

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: Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

From: (Public Agency): Novato Unified School District
1015 Seventh Street
Novato, CA 94945

(Address)

Project Title: San Marin High School Mini Gym Renovation Project

Project Applicant: Novato Unified School District

Project Location - Specific:
15 San Marin Drive, Novato, CA.

Project Location - City: Novato Project Location - County: Marin

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project includes siding, louver, and window replacement, and re-roofing on the approximately 3840-square-foot building. Work also will include electrical work, restroom improvements and modifications to the paving on the path of travel. Beneficiaries will be students at the school.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Novato Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Novato 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 1; Section 15301
☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 15061 (3) General Rule Exemption

Reasons why project is exempt:

Project includes renovation of existing facilities (Section 15301 exemption). Project would not have any significant impacts (Section 15061(3) exemption). See attached Discussion.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Joshua Braff, CBO Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 415 493-4260

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature:  Date: 1/15/26 Title: CBO

☒ 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: _____

**SAN MARIN HIGH SCHOOL MINI GYM UPGRADE PROJECT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION**

Project Description

Existing Conditions

San Marin High School, located at 15 San Marin Drive in Novato is owned and operated by the Novato Unified School District. The existing Mini Gym Building is located just east of the gymnasium, in the central part of the school campus. The school is in a mostly single-family residential neighborhood, with houses to the north and west, and across San Marin Drive from the school. A horse camp lies directly across Novato Blvd. from the softball field.

Proposed Project

This project includes siding replacement, window replacement, louver replacement, and re-roofing on the approximately 3840-square-foot (60 by 64 feet) building. Work will include electrical work and minor corrective work at the restrooms. This project will also include modifications to the paving on the path of travel, including a new ramp in the parking area, to comply with accessibility requirements.

The project would be constructed between June and August, 2026.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 1 Exemption

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

The project would be comprised of roof, window, louver, and siding replacement, and accessibility improvements at an existing school building. It would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms or other school expansions.

Exceptions to the Exemption

Per CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2, exceptions to this categorical exemption can apply where the following occur:

- Cumulative impact of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.
- Significant effect due to unusual circumstances.
- Damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic

buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a state scenic highway.

- Hazardous Waste Sites included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
- A substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

As summarized below, none of these exceptions appear to apply to this project and therefore this exemption would apply:

- The project area is a developed residential neighborhood, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby. No overlapping projects are proposed at the school. In addition, the proposed project would not contribute in a cumulatively considerable manner to any cumulatively significant impacts.
- There are no unusual circumstances that may result in a potentially significant impact from the proposed project because the existing building is in the middle of a fully developed school campus that is not environmentally sensitive.
- The school campus is not within the viewshed of a state scenic highway. The project would replace existing siding, louvers, windows, and roofing located on existing rooftops, as well as minor interior electrical and bathroom upgrades. It therefore would not substantially change the appearance of the building.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed December 18, 2025).¹
- The project would entail small-scale replacement of roof, window, and siding on an existing building of relatively recent construction. Therefore, no historic structures would be affected.

General Rule Exemption

As described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (3), "The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA."

As described above for the Class 1 exemption, there is no potential for the proposed project to result in any significant impacts to the environment. Therefore this exemption would apply

¹https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search.asp?CMD=search&city=Novato&zip=94949&county=marin&case_number=&business_name=&FEDERAL_SUPERFUND=True&STATE_RESPONSE=True&VOLUNTARY_CLEANUP=True&SCHOOL_CLEANUP=True&CORRECTIVE_ACTION=True&tiered_permit=True&evaluation=True&operating=True&post_closure=True&non_operating=True&inspections=True