

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 High School District
211 Ridgway Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

(Address)

Project Title: Santa Rosa High School Softball Field Scoreboard Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa High School District

Project Location - Specific:

1235 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa CA

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would consist of constructing a 4' by 9' scoreboard at the existing softball field at Santa Rosa High School, as well as reconfiguring striping and adding accessible parking signage at an existing school parking lot. Beneficiaries would be students and staff at the school.

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

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

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1; Section 15301
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed new scoreboard and minor parking lot alterations would qualify for the exemption as minor alterations, 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: Mr. 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: Executive Director FM&O

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 SOFTBALL FIELD SCOREBOARD 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 High School District, which is part of Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 1,600 students.

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

The school's softball field is located in the center of the school campus and is surrounded by school buildings.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of a new scoreboard for the existing softball field at the school as well as reconfiguration of accessible parking in Parking Lot #4, at the northern side of the campus, near Bear Cub Way. Work for the scoreboard would include installing pier foundations and two 24-inch diameter concrete piers and 8-inch support columns, and the 4-foot by 9-foot scoreboard. Scoreboard behind the centerfield wall of the existing softball field at the school. No lighting or other improvements (i.e. operational changes) are proposed.

Parking reconfiguration would include repaving, re-striping, and signage in the existing parking area of parking lot #4 at the school. The four existing accessible spaced would be replaced by four new spaces. The other parking spaces on the interior row of spaces also would be re-striped and re-oriented from angle-in to perpendicular spaces.

The project would be constructed over an approximately 6-week period, in the spring of 2024.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 1 Exemption

The CEQA Class 1 Exemption for work on Existing Facilities (Guidelines, Section 15301) consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use.

The proposed new scoreboard and minor improvements at the existing parking lot would qualify as minor alterations to the existing school facilities. These modifications would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms or otherwise expand or alter school use.

Exceptions Discussion

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 new scoreboard and parking lot improvements would be small and have minimal potential for impacts beyond their immediate construction areas. 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. Therefore, the project would not contribute in a cumulatively considerable manner to any impacts associated with any other local projects.
- **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 change the appearance of any buildings and no portions of the project would 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 conducted on February 14, 2024, 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, and only minor alterations to school grounds, all of which would be readily reversible. 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

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=santa+rosa+high+school> accessed February 14, 2024

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

General Rule 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 signage project would 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 1 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. It also would qualify under the General Rule/Common Sense exemption. Therefore, these exemptions would apply to the proposed project.