

Board # 100

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011290-2-20



## FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

### Site Information:

Walnut Grove School  
775 North Hartley Street  
Patterson, CA 95363  
(209) 895-7700

### Prepared for:

Phillip Alfano  
Superintendent  
Patterson Unified School District

### Prepared by:

Chico Environmental Science & Planning  
333 Main Street, Suite 260  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 899-2900

Prepared: September 9, 2019



## PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:**  
Walnut Grove School Additions Project
2. **Lead agency name and address:**  
Patterson School District  
510 Keystone Blvd  
Patterson, CA 95363
3. **Contact person:**  
Phillip Alfano  
Superintendent  
Patterson Unified School District
4. **Project location:**  
The investigated property consists of approximately 2.5 acres in the eastern portion of the existing Walnut Grove School (grades K – 8) in northeast Patterson, Stanislaus County, California. The site is situated on the eastern edge of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 047-031-046-000, which consists of approximately 24.7 acres. The site is located within the city limits of Patterson Section 19 of Township 5S, Range 8E and latitude/longitude: 37.48255°, -121.12755°. The site is currently used as a school campus and was historically used as agricultural land. Figures of the site and site vicinity are included in **Appendix A.**
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:**  
Patterson School District  
510 Keystone Blvd  
Patterson, CA 95363
6. **General plan designation:** (P) Public
7. **Zoning:** Public/Quasi-Public
8. **Description of project:**  
The proposed project includes the construction of two new classroom buildings at the Walnut Grove School in Patterson, California.
9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:**  
The proposed project would be located on the eastern edge of the existing Walnut Grove School at 775 North Hartley Street in Patterson, CA. The project area is located along Walnut Avenue to the east of the existing classrooms at the south end of campus. The school project is located north of the proposed project area and recreational fields are located to the south. Land uses beyond the immediately adjacent school include agricultural fields to the north, east, and west. Single-family homes are located to the south-southeast of the proposed project.

**10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:**

California Department of Education (CDE)  
Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

**11. Previous CEQA Documentation for site/surrounding area:**

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment  
Portion of Walnut Grove School  
Chico Environmental Science & Planning  
July 31, 2019

**12. Public Review Period (Initial Study/Proposed MND)**

September 18, 2019 – October 17, 2019

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality          | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise   | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services               | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |   |

**DETERMINATION**

(To be completed by the Lead Agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has



## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering program, EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures, which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

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### **APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A: SITE FIGURES**

**APPENDIX B: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

**APPENDIX C: MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN**

**APPENDIX D: PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT**

**APPENDIX E: COMMENTS/RESPONSES FROM PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD**

## 1.0 AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Environmental Setting:

The proposed project includes the construction of new and modernized buildings throughout the eastern edge of campus along Walnut Avenue. The visual character of the project area will be improved, however not significantly different from before the project (as the new structures will be placed in a similar density/configuration).

Site photographs demonstrating the project area and current site conditions can be found in **Appendix B**.

### Discussion of Impacts to Aesthetics:

**a) - d):** The project includes removal of portable structures and replacement with permanent structures in generally the same areas. There are no identified scenic roadways or vistas in the vicinity of the proposed project therefore there will be **no significant impact** to scenic aesthetics.

## 2.0 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.

Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### Environmental Setting:

The Walnut Grove School property campus at 775 North Hartley Street is zoned as P – Public / Use Type: Schools and does not include any agricultural resources.

### Discussion of Impacts to Agricultural Resources:

**a) – c)** The proposed upgrades are located in the interior of an existing school and would not impact potential farmland.

### 3.0 AIR QUALITY

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Environmental Setting:

Since 1970, air quality has been regulated at the federal level under the Clean Air Act (CAA). This act authorized the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for air pollutants of nationwide concern. The EPA has established standards for six criteria air pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, suspended particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and lead.

The proposed project site lies within the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPC), which extends from San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties in the north to Kern County in the south. This air basin is generally situated in the northern portion of the San Joaquin Valley and is bounded on the west by the Coastal Range, on the north by the Sacramento Valley and on the east by the Sierra Nevada foothills and mountains. The southern border is bounded by the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District. The floor of the basin gradually slopes upward from the north to the south.

The two primary agencies responsible for monitoring air quality within the SJVAPC within Stanislaus County are the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and SJVAPC

All of the counties in the SJVAPC, including Patterson have been designated as non-attainment areas for ozone and PM<sub>10</sub>. It is noted that for a County to be classified as non-attainment for air quality goals, it must only have exceeded the state's air quality standards for a minimum of one hour at any point during the year.

Ozone is considered more of a seasonal problem in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, with peak concern normally occurring April through October. Ozone production is the result of

a chemical reaction that occurs between nitrogen oxides, reactive organic gases, and sunlight. Nitrogen oxides are emitted into the air as a result of fuel combustion at high temperatures (gasoline burning in automobile engines). Reactive organic gases are the result of fuel combustion and through the evaporation of organic solvents. Once these are present in the atmosphere, a photochemical reaction occurs and ozone is formed.

Suspended particulate matter with particulates of 10 microns or less is more commonly known as PM<sub>10</sub>. The primary components of these particulates are dust, nitrates, and sulfates. These are released into the air as a result of fuel combustion and abrasion.

**Discussion of Impacts to Air Quality:**

**a) - c), e)** Construction work for the proposed project includes some ground disturbance, however it is possible that construction activities may stir up dust and dirt, and generate vehicle emissions for a short amount of time. Any activities resulting in release of dust or dirt into the air would be minimal and temporary in nature, resulting in **a less than significant impact**.

**d)** Potential pollutants generated from the project include minor levels of fugitive dust and exhaust emissions. Although schools are considered sensitive receptors, minimal use of mechanized equipment would generate little exhaust and Best Management Practices for dust control would limit the amount of dust generated, resulting in a **less than significant impact**.

#### 4.0 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Environmental Setting:

The proposed upgrades project is located in the interior of an existing school campus in a developed urban area. Construction activities will only impact previously graded areas that are largely impervious. Post-construction stormwater drainage will maintain the current drainage pattern to drains and ditches adjacent to surrounding streets. Native trees, vernal pools and riparian habitat do not occur on the project site or project vicinity.

#### Special Status Species

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) maintains the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB), which lists positive sightings of special status plant and animal species. The database is modeled after the United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 topographic quadrangles. The project site is covered in the Patterson quadrangle. A search of the CNDDDB indicates the potential presence of the following species within the Patterson quadrangle, as presented in **Table 1**. **Table 1** also lists if the

species is considered threatened or endangered on the state and federal levels, a CDFW listing, and the California Native Plant Society listing (CNPS).

<b>TABLE 1: CNDDDB Results for Patterson Quadrangle</b>					
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Federal Status</b>	<b>State Status</b>	<b>CDFW Status</b>	<b>CA Rare Plant Rank</b>
Ambystoma californiense	California tiger salamander	Threatened	Threatened	WL	-
Buteo swainsoni	Swainson's hawk	None	Threatened	-	-
Circus hudsonius	northern harrier	None	None	SSC	-
Branta hutchinsii leucopareia	cackling (=Aleutian Canada) goose	Delisted	None	WL	-
Ardea alba	great egret	None	None	-	-
Ardea herodias	great blue heron	None	None	-	-
Agelaius tricolor	tricolored blackbird	None	Threatened	SSC	-
Lanius ludovicianus	loggerhead shrike	None	None	SSC	-
Setophaga petechia	yellow warbler	None	None	SSC	-
Melospiza melodia	song sparrow (-in Modesto-in population)	None	None	SSC	-
Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	None	None	SSC	-
Empidonax traillii	willow flycatcher	None	Endangered	-	-
Vireo bellii pusillus	least Bell's vireo	Endangered	Endangered	-	-
Branchinecta lynchi	vernal pool fairy shrimp	Threatened	None	-	-
Lavinia exilicauda exilicauda	Sacramento hitch	None	None	SSC	-
Mylopharodon conocephalus	hardhead	None	None	SSC	-
Pogonichthys macrolepidotus	Sacramento splittail	None	None	SSC	-
Hysteroecarpus traskii traskii	Sacramento-San Joaquin tule perch	None	None	-	-
Entosphenus tridentatus	Pacific lamprey	None	None	SSC	-
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11	steelhead - Central Valley DPS	Threatened	None	-	-
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha pop. 13	chinook salmon - Central Valley fall / late fall-run ESU	None	None	SSC	-

Oncorhynchus tshawytscha pop. 6	chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run ESU	Threatened	Threatened	-	-
Desmocerus californicus dimorphus	valley elderberry longhorn beetle	Threatened	None	-	-
Lytta moesta	moestan blister beetle	None	None	-	-
Vulpes macrotis mutica	San Joaquin kit fox	Endangered	Threatened	-	-
Sylvilagus bachmani riparius	riparian brush rabbit	Endangered	Endangered	-	-
Gonidea angulata	western ridged mussel	None	None	-	-
Emys marmorata	western pond turtle	None	None	SSC	-
Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh	Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh	None	None	-	-
Great Valley Valley Oak Riparian Forest	Great Valley Valley Oak Riparian Forest	None	None	-	-
Eryngium racemosum	Delta button-celery	None	Endangered	-	1B.1
Blepharizonia plumosa	big tarplant	None	None	-	1B.1
Caulanthus lemmonii	Lemmon's jewelflower	None	None	-	1B.2
Juglans hindsii	Northern California black walnut	None	None	-	CBR
Eschscholzia rhombipetala	diamond-petaled California poppy	None	None	-	1B.1
Puccinellia simplex	California alkali grass	None	None	-	1B.2

**Discussion of Impacts to Biological Resources:**

**a) – d) e), f)** Proposed construction activities do include the removal of some non-native ornamental trees that are less than 12 inch diameter breast height. There is no suitable wildlife habitat (including riparian habitat and vernal pools) within the project site. The project is not in conflict with any established conservation or preservation policies or plans. The project site currently does not contain habitat supporting any of the aforementioned species (vernal pool fairy shrimp, western yellow-billed cuckoo), as it has previously been cleared, leveled and developed. Therefore, there is **no impact** in regards to existing biological plans or policies.

**c)** Stanislaus County has a Heritage Tree Protection and an Oak Tree Retention/Replacement Provision, however there are no tree preservation policies or guidelines in place pertaining to ornamental trees, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

## 5.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Environmental Setting:

The proposed project is located on an existing school campus in a partially developed urban area. Construction activities will only impact previously graded areas, however all earth-disturbing activities will be monitored by a cultural resources expert.

### Discussion of Impacts to Cultural Resources:

**a) – d)** Trenching and other ground-disturbing activities have the potential to expose or disturb buried unknown archeological artifacts or human remains, which could have a **potentially significant impact**. This is considered a **less than significant with mitigation incorporated** if the following mitigation is adhered to:

**Mitigation Measure #1:** A qualified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources (as recommended by the NAHC) will be responsible for monitoring all ground-disturbing activities associated with the Walnut Grove School Upgrades Project.

*Timing/Implementation:* During ground disturbing activities

*Enforcement/Monitoring:* Patterson School District

Adherence to this mitigation measure ensures that impacts to cultural resources as a result of the project are **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

## 6.0 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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iv) Landslides?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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### Environmental Setting:

The topography of the site is relatively flat with an elevation of approx. 85 feet above mean sea level (msl) with a subtle southeast dipping slope. The site is situated approximately 27 miles southeast of Tracy and approximately 15 miles southwest of the city of Modesto. Topographic map coverage of the site area is provided by the current United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute series topographic map (2018 Patterson Quadrangle).

The subject property is located in the northern portion of the San Joaquin Valley, which extends from the Tehachapi Mountains in the south to the Diablo Range in the north. The valley is bordered to the east by the Sierra Nevada and to the west by the Coast Ranges.

The San Joaquin Valley was formed by downwarping of the west side of the Sierran block contemporaneous to uplift and erosion of the Sierra Nevada to the east. The valley is underlain by a basement complex composed of Paleozoic and Mesozoic granites and metamorphic rocks. The basement complex is overlain by a thick sequence of marine and non-marine sediments ranging in age from Cretaceous to Quaternary. The upper 1000 meters of the non-marine sediments are composed of sediments of volcanic and metamorphic origin, which were transported into the valley from the east as mudflows and stream carried sediments.

Stratigraphy in the Patterson vicinity consists of Pleistocene to Holocene alluvium, lake, playa and terrace deposits. Site soils primarily consist of Capay clay, which are originally derived from sandstone and shale and occur on flood basins, alluvial fans, interfan basins and basin rims. These soils are moderately well drained with a slow infiltration rates (NRCS 2017) and consist mostly of clay for the first 20 inches bgs (EDR, 2019).

The Project Site is not located within the boundaries of an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, and no active faults are known to cross the site (Jennings 1994).

Patterson is situated approximately 200 miles south of the Mount Lassen volcanic area and hazards associated with regional volcanism are low. The project is unlikely to impact or experience significant seismic shaking. Due to the minimal possibility of a strong intensity earthquake event, low/moderate soil plasticity index, and the depth of the groundwater, it is highly unlikely that liquefaction could occur in the project area. Landslides are also unlikely as the slope and topography in Patterson are gentle. There is no historical documentation of asbestos or ultramafic rocks likely to contain asbestos in the site vicinity.

Tsunami is highly unlikely to occur as the project site is not located in close proximity to an ocean. Likewise, the nearest large water bodies are Turlock Lake and Modesto Reservoir, which are located approximately 30 and 33 miles to the east, respectively. Dam failure and seiche hazards are unlikely.

#### **Discussion of Impacts to Geology and Soils:**

**a), c) - d)** The project area is not located in the vicinity of known active faults, in an area that could be subject to landslides or tsunamis; adverse impacts related to large-scale geologic conditions are considered a **no impact**. Site soils primarily consist of Capay clay, which are originally derived from sandstone and shale and occur on flood basins, alluvial fans, interfan basins and basin rims. These soils are not expansive and would not present a risk for the proposed development.

**b)** Implementation of the proposed project would not result in long-term increases in erosion or soil loss; however, construction-related activities will result in temporary disturbance of the ground surface. These activities may expose disturbed and loosened soils to erosion from wind. Short-term increases in soil erosion could occur due to

construction activities, however the site is largely level and would not result in significant erosion, resulting in a **less than significant** impact. These impacts will be further reduced by the mitigation measure presented in the Water Quality section (Preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan approved of by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)).

**c)** Site soils consist of Capay clay, which is deep, moderately well drained, and have a low expansive potential, resulting in **no impact**.

**e)** There are no proposed underground waste storage utilities at the Subject Site, resulting in **no impact**.

## 7.0 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
--	--------------------------------	--	------------------------------	-----------

Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### Environmental Setting:

Several gases in the earth's atmosphere impact temperatures and play a critical role in determining the earth's climate. These gases are referred to as "greenhouse gasses" and primarily include: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Although many of these gases occur naturally (via solar radiation and tectonic events), anthropogenic activities such as large-scale mining and fossil fuel consumption greatly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and expedited changes in the climate.

In 2012 the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) adopted a plan to reduce greenhouses gases and slow human-induced climate change. As part of that plan, construction emission thresholds were established to distinguish between typical construction projects and Extraordinary Construction Projects, which meet either of the following:

- 1) the project emits more than 25,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> during the construction phase of the project, or
- 2) The project emits more than 12,500 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in any single year of construction.

### Discussion of Impacts to Greenhouse Gases:

**a) – b)** The proposed project includes the installation of buildings and is unlikely to result in significant emissions of greenhouse gases. Construction will require the use of large gas- and diesel- powered equipment, however these additional greenhouse gas emissions will be temporary and minimal. This small project does not conflict with cumulative greenhouse gas reduction goals, plans or policies, resulting in **no impact**.

### Discussion of Impacts to Greenhouse Gases:

**a) – b)** The proposed project includes the construction of several structures. These additions are unlikely to result in significant emissions of greenhouse gases. Construction will require the use of large gas- and diesel- powered equipment, however these additional greenhouse gas emissions will be temporary and minimal. This small project does not conflict with cumulative greenhouse gas reduction goals, plans or policies, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

## 8.0 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The completed project will not generate or store large-quantities of hazardous materials; however, hazardous materials including equipment fuels, lubricants and greases may be used during construction of the structures. Onsite activities may require or result in the use and/or spill of hazardous materials, however the materials would not be used or stored in quantities that would pose a significant safety hazard or environmental threat. Similarly, acutely hazardous materials such as cleaners, solvents and paints may be used in the buildings following construction activities. These materials will be stored in small quantities and in compliance with established state and federal requirements. The closest airport is the NASA Crows Landing Airport and Testing Facility, approximately 5 miles south of the site.

## Discussion of Impacts to Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

a) There is a minor potential for a spill hazard to occur along roads surrounding the campus, and/or along roads within the campus. However, the transportation of hazardous materials is strictly regulated by various state and federal agencies. Thus, the possibility of a spill or leak at any given time is low. In the event of a hazardous material leak or spill, the Patterson Fire Department would respond first to manage the emergency, and other agencies would respond shortly thereafter. Depending upon the type and extent of the leak or spill, remediation action would be taken. Impacts, therefore, are considered **less than significant**.

b) The proposed project does not involve the construction of a facility or structure associated with the routine transport, use, or disposal of significant quantities of hazardous materials. No releases of hazardous materials or substances are expected to occur during the implementation of the proposed project. Construction and maintenance of the project does not involve the use of large quantities of hazardous materials. Impacts are therefore considered **less than significant**.

c) The proposed project area is located in the interior of an existing school campus, however based on the information provided in responses a) and b), and the fact that minimal maintenance of mechanized vehicles and hazardous materials will be used during project activities, the impacts are considered **less than significant**.

d) The Walnut Grove School is listed in the Envirostor database for three previous school projects. These include a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) report for Walnut Avenue Middle School (104484), a PEA for Walnut Grove MS Addition (104524) and a PEA, RAW and RACR for the Proposed Special Education and Alternative Education School Site (104635). All of these listings ultimately concluded that there is “not a potential hazard to public health or the environment, which would require the implementation of a response action”.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed to address concerns regarding human and environmental health, and is included in **Appendix D**. The Phase I revealed no evidence of a historical, controlled, or active recognized environmental condition. Resulting in a **less than significant impact**.

e) – f) The closest airport is the NASA Crows Landing Airport and Testing Facility, approximately 5 miles south of the site. The district will notify CalTrans of the project and will request an investigation and written report as per PUC Section 21655. Since the project involves replacing portables for permanent structures and there will be no change in use and there are no private airstrips in the area, the letter from CalTrans will be resulting in **less than significant impact**.

g) A revised fire evacuation plan will be prepared for the Walnut Grove School prior to construction of the proposed structures, as the new additions may alter existing plans. The implementation of the proposed project would not impair or otherwise impede any emergency evacuation or emergency response plans or activities, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

h) The project is located in a developed urban area, which has not been identified by Cal-Fire as being within an area containing wildfire threats. Furthermore, the irrigated

landscaping and pathway surfaces are not susceptible to fire, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

## 9.0 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion of Impacts to Hydrology and Water Quality:**

**a)** The project site is in the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). The area to be disturbed by the proposed project is approximately 2.5 acres. Pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, the EPA has established regulations under the NPDES program to control direct stormwater discharges. In California, the State Water Resources Control Board administers the NPDES permitting program and is responsible for developing NPDES permitting requirements. The NPDES program regulates industrial pollutant discharges, including construction activities for sites larger than one acre. The proposed project would disturb a significant area during the course of the project, including removing and replacing the football field and repaving surfaces. This could contribute sediment and other pollutants to stormwater runoff, generating a **potentially significant** impact. Implementation of the following mitigation measure will reduce these impacts to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**:

**Mitigation Measure #2:** Prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), approved of by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

The RWQCB will require that, prior to construction activities, a SWPPP be prepared that identifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion of disturbed soils during construction activities. The SWPPP will describe measures to be used to minimize wind and water erosion and transport of sediments during course construction. The SWPPP is subject to approval by the RWQCB, pursuant to the State's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Permit and Clean Water Act, Section 401. The plan will be prepared and approved before construction activities begin. At a minimum, the plan will include the following measures:

- Retain onsite the sediments generated on or brought to the project site, using treatment control or structural BMPs.
- Retain construction-related materials and wastes, spills, and residues at the project site and prevent discharges to streets, drainage facilities, the MS4, receiving waters, or adjacent properties.
- Contain non-storm runoff from equipment and vehicle washing at the project site.
- Control erosion from slopes and channels through BMPs such as: limitation of grading during the wet season; inspection of graded areas during rain events; planting and maintenance of vegetation on slopes, if any; and covering any slopes susceptible to erosion.
- Surface disturbance of soil and vegetation will be kept to a minimum, existing access and roads will be used wherever feasible.
- Any stockpiled soil would be placed and sloped so that it would not be subject to accelerated erosion.
- After ground-disturbing activities are complete, all disturbed areas will be replanted or covered with paving stones to prevent erosion.

If the aforementioned BMPs and stormwater controls included in **Mitigation Measure #2** are properly implemented at the site, the proposed project would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, resulting in a **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**.

**b)** The project site is situated in the northern part of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin and is served by the Patterson Utilities Department. The proposed project would convert currently pervious area to impervious

area through the construction of structures. However, the project site is part of a developed school campus and not a substantial groundwater recharge area. The project site does not have any wells or direct groundwater connections. Therefore, project implementation would not result in net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table. No direct impacts to groundwater would occur. The proposed facility would accommodate existing school programs and the school population; therefore, it would not result in a substantial increase in potable water use to impact groundwater supplies. Implementation of the proposed project would not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

**c)** The proposed project would connect to existing municipal drainage system and would not substantially alter drainage patterns; however, the additions of new impermeable structures would result in an increase of stormwater runoff and potential to erode. Implementation of applicable BMPs discussed in **Mitigation Measure #2** would ensure that erosion or siltation impacts are reduced to a less than significant level, resulting in a **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**.

**d)** The project site is part of an existing school campus with available stormwater connection. The increase in impervious area on the campus would not substantially alter drainage patterns or increase the volume and rate of stormwater flow entering the municipal drainage system. The municipal drainage system is managed by the Patterson Public Works Department, which require specific construction specifications that would prevent on- or offsite flooding, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

**e)** Due to the conversion of pervious areas to impervious areas, the proposed project would slightly increase the volume and rate of stormwater flow and contribute additional sources of potentially polluted runoff to the drainage system. However, impervious structures are proposed on existing impervious structures and implementation of required BMPs during construction would ensure that impacts are reduced to a less than significant level. During operation, the proposed new buildings would generate similar urban runoff pollutants as other on-campus buildings and would not result in substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, resulting in a **less than significant impact**.

**f)** Provided that standard BMPs are implemented, as discussed in Mitigation Measure #2, the proposed project would not substantially degrade the water quality. No additional mitigation measures are required, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

**g) and h)** The project site is not located within the boundaries of a 100-year flood zone and does not include construction of residences, resulting in **no impact**.

**i)** The area is outside the 100-year flood plain and not prone to flooding, therefore there is **no impact** in terms of flooding, resulting in **no impact**.

**j)** Tsunamis are defined as sea waves created by undersea fault movement. A seiche is an oscillation of the surface of a lake or landlocked sea. Tsunami is highly unlikely to occur as the project site is not located in close proximity to an ocean. Likewise, the nearest large water bodies are Whiskey Town Reservoir and Lake Shasta, which are located approximately 49 and 55 miles to the north, respectively making seiche hazards unlikely. The lack of steep slopes in this area of Corning makes the possibility of mudflow unlikely, as mudflows typically occur in mountainous or hilly terrain. Therefore, there is **no impact** related to seiche, inundation, or mudflow.

**10.0 LAND USE AND PLANNING**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project includes the addition of two buildings to be used as classrooms at the existing Walnut Grove School in Patterson, CA.

**Discussion of Impacts to Land Use and Planning:**

**a) and b)** The project would not result in the physical division of an established community, nor would it involve any changes in land use, General Plan designation, or zoning. The project is consistent with the goals and mission of the Patterson Unified School District and the Patterson General Plan. Therefore, there is **no impact**.

**c)** Currently, there are no adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or state habitat conservation plans that apply to the project site, resulting in **no impact**.

## 11.0 MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
--	--------------------------------	--	------------------------------	-----------

Would the project:

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### Environmental Setting:

According to the California Department of Resources Conservation, the project area does not extend into a Surface Mining And Reclamation Act (SMARA) study area.

### Discussion of Impacts to Mineral Resources:

a)- b) Based upon the absence of evidence of mineral resources on the subject site, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will be of value of the region, resulting in **no impact**.

## 12.0 NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Environmental Setting:

Noise consists of any sound that may produce physiological or psychological damage and/or interfere with communication, work, rest, recreation, and sleep. Noise impacts can be described in three categories: The first is audible impacts that refer to increases in noise levels noticeable to humans. Audible increases in noise levels generally refer to a change of 3.0 decibels (dB) or greater since this level has been found to be barely perceptible in exterior environments. The second category, potentially audible, refers to a change in the noise level between 1.0 and 3.0 dB. This range of noise levels has been found to be noticeable only in laboratory environments. The last category is changes in noise level of less than 1.0 dB that are inaudible to the human ear. Only audible changes in existing ambient or background noise levels are considered potentially significant.

The existing noise environment in the area of the proposed project is typical of a high school campus in an urban setting. Noise originates from streets and roads in the project vicinity, as well as from persons on the campus. Noise will be generated in the project area during athletic events; however the noise will not be significantly greater than the noise prior to the proposed lighting project. Temporary noise will be produced during construction activities, however the duration and intensity is minimal.

**Discussion of Noise Impacts:**

**a) - d)** The proposed project will result in the generation of temporary construction-related noise and ground borne vibration during utility trenching and construction activities;. Residences are located north and east of the project area and motorized construction equipment operation will only occur between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Onsite construction workers will wear appropriate hearing protection during noise-generating activities. The proposed school improvements would not result in long-term or permanent noise level increases (such as increased vehicular traffic, etc.) that may exceed local noise standards, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

**e)** The project area is situated approximately 5 miles north NASA Crows Landing Airport; however it is outside the flight path and noise survey area, and the proposed project would not impact exposure to noise during or following construction, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

**f)** The project area is not situated in vicinity to a private airstrip, resulting in **no impact**.

### 13.0 POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting:**

Residential properties currently extend throughout the site vicinity, including south, west and east of the Walnut Grove School. The proposed school improvements project will not attract new residents or induce significant population growth in the immediate vicinity.

**Discussion of Impacts to Population and Housing:**

**a) - c)** The proposed project would not result in the construction of housing or structures that would attract additional residents to the area. The proposed project would not displace existing housing or people, nor would it necessitate the construction of housing elsewhere. Therefore, **no impact** on population and housing would occur.

14.0 PUBLIC SERVICES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting:**

*Fire Protection*

Fire protection in the Patterson area is provided by the Patterson City Fire Department located at 344 West Las Palmas Avenue in Patterson.

*Police Protection*

The Patterson Police Department provides security Services for the Patterson area. The Police Department’s headquarters are located at 33 S Del Puerto Avenue in Patterson, CA.

*Schools*

The proposed project would benefit the Walnut Grove School through the addition of new classrooms. There are no schools in the vicinity that will be adversely impacted by this project.

*Parks*

There are no parks in the vicinity that would be adversely impacted by the proposed project.

*Other Public Facilities*

There are no other public facilities that would be adversely impacted by the proposed project.

**Discussion of Impacts to Public Services:**

a) The proposed project would not extend the service area of the City or County’s fire department, nor would the projects necessitate construction of new fire protection facilities or the alternation of existing facilities. The proposed project is not expected to result in an increase in the need for police response, nor would it necessitate the construction of new police protection facilities or the alternation of existing facilities. The proposed project does not include any residential uses, nor would it increase the number of residents in the area, which would in turn increase the number of students or requirements for construction of new school facilities. The proposed project would not add residences to the project area that could result in increased demand for additional community or county parks or contain

any components that would lead to increased demand on other parks in the community, resulting in **no impact**.

<b>15.0 RECREATION</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting and Discussion of Impacts to Recreation:**

**a) - b)** The proposed project would not result in an increase in use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities, resulting in **no impact** to this community resource.

## 16.0 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

	Potential y Significan t Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Environmental Setting:

The project is located at the existing Walnut Grove School campus and can be accessed by North Hartley Street or Walnut Avenue. Driving access on campus is restricted to authorized vehicles only. The size and capacity of roadways within the project will not be reduced, nor will emergency access to the project vicinity be altered by the proposed additions.

### Discussion of Impacts to Transportation/Traffic:

**a) - g)** The proposed project will not cause any changes in congestion, vehicular traffic, air traffic patterns, or result in inadequate parking, emergency access or police programs, resulting in **no impact**. In contrast, the project includes improvements and modernization of the schools current parking areas and loading/unloading areas to reduce traffic and congestion.

**17.0 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Environmental Setting:**

a) – b) The proposed additions include construction of two additional restrooms and 21 classrooms. These new facilities would connect to the Patterson municipal sewer system for discharge and disposal of domestic waste, which is an established community sewer system permitted for operation by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The proposed additions will discharge domestic waste through a community sewer system that is permitted by the RWQCB, and the project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB.

The municipal sewer system discharges to the City of Patterson Waste Water Treatment Plant on Poplar Avenue in Patterson. The proposed additions are minimal and would not result in a significant increase of wastewater, or expansion of existing facilities, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

c) The proposed project would result in the addition of new stormwater drainage facilities at the site, including around the proposed buildings; however, these facilities have been designed by an engineer and would not result in system overload or adverse impacts, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

d) The proposed project would not result in significantly more water consumption, existing entitlements and resources. The Walnut Grove School receives water from the City of Patterson, which has sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, and no new or expanded entitlements would be needed.

e) The project area is served by the City of Patterson Waste Water Treatment Plant. The proposed additions are minimal and would not result in a significant increase of wastewater, or expansion of existing facilities, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

f) – g) The project area is served by the Fink Road Landfill on Fink Road in Crows Landing. The proposed school additions would generate minimal additional solid waste in the region; However, there is sufficient solid waste capacity for future growth in the Planning area, the project would be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs. The school adheres to the City of Patterson requirements related to solid waste collection, and the project would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

**18.0 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

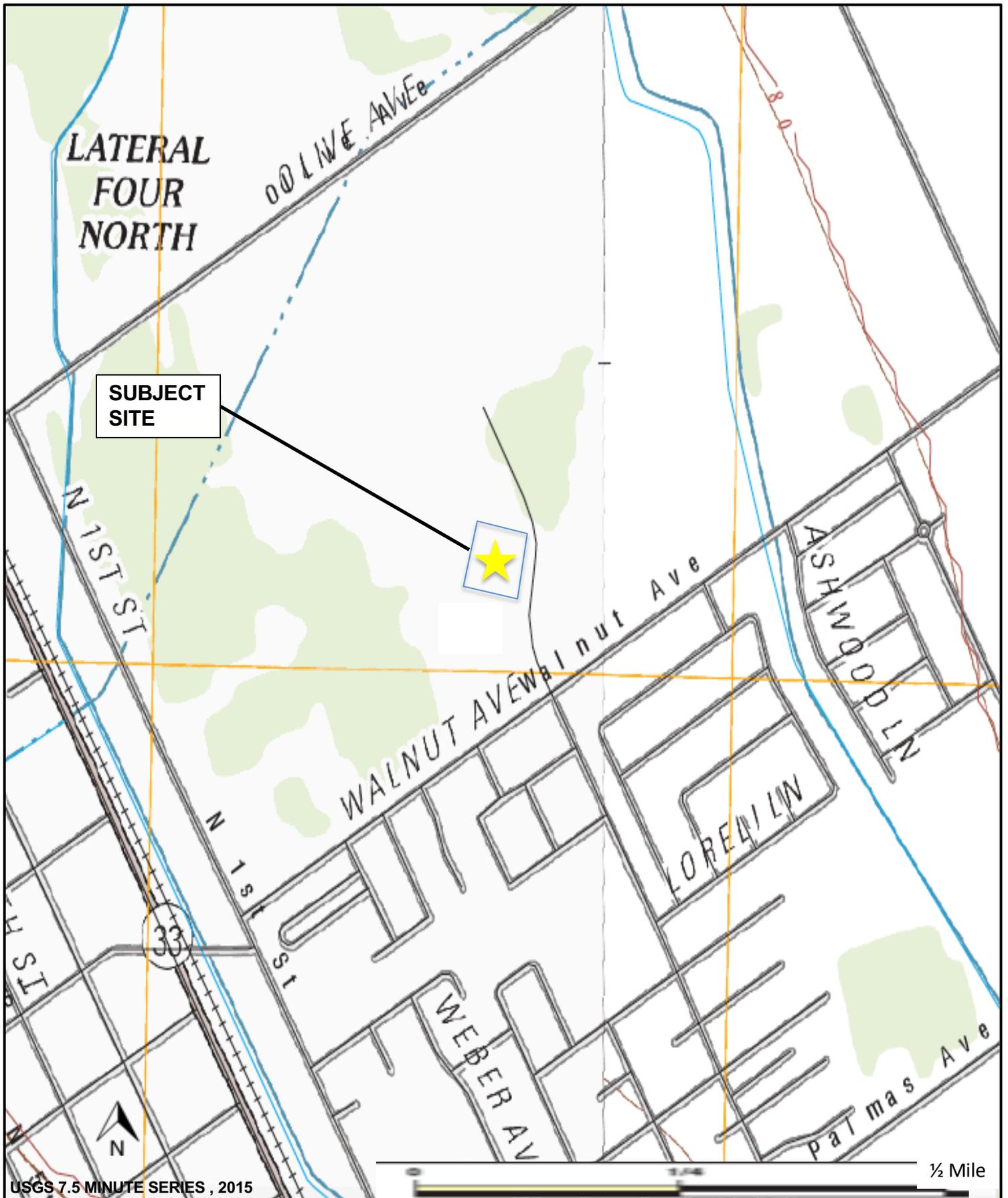
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**a)** Without mitigation, the proposed project has the potential (although unlikely) to have short-term significant impacts on cultural resources and hydrology/water quality. Mitigation measures have been developed to address these concerns. Implementation of these measures will reduce potential short-term impacts to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**. In the long term, the proposed project would not impact the quality of the environment in the project area if the proposed mitigations measures are adhered to. The Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the project is included in **Appendix C**.

**b) - c)** The proposed school upgrades could result in significant impacts to cultural resources and hydrology/water quality; However, implementation of mitigation measures as discussed herein would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where the effects would appear to be less than cumulatively considerable. In addition, the project does not have potentially negative cumulative impacts and would not cause any substantial adverse environmental effects on human beings either directly or indirectly, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

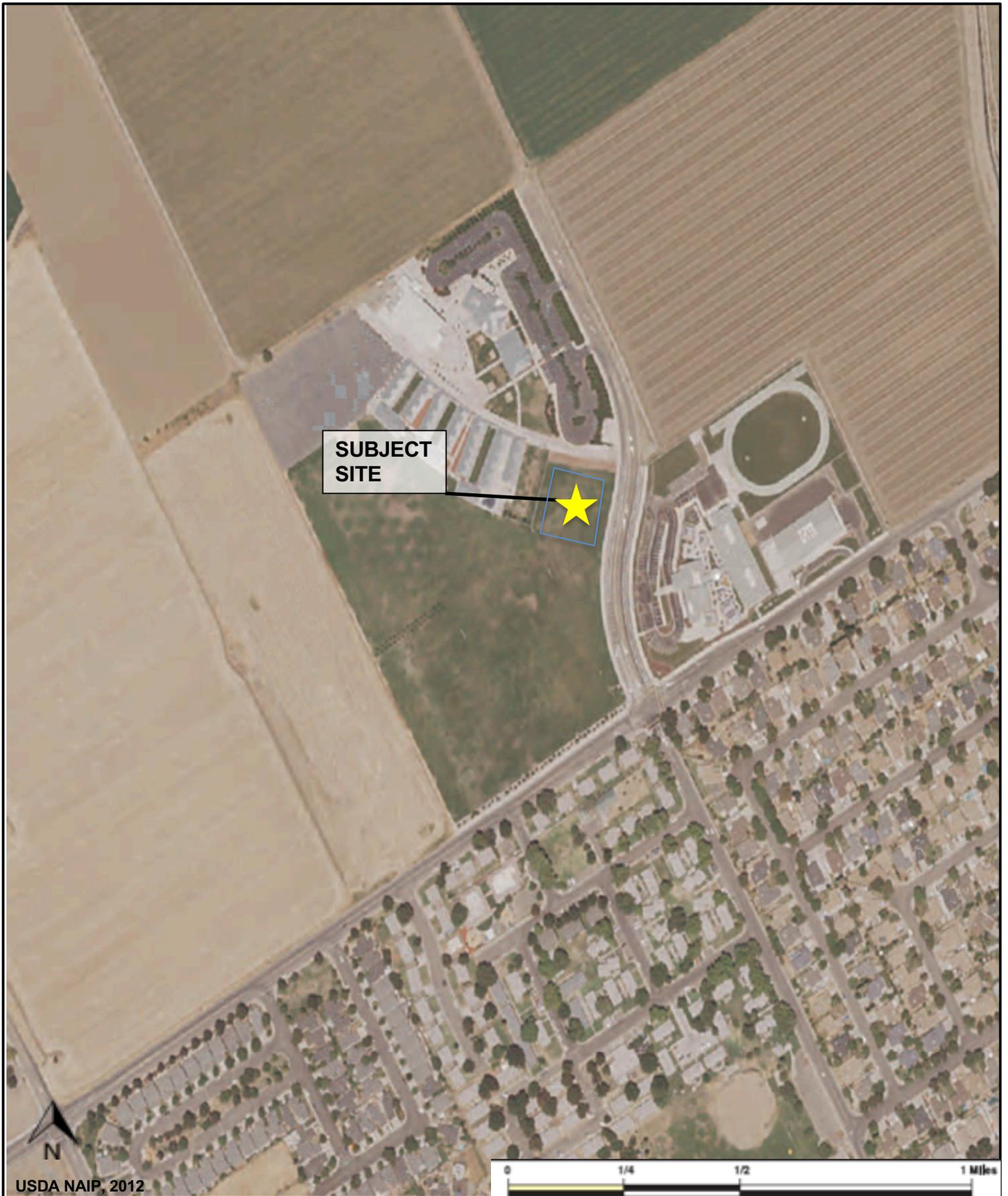
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**FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (TOPOGRAPHIC)**  
775 N Hartley St., Patterson, Stanislaus County, CA  
APN: 047-031-046-000





USDA NAIP, 2012

**FIGURE 2: SITE LOCATION (AERIAL)**  
775 N Hartley St., Patterson, Stanislaus County, CA  
APN: 047-031-046-000





**FIGURE 3: SITE VICINITY**  
 775 N Hartley St., Patterson, Stanislaus County, CA  
 APN: 047-031-046-000