nearby houses would be buffered completely by the distance from the residences to the proposed structure as well as by intervening buildings and trees. The shade structures would be relatively small, and would be lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Parking Lot Solar Exemption

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the installation of a solar energy system on the roof of an existing building or at an existing parking lot is statutorily exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.35. This exemption applies in cases where a solar energy project is proposed to be installed on the roof of either an existing building or at an existing parking lot which has been designated and used for parking vehicles for at least the previous two years and does not involve removal of a native tree over 25 years old, and associated equipment meets certain size, location and other conditions. Therefore this exemption would apply.

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Cook+Elementary+School+Santa+Rosa>

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption and CEQA's statutory exemption for solar arrays over parking lots.

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: Hilliard Comstock Middle School Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

2750 West Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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


Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct four solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over an unpaved lot at Hilliard Comstock Middle School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 14, Section 15314
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3); PRC 21080 

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 14 Categorical Exemption as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b). There would be no native trees over 25 years old removed, consistent with the exemption parameters established under Public Resources Code Section 21080.35.

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

HILLIARD COMSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Hilliard Comstock Middle School, located at 2750 West Steele Lane Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 950 students.

The school is in the northwest area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by single-family residential uses and open space. State Route 12 lies one block north of the school. The primary access to the school is off of West Steele Lane.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing four solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over an unpaved lot at the school, just north of the main school campus. The lot is currently used for storage and informal parking.

The project includes construction of four metal frames with supports in the lot. Three of the canopies would hold 162 modules and would measure about 35 x 95 feet, and the fourth would be about 35 x 65 feet, for a total of 12,250 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period in the Spring of 2023.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

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 this exemption would apply:

- The project area is a mostly developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing unpaved lot between the main school buildings and the baseball field, and views of the structure from nearby houses would be buffered by the distance from the residences to the proposed structure as well as by intervening trees. The shade structures would be relatively small, and would be lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Parking Lot Solar Exemption

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the installation of a solar energy system on the roof of an existing building or at an existing parking lot is statutorily exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.35. This exemption applies in cases where a solar energy project is proposed to be installed on the roof of either an existing building or at an existing parking lot which has been designated and used for parking vehicles for at least the previous two years and does not involve removal of a native tree over 25 years old, and associated equipment meets certain size, location and other conditions. Therefore this exemption would apply.

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=comstock+school+santa+rosa>

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption and CEQA's statutory exemption for solar arrays over parking lots.

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: Hidden Valley Elementary School Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

3435 Bonita Vista Drive Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct a solar photovoltaic array and associated electrical facilities on a canopy over a small area of the play field on the north side of Hidden Valley Elementary School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 3, 15303(c) and (e); Class 14, Section 15061(b)(3)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopy would qualify for the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. The project is not located in a sensitive area. None of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b).

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

HIDDEN VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Hidden Valley Elementary School, located at 3435 Bonita Vista Lane, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 800 students.

The school is in the northwest area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by single- family residential development on the west, south, and east sides, and Hidden Valley Park to the north. The primary access to the school is off of Bonita Vista Lane, with access also available from Chanate Road and Fitzpatrick Court, to the south.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing one solar photovoltaic array and associated electrical facilities on a canopy over a small area of the play field on the north side of the school.

The project includes construction of solar panels (modules) atop a metal frame. The canopy would hold 162 modules and would measure about 35 x 95 feet, for a total canopy area of about 3325 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period from December 2023 to March 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)). The project's proposed 3325 sq. ft. of canopy would conform to this exemption.

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

Exceptions to the Exemptions

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

- The location is environmentally sensitive (Class 3 only)
- 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 proposed on an existing school playfield, which is not an environmentally sensitive location.
- The project area is a small project in a developed school campus, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be in the middle of the existing school campus and views of the structure from nearby houses on Bonita Vista Lane would be buffered by the intervening school buildings, trees, and distance to the new facilities. In addition, the shade structure would be unobtrusive and lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no significant impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 22, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. Therefore no historic resources would be affected.

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Hidden+Valley+School>

- There do not appear to be any unusual circumstances that could result in significant environmental impacts at the site.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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: James Monroe Elementary School Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

2567 Marlow Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct a photovoltaic array and associated electrical facilities on a canopy over a small area of the play field on the west side of the school buildings at James Monroe Elementary School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 14, Section 15314

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed solar canopy would qualify for the Class 14 Categorical Exemption as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b).


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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

JAMES MONROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

James Monroe Elementary School, located at 2567 Marlow Road, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 365 students.

The school is in the northeaster area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered on the south, east, and west by single- and multiple-family residential development, and, to the north, by the Santa Rosa Creek greenway. The primary access to the school is off of Marlowe Road.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing one solar photovoltaic array and associated electrical facilities on a canopy over a small area of the play field on the west side of the school buildings. The canopy would be 35 x 95-feet, with 162 modules, for a total canopy area of about 3325 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period from December 2023 to March 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)). The project's proposed 3325 sq. ft. canopy would conform to this exemption.

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

Exceptions to the Exemptions

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

- The location is environmentally sensitive (Class 3 only)
- 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 proposed on an existing school playfield and parking lot, which are not environmentally sensitive locations.
- The project area is a small project in a developed school campus, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be in the middle of the existing school campus and views of the structure from nearby houses would be buffered completely by the intervening school buildings and trees. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 22, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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=James+Monroe+elementary+school+santa+rosa>

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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: Helen Lehman Elementary School Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

1700 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 construct a solar photovoltaic array and associated electrical facilities on a canopy over an area of the Jennings Park play field on the south-eastern side of Helen Lehman Elementary School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 


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 3, 15303(c) and (e); Class 14, Section 15061(b)(3)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopy would qualify for the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. The project is not located in a sensitive area. None of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b). 

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

HELEN LEHMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Helen Lehman Elementary School, located at 1700 Jennings Ave., Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 480 students.

The school is in the north-east area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by single-family residential development on the north, west, south, and part of the east side, with the remainder of the eastern side bordering Jennings Park, which is a large turf field. The primary access to the school is off of Jennings Avenue.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing one solar photovoltaic array and associated electrical facilities on a canopy over a small area of the Jennings Park play field on the south-eastern side of the school.

The project includes construction of solar panels (modules) atop a metal frame. The canopy would hold 162 modules and would measure about 35 x 95 feet, for a total canopy area of about 3325 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period from January 2024 to April 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)). The project's proposed 3325 sq. ft. of canopy would conform to this exemption.

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

Exceptions to the Exemptions

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

- The location is environmentally sensitive (Class 3 only)
- 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 proposed on an existing school playfield, which is not an environmentally sensitive location.
- The project area is a small project in a developed school campus, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be in the middle of the existing school campus and views of the structure from nearby houses on Manhattan Way and Jennings Ave. would be buffered completely by the intervening school buildings. One house on New York Drive would have a full view of the structure, however the shade structures would be unobtrusive and lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no significant impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 22, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. Therefore no historic resources would be affected.

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Helen+Lehman+elementary+school+santa+rosa>

- There do not appear to be any unusual circumstances that could result in significant environmental impacts at the site.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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: Lewis Learning Academy Shade Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

2230 Lomitas Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct a shade canopy over a paved play area in the center of the school campus at Lewis Learning Academy. The purpose of the project is to provide shade for paved play area of the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure.

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 3, 15303(c) and (e); Class 14, Section 15061(b)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed shade canopy would qualify for the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. The project is not located in a sensitive area. None of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b). +

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

LEWIS LEARNING ACADEMY SHADE PROJECT CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

The Lewis Learning Academy, located at 2230 Lomitas Avenue, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 80 students.

The school is in the northern area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by a shopping center to the west, and single-family residential development on the north and east. To the south, across Lewis Road, are commercial uses. The primary access to the school is off of Lewis Road.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing a 20 x 40-foot (800 sq. ft.) fabric shade canopy supported by a metal frame over a paved play area in the center of the school campus.

The project would be constructed over a 16 week period in the Spring of 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)). The project's proposed 800 sq. ft. of canopy would conform to this exemption.

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

Exceptions to the Exemptions

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

- The location is environmentally sensitive (Class 3 only)
- 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 proposed on an existing paved school playfield, which is not an environmentally sensitive location.
- The project area is a small project in a developed school campus, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be in the middle of the existing school campus and views of the structure from the rear yards of two adjacent houses on La Verne Ave. and one house on Lomitas Ave. would be buffered by the intervening school buildings, trees, and distance to the new facilities. In addition, the shade structure would be unobtrusive and lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no significant impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site. The nearest listed facility is a dry cleaner about 600 feet west of the site, on Mendocino Ave. (database search performed March 22, 2023)¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. Therefore no historic resources would be affected.

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Hidden+Valley+School>

- There do not appear to be any unusual circumstances that could result in significant environmental impacts at the site.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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: Lewis Learning Academy Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

2230 Lomitas Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct a solar photovoltaic array and associated electrical facilities on canopies over an area of the paved play field in the center of the school campus at Lewis Learning Academy. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 


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 3, 15303(c) and (e); Class 14, Section 15303
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopy would qualify for the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. The project is not located in a sensitive area. None of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b). 

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

LEWIS LEARNING ACADEMY PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

The Lewis Learning Academy, located at 2230 Lomitas Avenue, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 80 students.

The school is in the northern area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by a shopping center to the west, and single-family residential development on the north and east. To the south, across Lewis Road, are commercial uses. The primary access to the school is off of Lewis Road.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing one solar photovoltaic array and associated electrical facilities on a canopy over an area of the paved play field in the center of the school campus.

The project includes construction of solar panels (modules) atop a metal frame. The canopy would hold 108 modules and would measure about 35 x 65 feet, for a total canopy area of about 2275 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period in the Spring of 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)). The project's proposed 2275 sq. ft. of canopy would conform to this exemption.

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

Exceptions to the Exemptions

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

- The location is environmentally sensitive (Class 3 only)
- 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 proposed on an existing paved school playfield, which is not an environmentally sensitive location.
- The project area is a small project in a developed school campus, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be in the middle of the existing school campus and views of the structure from the rear yards of two adjacent houses on La Verne Ave. and one house on Lomitas Ave. would be buffered by the intervening school buildings, trees, and distance to the new facilities. In addition, the shade structure would be unobtrusive and lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no significant impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site. The nearest listed facility is a dry cleaner about 600 feet west of the site, on Mendocino Ave. (database search performed March 22, 2023)¹

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Hidden+Valley+School>

- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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: Montgomery High School Photovoltaic Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City High School District

Project Location - Specific:
1250 Hahman Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct eight solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot of Montgomery High School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 14, Section 15314
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)


Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 14 Categorical Exemption as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b).

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Montgomery High School, located at 1250 Hahman Drive, 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 1625 students.

The school is in the western area of Santa Rosa, and is surrounded by single-family residences and two creek greenways. The primary access to the school is off of Hahman Drive to the west; access is also available from Hoen Ave. to the south.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of eight solar canopies over areas of the existing school parking lot adjacent to Hoen Avenue. Seven of these would include seven 35 x 95-foot canopies, and one would be approximately 35 x 60-feet. A total of 1242 solar panels (modules) would be installed. The total area of the proposed canopies is approximately 25,375 sq. ft. Several mature trees in the parking lot may need to be removed for project installation.

The project would be constructed over 12-week period in the Summer of 2023.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

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 minor addition to the overall existing school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms or paved areas.

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 this exemption would apply:

- The project area is a mostly developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing paved parking area, and views of the structure from nearby houses would be buffered by the distance from the residences to the proposed structure as well as trees along the greenway and along the edge of the school property. The structures would be lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Montgomery+High+School+Santa+Rosa>

apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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: Piner High School Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City High School District

Project Location - Specific:

1700 Fulton Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct nine solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot of Piner High School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 14, Section 15314

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 14 Categorical Exemption as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b).


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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

**PINER HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT
CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION**

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Piner High School, located at 1700 Fulton Road, 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 1370 students.

The school is in the northwest area of Santa Rosa, with single-family residential uses to the north and east, a church and residences to the south, and a large park to the west. The primary access to the school is off of Fulton Road, to the west.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of nine solar canopies over areas of the existing school parking lot adjacent to the school baseball fields. These would include seven 35 x 95-foot canopies, one 35 x 60-foot canopy, and one approximately 24 x 60-foot canopy. A total of 1350 solar panels (modules) would be installed. The total area of the proposed canopies is approximately 34,000 sq. ft. Several mature landscape trees in the parking lot may be removed for project installation.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period in the Spring of 2023.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms. Or paved areas

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 this exemption would apply:

- The project area is a mostly developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing paved parking area, between the main school buildings and the school baseball fields, and views of the structure from nearby houses would be buffered by the distance from the residences to the proposed structure as well as school buildings. The shade structures would be relatively small, and would be lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Piner+High+school>

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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 City Schools District Offices - Ridgeway School Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

211 Ridgeway Ave and 325 Ridgeway 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 construct four solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot at the corporation yard. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for school facilities. Beneficiaries of the project include district staff who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 14, Section 15314
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3); PRC 21080 

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 14 Categorical Exemption as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b). There would be no native trees over 25 years old removed, consistent with the exemption parameters established under Public Resources Code Section 21080.35.

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: _____ Date: _____ 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 CITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT OFFICES – RIDGEWAY SCHOOL
PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT
CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION**

Project Description

Existing Facilities

The Santa Rosa City Schools District Offices are located 211 Ridgeway Avenue, adjacent to Ridgeway High School, which is located at 325 Ridgeway Avenue.

The District Offices and Ridgeway High School are in the north-central area of Santa Rosa, and are bordered by light industrial uses to the west, residences to the south and east, and Santa Rosa Junior College to the north. US Highway 101 lies one block west of the school. The primary access to the school is off of Ridgeway Avenue.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing four solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot at the corporation yard.

The project includes construction of four metal frames with supports and associated electrical equipment. Each of the canopies would hold 162 modules and would measure about 35 x 95 feet, for a total of 13,300 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period in the Fall of 2023.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

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 this exemption would apply:

- The project area is a developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing paved parking lot on the existing School District corporation yard and there would be no views of the structures from nearby houses. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Parking Lot Solar Exemption

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the installation of a solar energy system on the roof of an existing building or at an existing parking lot is statutorily exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.35. This exemption applies in cases where a solar energy project is proposed to be installed on the roof of either an existing building or at an existing parking lot which has been designated and used for parking vehicles for at least the previous two years and does not involve removal of a native tree over 25 years old, and associated equipment meets certain size, location and other conditions. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress= Santa+Rosa+City+Schools>

environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption and CEQA's statutory exemption for solar arrays over parking lots.

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: Rincon Valley Middle School Photovoltaic Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

4650 Badger Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct two solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the existing school portable buildings and tennis courts at Rincon Valley Middle School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. +

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 3, 15303(c) and (e); Class 14, Section 15303
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. The project is not located in a sensitive area. None of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b). +

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

RINCON VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Rincon Valley Middle School, located at 4650 Badger Road, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 800 students.

The school is in the central area of Santa Rosa, surrounded by single-family residential uses to the south, east, and west, with open space to the north. The primary access to the school is off of both Middle Rincon Road and Badger Road.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of two solar canopies over areas of the existing school portable buildings and tennis courts. These would both be approximately 35 x 95-foot canopies, for a total of about 6650 sq. ft. of canopy. A total of 324 solar panels (modules) would be installed. No trees would be removed for project installation.

The project would be constructed over a 12-week period from November 2023 to January 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)). The project's proposed 6650 sq. ft. of canopy would conform to this exemption.

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms or paved areas.

Exceptions to the Exemptions

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

- The location is environmentally sensitive (Class 3 only)
- 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 this exemption would apply:

- The project is on an existing school site, which is not environmentally sensitive.
- The project area is a developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be near the center of the campus, and the canopy structures would be relatively small, and would be lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Views of the canopy from off-site also would be buffered by existing school buildings and open space that separates the site from area residences. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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=Rincon+Valley+school>

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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: Herbert Slater Middle School Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

3500 Sonoma Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct three solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot of Herbert Slater Middle School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 


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 3, 15303(c) and (e); Class 14, Section 15303(c) and (e)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. The project is not located in a sensitive area. None of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b). 

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

**HERBERT SLATER MIDDLE SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT
CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION**

Project Description

Existing Facilities

The Herbert Slater Middle School, located at 3500 Sonoma Ave., Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 800 students.

The school is in the eastern area of Santa Rosa, surrounded by single-family residential uses. The primary access to the school is off of both Sonoma Avenue and Carley Road.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of three solar canopies over areas of the existing school parking lot. Two of these would both be approximately 30 x 100-foot canopies, and the third would be approximately 30 x 60 for a total of about 7,800 sq. ft. of canopy. A total of 375 solar panels (modules) would be installed. Several landscape trees would be removed for project installation

The project would be constructed over a 12-week period in the Summer of 2023.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)). The project's proposed 7800 sq. ft. of canopy would conform to this exemption.

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms or paved areas.

Exceptions to the Exemptions

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

- The location is environmentally sensitive (Class 3 only)
- 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 this exemption would apply:

- The project is on an existing school site, which is not environmentally sensitive.
- The project area is a developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be near the eastern side of the campus, and would be visible from houses across Carly Road from the site. However, the canopy structures would be open-sided, and would be lower and smaller than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore minimal impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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=slater+middle+school+santa+rosa>

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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 Charter School for the Arts Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

756 Humboldt Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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


Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct a solar array consisting of 215 solar panels on the roof of an existing building at the Santa Rosa Charter School for the Arts. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 14, Section 15314
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3); PRC 21080 

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar array would qualify for the Class 14 Categorical Exemption as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b). There would be no native trees over 25 years old removed, consistent with the exemption parameters established under Public Resources Code Section 21080.35.

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: _____ Date: _____ 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 CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT
CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION**

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Santa Rosa Charter School for the Arts, a K-8th grade school located at 756 Humboldt Street, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 400 students.

The school is in the north-central area of Santa Rosa, surrounded by single-and multiple-family residential uses. The primary access to the school is off of Humboldt Street, to the west.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of 215 solar panels (modules) to be placed on the roof of the existing school building. The total area of the proposed project is approximately 4400 feet.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period in the Spring of 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms. Or paved areas

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 this exemption would apply:

- The project area is a developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing rooftop and views of the structure from nearby houses would be buffered by other school buildings. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site was the subject of a school investigation but is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Rooftop Solar Exemption

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the installation of a solar energy system on the roof of an existing building or at an existing parking lot is statutorily exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.35. This exemption applies in cases where a solar energy project is proposed to be installed on the roof of either an existing building or at an existing parking lot which has been designated and used for parking vehicles for at least the previous two years and does not involve removal of a native tree over 25 years old, and associated equipment meets certain size, location and other conditions. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=santa+rosa+charter+school+for+the+arts>

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption and the Rooftop Solar Exemption.

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 Ridgway Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
 (Address)

Project Title: Santa Rosa High School Roof Replacement Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

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 consist of replacement of approximately 59,000 sq. ft of roof, and associated rooftop equipment (i.e. HVAC Units), on existing buildings at Santa Rosa High School. Beneficiaries would be students and staff at the school.

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; Section 15301
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed roof replacement would qualify for the exemption as "repair and maintenance" as described in Section 15301(d). None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under Guidelines Section 15061(b).

Lead Agency
 Contact Person: Erik Oden Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 890-3800

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: _____ Date: _____ Title: Director, Maintenance and Facilities

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 ROOF AND HVAC REPLACEMENT 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.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of replacing the roofs and associated facilities, as well as HVAC replacements on up to 15 buildings at the school (Buildings E-1 through E-6; J-1 through 5; J-7 and 8, and De Soto Hall). The replacement will include placement of a new waterproof membrane and new asphalt shingles. The total area of roof to be replaced is approximately 58,730 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 10-week period in the Summer of 2023.

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 replacement of existing school building roofs, rooftop HVAC systems, and associated repairs on the school buildings. 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 replacement of existing roofing and HVAC equipment. 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 buildings. The proposed roof replacement would be similar in appearance to the existing roof and 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 site¹.
- **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 replacing the roofing materials and rooftop HVAC equipment. 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 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.

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=santa+rosa+high+school> accessed February 21, 2023

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 Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City High School District

Project Location - Specific:

1235 Mendocino 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 construct nine solar photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over the parking lot of Santa Rosa High School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 14, Section 15314
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopies would qualify for the Class 14 Categorical Exemption as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b).

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: _____ Date: _____ 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 PHOTOVOLTAIC 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.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of nine solar canopies over areas of the existing school parking lot adjacent to Ridgeway Avenue. These would include five 35 x 95-foot canopies, two 35 x 70-foot canopies, and two approximately 24 x 60-foot canopies. A total of 1250 solar panels (modules) would be installed. The total area of the proposed canopies is approximately 24,400 sq. ft. Several mature landscape trees in the parking lot may be removed for project installation

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period in the Summer of 2023.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms. Or paved areas

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 this exemption would apply:

- The project area is a developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing paved parking area, near Ridgeway Avenue and views of the structure from nearby houses would be buffered by the distance from the residences to the proposed structure. The shade structures would be relatively small, and would be lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply

Conclusions

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Brook+Hill+Elementary+School+Santa+Rosa>

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 14 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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 Middle School Photovoltaic Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

500 E Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct two photovoltaic solar arrays and associated electrical facilities on canopies over areas of the existing school play field at Santa Rosa Middle School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. +

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 3, 15303(c) and (e); Class 14, Section +
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed solar arrays would qualify for the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. The project is not located in a sensitive area. None of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b). +

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: _____ Date: _____ 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 MIDDLE SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Santa Rosa Middle School, located at 500 E St, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 500 students.

The school is in the central area of Santa Rosa, surrounded by multiple-family residential and commercial/office uses. The primary access to the school is off of E Street as well as Fifth Street.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of two solar canopies over areas of the existing school play field adjacent to Fifth Street. These would both be approximately 35 x 95-foot canopies, for a total of about 6650 sq. ft. of canopy. A total of 324 solar panels (modules) would be installed. One mature tree would be removed for project installation.

The project would be constructed over a 12-week period from November 2023 to January 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)).

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms. Or paved areas

Exceptions to the Exemptions

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

- The project is located in an environmentally sensitive area (Class 3 only).
- 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 a developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be on an existing play field, near Fifth Street, and the canopy structures would be relatively small, and would be lower than the existing nearby school buildings. Therefore minimal impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 21, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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.

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=santa+rosa+middle+school+santa+rosa>

environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemptions would apply. Therefore, these exemptions would apply to the proposed project. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.

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: Steele Lane Elementary School Photovoltaic Project


Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City Schools

Project Location - Specific:

301 Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would construct a photovoltaic array and associated electrical facilities on a canopy over a small area of the play field on the north side of the school buildings at Steele Lane Elementary School. The purpose of the project is to generate renewable energy for the school. Beneficiaries of the project include school staff and students who will benefit from improved campus infrastructure and a reduced carbon footprint. 

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 3, Section 15303(c) and (e); Class 4
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Common Sense Exemption, 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed solar canopy would qualify for the Class 14 Categorical Exemption as the project would be a minor addition to a school facility and not affect overall school capacity nor add classrooms. None of the exceptions to the exemption would apply (See attached Discussion). There is no possibility of a significant impact, consistent with the exemption parameters established under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b).

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: _____ Date: _____ 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: _____

**STEELE LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT
CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION**

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Steele Lane Elementary School, located at 301 Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 365 students.

The school is in the central area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered by single- and multiple-family residential development, and to the north by Steele Lane Park. The primary access to the school is off of Steele Lane.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of constructing one solar photovoltaic array and associated electrical facilities on a canopy over a small area of the play field on the north side of the school buildings. The canopy would be 35 x 95-feet, with 162 modules, for a total canopy area of about 3325 sq. ft.

The project would be constructed over a 16-week period in the Spring of 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 3 Exemption applies to 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. In urban areas, structures of up to 10,000 sq. ft and carports/garages/canopies would be subject to this exemption (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c) and (e)). The project's proposed 3325 sq. ft. of canopy would conform to this exemption.

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 minor addition to the overall school facility. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

Exceptions to the Exemption

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

- The location is not environmentally sensitive (Class 3 only)
- 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 proposed on an existing school playfield and parking lot, which are not environmentally sensitive locations.
- The project area is a small project in a developed school campus, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby.
- Construction would be in the middle of the existing school campus and views of the structure from nearby houses would be buffered completely by the intervening school buildings and trees. Therefore no impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 22, 2023) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. 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=Steele+lane+school>

Common Sense Exemption

Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the proposed project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore this exemption would apply.

Conclusions

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 3 and 14 Categorical Exemptions. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. As described above, the project also would be consistent with the CEQA Common Sense Exemption.