

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)

FILED
ENDORSED
IN THE OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK RECORDER
SAN MATEO COUNTY CALIF
JUN 25 2024
MARK CHURCH, County Clerk
By Henry Salgado
County Clerk

Project Title: San Mateo Union High School District, District Offices Photovoltaic Project

Project Applicant: San Mateo Union High School District

Project Location - Specific:
650 North Delaware Street, San Mateo

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 site. Accessible parking would be maintained through lot re-striping. The two canopy arrays over the parking lot would be about 107 and 113 feet long and 37 feet wide. Four trees may need to be removed for this project, however all would be landscape species under 25 years of age. 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:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 21080.35 (rooftop and parking lot solar system exemption)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project proposes parking lot solar arrays. No old or protected trees would be removed.

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.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:

# SMUHSD DISTRICT OFFICES PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM PROJECT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

## **Project Description**

### *Existing Facilities*

The San Mateo Union High School District's offices are located at 650 North Delaware Street, in San Mateo. The District Offices are adjacent to the San Mateo High School campus, between the school's football field and North Delaware Street. The proposed site of the photovoltaic array is in the District Offices' parking lot, immediately west of the office building. There are four recently installed landscape trees on the site.

### *Proposed Project*

The District proposes to install two parking-lot-canopy photovoltaic (PV) systems at the site. Accessible parking would be maintained through lot re-striping. The two canopy arrays over the parking lot would be about 107 and 113 feet long and 37 feet wide. One would include 140 modules and the other 150 modules. These arrays would be tilted, ranging from 14 to 18 feet in height. Four trees may need to be removed for this project, however all would be landscape species under 25 years of age.

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, 2024. No new or expanded uses of the school facilities are proposed as part of this project.

## **Exemption Analysis**

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.

## **Conclusions**

The project is within the parameters of the Section 21081.53 exemption and none of the exceptions to that exemption would apply. No trees would be removed for the project and none of the permits identified in the exemption would be required.