



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE

CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

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RECEIPT NUMBER:
 41-06252024-0008
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 06/25/2024
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SAN MATEO COUNTY	DOCUMENT NUMBER 128950	

PROJECT TITLE

ARAGON HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SAN MATEO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (650) 558-2201
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 650 NORTH DELAWARE STREET	CITY SAN MATEO	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 94401

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

- Local Public Agency
 School District
 Other Special District
 State Agency
 Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR) \$ 4,051.25 \$ _____
 Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) \$ 2,916.75 \$ _____
 Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW \$ 1,377.25 \$ _____

- Exempt from fee
 Notice of Exemption (attach)
 CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
 Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

- Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) \$ 850.00 \$ _____
 County documentary handling fee \$ 50.00 \$ _____ 50.00
 Other \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other
 TOTAL RECEIVED \$ _____ 50.00

SIGNATURE

 X

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
 Henry Salgado Deputy Clerk

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: San Mateo
555 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063-1665

From: (Public Agency): San Mateo Union High School District
650 North Delaware Street
San Mateo CA 94401
(Address)

Project Title: Aragon High School Photovoltaic Project

Project Applicant: San Mateo Union High School District

Project Location - Specific:
900 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo CA

Project Location - City: San mateo Project Location - County: San Mateo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The District proposes to install two parking-lot-canopy photovoltaic (PV) systems at the school's parking lot facing Woodland Drive., with associated conduits and connections. None non-protected landscape trees would be removed. The purpose of this project is to provide renewable electricity to the grid and reduce energy costs to the District.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Mateo Union High School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Mateo Union 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: 15301 (existing facilities); 15311 (accessory structures)
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 21080.35 (rooftop and parking lot solar system exemption)

Reasons why project is exempt:

Project would be a minor alteration of existing facilities (15301). Project also may be considered accessory structures to the existing institutional use (15311). Project would fall under parking lot and rooftop solar exemption because trees are not over 25 years old or protected by City standards. See discussion attached.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Yancy Hawkins Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 650-558-2201

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: [Signature] Date: 6/10/24 Title: Chief Business Officer
Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR:
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

ARAGON HIGH SCHOOL PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM PROJECT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Facilities

Aragon High School, located at 900 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo, is a grades 9-12 school owned and operated by the San Mateo Union High School District. The school is immediately adjacent to single-family houses to the south, and across the streets from single-family houses to the north, east, and west. Baywood Elementary school is also across Woodland Drive to the northwest.

The proposed project would be constructed on the roof of the existing school gym building and in a campus parking lot facing Woodland Drive, on the northern side of the school campus.

Proposed Project

The District proposes to install a two parking lot canopies PV system at the school's parking lot facing Woodland Drive. The parking lot canopy arrays would be 272' x 37' and 181' x 37' and would contain a total of 600 modules (solar panels). These arrays would be tilted, ranging from 14 to 18 feet in height, with a minimum of 13'6" clearance beneath. Conduit would be run underground to existing electrical service and interconnection points, along with certain equipment improvements at those facilities. Nine landscape trees would be removed from the parking lot for the parking lot canopy installation. All of these trees would be under 25 years of age. Sixteen new LED security lights would be installed under the canopies

The purpose of this project is to provide renewable electricity to the grid and reduce energy costs to the District.

The project would be constructed over between July and December of 2025. No new or expanded uses of the school facilities are proposed as part of this project. Two minor projects, installation of EV chargers and electrical switchgear replacement may overlap with this project.

Exemption Analysis

Rooftop/Parking Lot Solar Exemption

The project would qualify for exemption under the CEQA rooftop/parking lot statutory exemption (CEQA Statutes, Section 21080.35). This exemption applies to rooftop and parking lot photovoltaic systems located on the same parcel as the existing buildings, with associated equipment not occupying more than 500 sq. ft. and not containing protected plants.

This exemption does not apply if the associated equipment would otherwise require one of the following:

(1) An individual federal permit pursuant to Section 401 or 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1341 or 1344) or waste discharge requirements pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7 (commencing with Section 13000) of the Water Code).

(2) An individual take permit for species protected under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.) or the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code).

(3) A streambed alteration permit pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 1600) of Division 2 of the Fish and Game Code.

(e) This section does not apply if the installation of a solar energy system at an existing parking lot involves either of the following:

(1) The removal of a tree required to be planted, maintained, or protected pursuant to local, state, or federal requirements, unless the tree dies and there is no requirement to replace the tree.

(2) The removal of a native tree over 25 years old.

(f) This section does not apply to any transmission or distribution facility or connection.

The project would conform with the requirements of this exemption, and none of the exceptions are present on the site.

Class 1 Exemption

The CEQA Class 1 Exemption (Existing Facilities - CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301) applies to repairs and maintenance of existing facilities including interior or exterior alterations involving no or negligible expansion of the facilities, and restoration and rehabilitation of deteriorated structures and facilities, as well as health and safety improvements. The Project qualifies for the Class 1 exemption because it involves the minor alteration of existing facilities at the school and would not expand the school capacity or its use. The Project would result in net environmental benefits by reducing traditional electrical energy consumption at the Property.

Class 11 Exemption

The CEQA Class 11 Exemption (Accessory Structures, CEQA Guidelines section 15311) applies to

construction or placement of minor structures accessory or appurtenant to existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities. The Project is also exempt from CEQA because it involves the construction of minor structures and improvements accessory to existing institutional facilities.

Analysis of Possible Exceptions to Class 1 and Class 11 Exemptions

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 only other potentially overlapping projects at the school involve installing electric vehicle chargers in the school parking lots. While construction may overlap, both projects are minor and no cumulatively significant impacts would result. Therefore, 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. There are no highways or roadways in the project area or from which the project area can be seen that are designated as Scenic or are eligible for scenic designation. The roadway nearest to the project area that is eligible for scenic designation is the segment of State Route 92 west of Highway 280. The City of San Mateo General Plan does not designate any roadways in the project vicinity as locally scenic. Hillsdale Boulevard is indicated in the Urban Design Element of the General Plan as a major corridor in the City, but is not given any formal designation. The rooftop panels would not be visible in off-site views. The parking lot canopy and associated tree removal may be visible from up to three houses across Woodland Drive from the school, but would be partially screened by the remaining parking lot landscape trees. In any case, the visual impact would not be potentially significant. The new lighting may be visible, but would be shielded and limited to lighting the parking areas beneath the canopies.
- **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 May 13, 2024, found no listed hazardous wastes sites on or near the school site. (https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?global_id=21880002).
- **Historical Resources.** This exception would apply if the project were to potentially significantly adversely affect an historical resource. The proposed project includes a minimal alteration to an existing school building and parking lot, and therefore 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 and 11 exemptions and, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply. Therefore, this exemption would apply to the proposed project. The project also is within the parameters of the Section 21081.53 exemption and none of the exceptions to that exemption would apply.