BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN KERN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESOLUTION NO. 24-25-03

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SOUTHERN KERN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FINDING THE PROPOSED WESTPARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MODULAR KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM BUILDINGS PROJECT EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, APPROVING THE FILING AND RECORDATION OF A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION, AND APPROVING THE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Southern Kern Unified School District ("District") owns and operates Westpark Elementary School at 3600 Imperial Avenue, Rosamond, CA, 93560 ("Site"); and

WHEREAS, the District proposes to add five modular kindergarten classroom buildings at Westpark Elementary School ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the proposed project consists primarily of the construction of five modular kindergarten buildings, with two kindergarten classrooms in each building, ten related restrooms - one per classroom and a kindergarten play area within the boundaries of the existing campus.

WHEREAS, prior to commencement of the Project, the District must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"); and

WHEREAS, categorical exemptions to CEQA are set forth in Article 19 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations ("CEQA Guidelines"); and

WHEREAS, the Project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15314; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines Section 15314 sets forth an exemption from CEQA for minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, whichever is less. The addition of 3 modular kindergarten buildings is included in this exemption; and

WHEREAS, the CEQA Project is not located in an area of statewide, regional or area- wide concerns as identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15206(b(4); and

WHEREAS, the District has considered whether the CEQA Project may have significant impacts on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the District has concluded, through its own independent review and analysis, that the CEQA Project will not have a significant impact on the environment.

WHEREAS, the Site is not in a sensitive environment of hazardous or critical concern; and

WHEREAS, the District is unaware of any unusual circumstances that would result in a reasonable possibility that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of the Southern Kern Unified School District hereby finds, determines, declares and resolves as follows:

Section 1. That all of the recitals set forth above are true and correct, and the Board so finds and determines.

Section 2. That the District has considered whether the Project may have a significant effect on the environment.

Section 3. That the District has concluded, after reviewing the Project through its own independent review and analysis, that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Section 4. That the District adopts the analysis and conclusions in the Notice of Exemption (NOE) as its findings and incorporates the NOE by reference as fully set forth herein.

Section 5. That the Project is subject to CEQA Guidelines Section 15314 and is not subject to any exception to exemptions found in CEQA Guidelines Section and is therefore exempt from CEQA.

Section 6. That the District approves the Project.

Section 7. That the District's Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, is instructed to file and/or record a Notice of Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act, consistent with this Resolution, attached hereto as Exhibit "A," with any and all appropriate public agencies or entities, subject only to minor, non-substantive revisions, if necessary.

Section 8. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the foregoing Resolution was adopted upon motion of Sunni Hepburn and seconded by Adrienne Rendon and is hereby Passed, Approved and Adopted this 21st day of August, 2024.

Southern Kern Board of Trustees

Sunni Hepburn, President

Mario Gutierrez, Vice President

Robert Vincelette, Clerk

Adrienne Rendon, Trustee

Brandin Coy, Trustee

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: Kern

From: (Public Agency): Southern Kern Unified School District
2925 Rosamond Blvd. (P.O. Box CC)
Rosamond , CA 93560
(Address)

Project Title: Addition of Modular Pre-K and T-K Classrooms at Westpark Elementary School

Project Applicant: Matt Buchanan, Flewelling & Moody, Inc.

Project Location - Specific:

3600 Imperial Avenue

Project Location - City: Rosamond Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project consists of removal of ten existing relocatable classroom buildings and construction of five modular Pre-K and T-K buildings, with two classrooms in each building, fifteen related restrooms - one student restroom per classroom and one staff restroom per building, an outdoor play area at the central/north portion of the existing campus, within the boundaries of the existing campus.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Southern Kern Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Southern Kern Unified School District

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

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ■ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 14, CCR §15314, Minor Additions to Schools
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project consists of construction of three modular kindergarten buildings, with two kindergarten classrooms in each building, six related restrooms - one per classroom and kindergarten play areas at the west and east sides of the existing campus, within the boundaries of the existing campus. As the proposed project would not increase student capacity by more than 25 percent nor add more than 10 classrooms, it is exempt from CEQA under Section 15314. The proposed project was reviewed for possible exemptions under Section 15300.2 and no exceptions were found to apply. See Attachment to Notice of Exemption for further explanation of the evaluation, which is available by contacting Flewelling & Moody, Inc. at (661) 949-0771

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rawley Davis Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 256-5000

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: Matt Buchanan Date: 8/1/2024 Title: Architect

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:

Attachment to Notice of Exemption

ADDITION OF MODULAR PRE-K AND T-K CLASSROOMS AT WESTPARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT

Southern Kern Unified School District

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The Southern Kern Unified School District (District) proposes to remove ten existing relocatable classroom buildings and construct five modular classroom buildings with two Pre-K/T-K classrooms in each building, fifteen related restrooms- one student restroom per classroom and one staff restroom per building, an outdoor play area at the central/north portion of the existing Westpark Elementary School campus. This supplemental information provides justification for the Categorical Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, § 15314.

1. EXISTING CONDITIONS

PROJECT LOCATION

The project site is at Westpark Elementary School at 3600 Imperial Avenue, Rosamond, Kern County. The campus is approximately 1.35 miles west of US Route 14. The campus is bordered by vacant land to the south and residential development to the north, west and east. Figure 1, *Local Vicinity*, shows the project site in the context of the local vicinity.

EXISTING CONDITIONS SURROUNDING LAND USES

Westpark Elementary School is a pre-kindergarten through 5th grade public school with a 2023/2024 enrollment of 970 students (CDE 2020). The campus occupies approximately 11.3 acres and is currently developed with elementary school buildings, a parking lot, sports field, hardcourts, pedestrian walkways, and landscaping. Main vehicular access to the site is provided from Imperial Avenue, and a drop-off/pick up zone is located on the north side of the campus with the bus drop-off zone located on the south along the drive aisle that exits onto Holiday Avenue.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The District proposes to remove from site ten existing relocatable classroom buildings and construct five modular classroom buildings with two pre-k/t-k classrooms in each building, including one student restroom within each classroom and one staff restroom per building, and an outdoor play area located centrally to the new buildings. The drop-off/pick-up zone is located in the existing parking area on north side of campus. The proposed project will include a new concrete walkway, new shade structure, and chain link fencing to accommodate the proposed structures. The proposed project will provide modern modular structures, which will best serve the school's pre-kindergarten/transitional kindergarten program. The school will operate largely the same as existing conditions. The project will not alter the basic function or operations of the school. Figure 2, *Site Plan*, shows the location of the proposed modular kindergarten buildings and associated improvements.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the proposed project will occur within the school campus boundary and no off-campus work will occur. School administration, District's Architect and the construction contractor will work together to coordinate

and stay informed about construction activities, location, and schedule. Contractors will adhere to noise regulations to minimize campus disturbances.

3. REASONS WHY THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project is exempt from further environmental review under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.) because it is consistent with Class 14, Minor Additions to Schools, as explained below.

> Class 14, Minor Additions to Schools (CEQA Guidelines § 15314) consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase the original student capacity by more than 25 percent or ten classrooms, whichever is less. The addition of portable classrooms is included in this exemption.

The proposed project involves the removal of ten existing portable classroom buildings and construction of five modular classroom buildings with two Pre-K/T-K classrooms per building, fifteen related restrooms – one student restroom per classroom and one staff restroom per building, and play areas, in order to better serve the pre-kindergarten/transitional kindergarten program at the school. The building's exterior will be constructed with stucco and a standing seam metal roof. A 6,172 square foot, concrete paved plaza area is being provided between the five buildings and this plaza serves as the dedicated Pre-K/T-K play area. The play area plaza will be enclosed by a new 6-foot high, chain link fence and connected to other campus functions via concrete walks. No new substantial updates to campus facilities will occur. No off-campus improvements will occur. The elementary school use of the site will stay the same under the proposed project. The project qualifies for an exemption under Class 14 as described above.

4. REVIEW OF EXCEPTIONS TO THE CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

The project has been reviewed under CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2 - Exceptions, for any characteristics or circumstances that might invalidate findings that the project is exempt from CEQA. Each exception is listed below followed by an assessment of whether that exception applies to the project.

> (a) Location. Classes 3,4,5,6 and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project would be located—a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The project site is on an existing school campus surrounded by a developed community and vacant land. The campus has buildings, asphalt hardcourts and parking lot, concrete driveways and walkways, a turf field, and ornamental landscaping. Due to the school's developed nature and frequent human disturbance, it does not contain any sensitive biological species or habitat. No mapped wetlands exist on the site (FWS 2024). Additionally, there is no evidence of hazardous materials or substances (see section (e) below). Therefore, this exception does not apply to the project.

> (a) Cumulative Impacts. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

The construction of the five modular kindergarten classroom buildings are to replace ten portable classrooms that currently exist on this campus in the same general location as the proposed new construction. There will be no other changes under the proposed project, and no changes in operations will occur. There is no potential for significant cumulative impacts. This exception does not apply to the proposed project.

(b) Significant Effects. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

The project site is on a currently occupied elementary school campus and surrounded by development and vacant land. There is no reasonable possibility that the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Proposed improvements will not alter the existing uses of the campus. The construction manager will execute construction per current local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and will implement construction Best Management Practices, and follow District standards and guidelines. Implementation of the proposed project will not adversely affect circulation in and surrounding the campus, as no circulation improvements are proposed. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the proposed project.

(c) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

There are no designated State scenic highways near the Westpark campus. Kern County does not identify any scenic or designated highways for this area in its General Plan. The proposed project will not affect scenic resources along any officially designated or eligible scenic highways. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the proposed project.

(d) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5.

California Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the compiling of lists of the following types of hazardous materials sites: hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action; hazardous waste discharges for which the State Water Quality Control Board has issued certain types of orders; public drinking water wells containing detectable levels of organic contaminants; underground storage tanks with reported unauthorized releases; and solid waste disposal facilities from which hazardous waste has migrated.

Four environmental databases were searched for hazardous materials sites and within a quarter mile radius:

- GeoTracker. State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB 2015)
- EnviroStor. Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC 2020)
- EnviroMapper. US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA n.d.)
- Solid Waste Information System. California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle 2019)

According to GeoTracker and EnviroStor, no hazardous sites were listed within a quarter mile radius of the school. There are no hazardous sites listed within a quarter mile radius of the site, according to EnviroMapper and Solid Waste

Information System. Moreover, the project site is not identified as a hazardous site on any of the lists. As the project site, which currently operates as a school, has not been identified as a hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, the project will not create a hazard to the public. This exception does not apply to the proposed project.

(e) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of historical resources. Under Public Resource Code § 21084.1, a historical resource is a resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. Additionally, historical resources included in a local register of historical resources are presumed to be historically or culturally significant, and a lead agency can determine whether the resource may be an historical resource.

There are no historic resources on the campus that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NPS 2024), or the California Register of Historical Resources (OHP 2024). Project implementation will not cause significant impacts to historical resources, and the historical resources exception does not apply to this project site.

5. CONCLUSION

The proposed project at Westpark Elementary School is exempt from CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15314. As substantiated in this document, the proposed project does not meet the conditions specified in § 15300.2, Exceptions, of the CEQA Guidelines, and the project is categorically exempt under Class 14.

6. REFERENCES

California Department of Education (CDE). 2024. DataQuest. Enrollment Report. 2023-2024 Enrollment by Grade. Westpark Elementary School (15-63776-6010045). https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqcensus/EnrAgeGrd.aspx?cds=15637766010045&agglevel=school&year=2019-20

California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). 2024. SWIS Facticity/Site Search. https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2024. EnviroStor.

http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/. National Park Service (NPS). 2024. National Register of

Historic Places.
https://www.nps.gov/maps/full.html?mapId=7ad17cc9-b808-4ff8-a2f9-a99909164466.

Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). 2024. California Historical Resources.
http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/ListedResources/?view=county&criteria=33.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2024. GeoTracker. http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/. US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). n.d. EnviroMapper for EnviroFacts.
https://www3.epa.gov/enviro/index.html.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS). 2024. National Wetlands Inventory – Wetlands Mapper. https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.HTML.

Attachments
Figure 1 Local Vicinity
Figure 2 Site Demolition Plan
Figure 3 Site Plan

Figure 1 - Local Vicinity

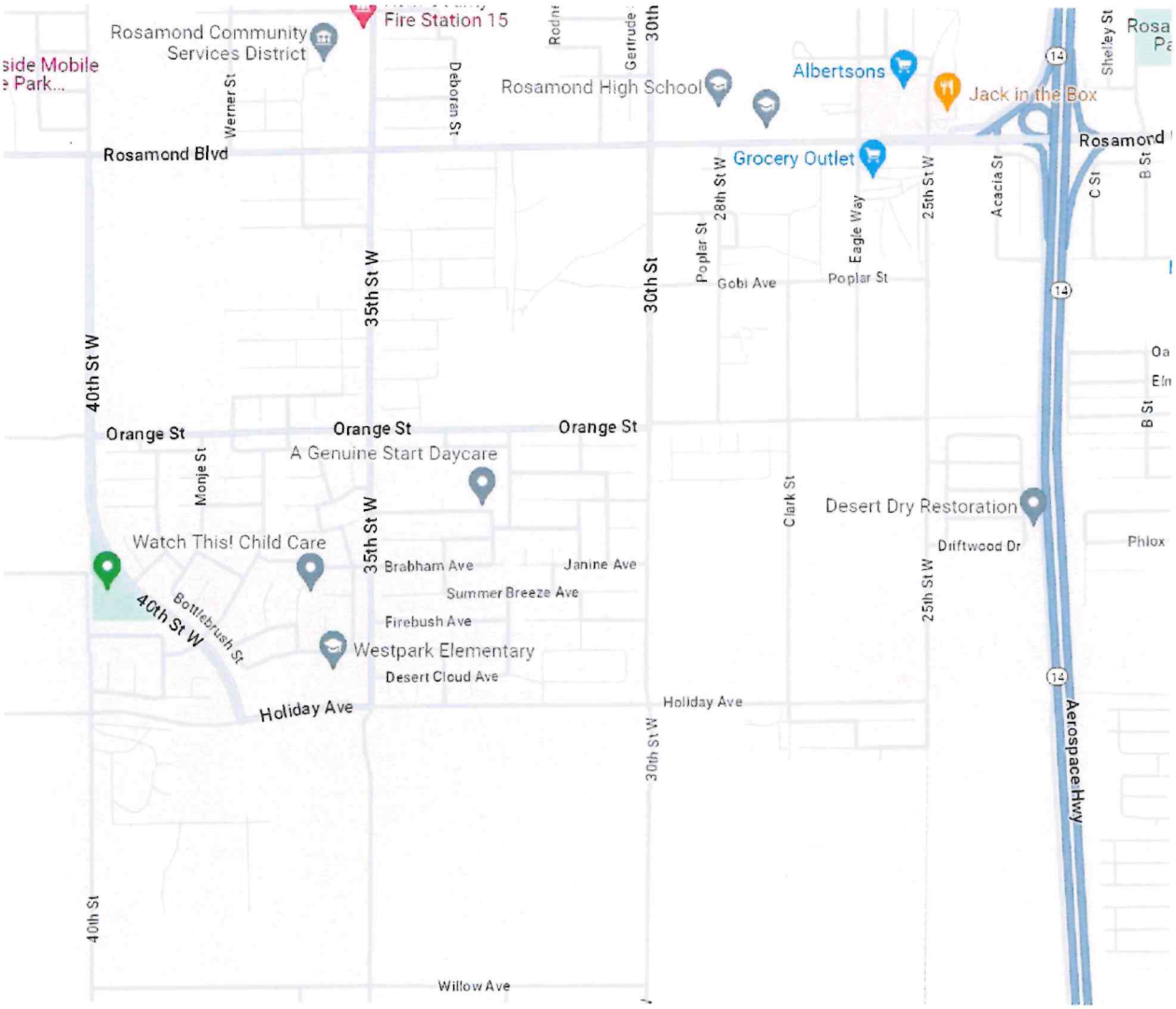
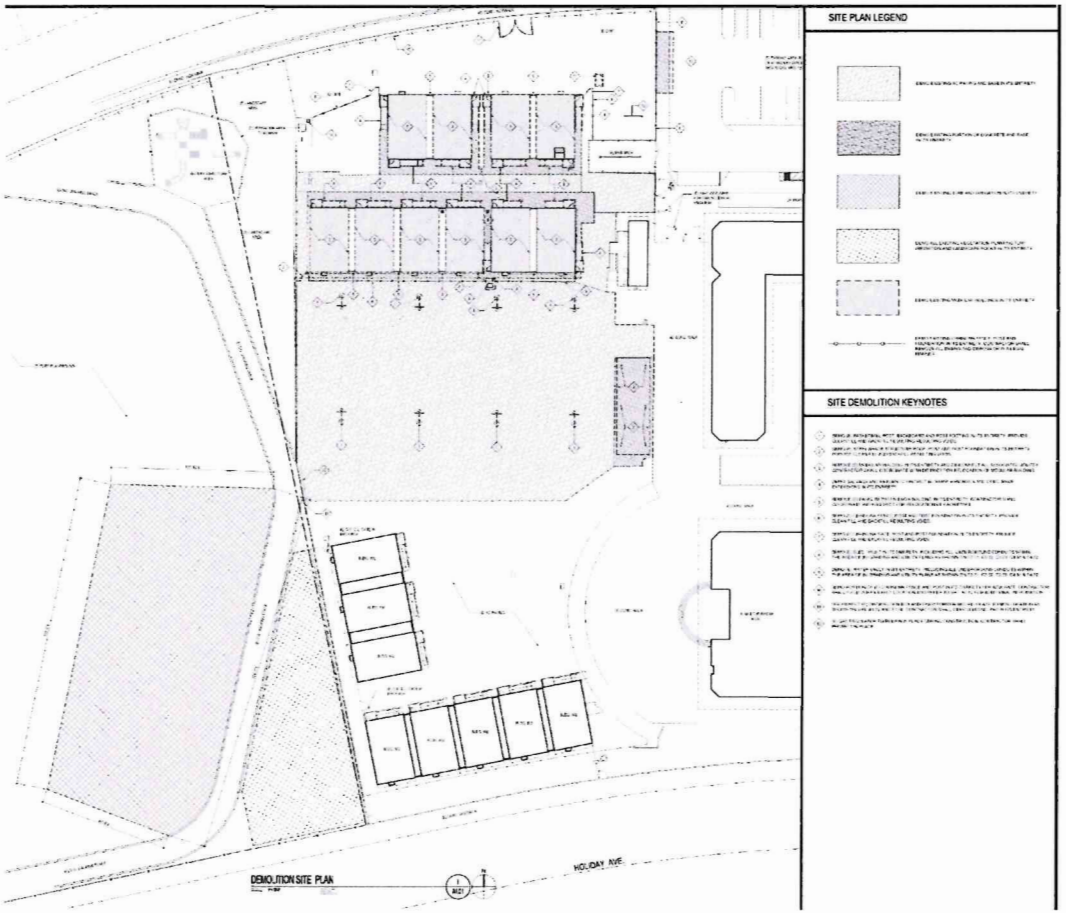
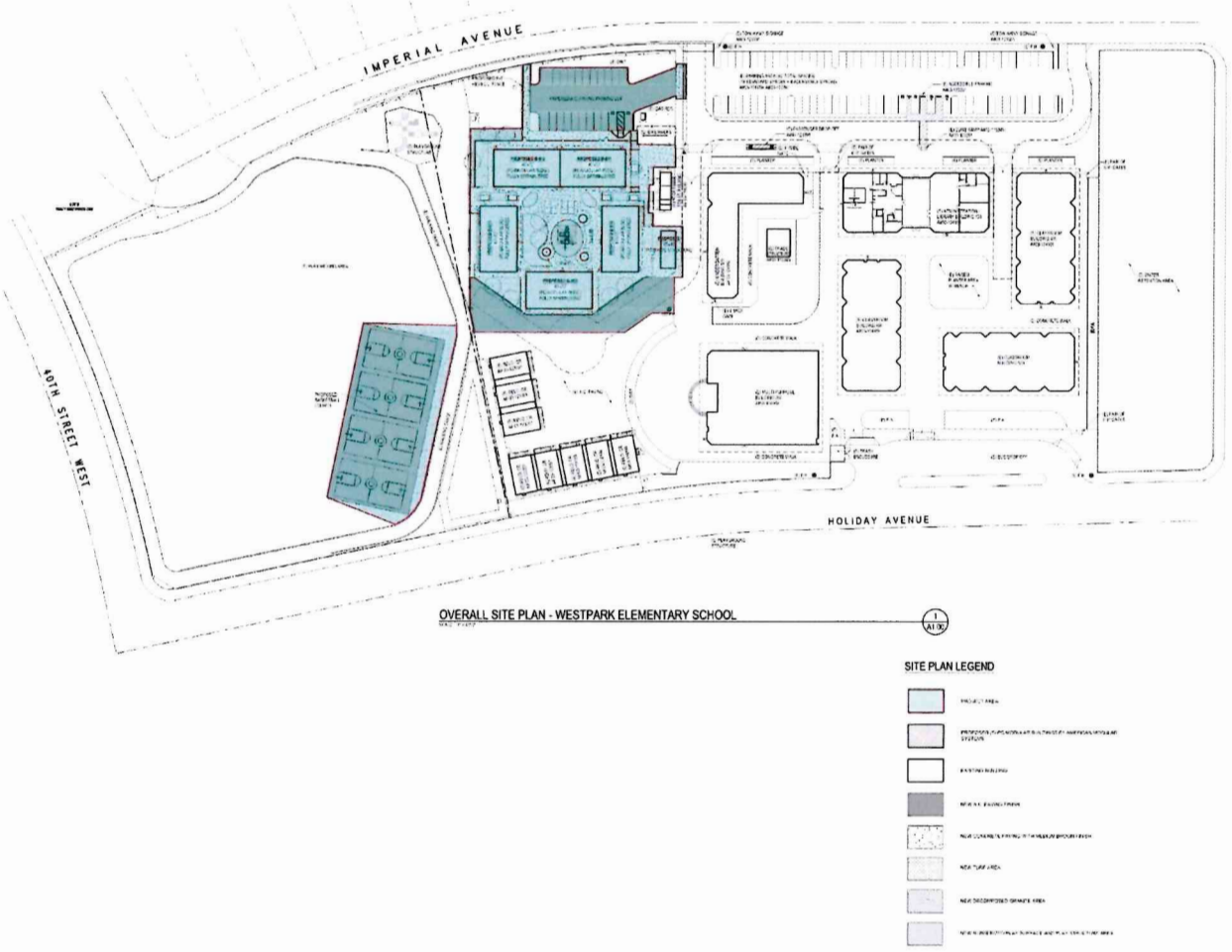


Figure 2 - Site Demolition Plan



Source: Flewelling & Moody, 2024

Figure 3 - Site Plan



Source: Flewelling & Moody, 2024