

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: ☒ Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE)
4383 Tequesquite Avenue
Riverside, CA 925502

☒ County Clerk - Recorder
County of Riverside

4080 Lemon St

Riverside, CA 92501

Mecca Administration Building Project

Project Title

The project site encompasses 13 Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs)—727-184-008, 010, 011, 024, 030, 031, 032, 033, 034, 035, 037, 039, and 040

Project Location - Specific

Community of Mecca

Project Location - City

Riverside

Project Location - County

The proposed project will include the new construction of approximately 8,922 gross leasable floor area (GLFA) with a maximum height of 35 feet on the 1.31-acre project site (*see Figure 1, Aerial Photograph*), which will house RCOE staff and accommodate meetings, trainings, and other related day to day activities. The proposed building will include offices, meeting rooms, a break room, a copy and storage room, a lobby, and restrooms. The project will include site improvements for staff and visitor parking, solar carports, landscaping and storm water management. No land use or zoning change is proposed for the project site.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project

Riverside County Office of Education

Name of Public Agency Approving Project

Riverside County Office of Education

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project

Exempt Status: (check one below)

☐ 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: § 15303, Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 – New Construction. Class 3 - The proposed project involves the construction of a new administration building with a total gross leasable floor area (GLFA) below the 10,000 square feet (sq ft) threshold on a previously developed site, served by existing utilities and roadways. Additionally, the community of Mecca is designated as an urban area per the 2020 Census Bureau Urban Areas. The community of Mecca had a population of 6,875, which meets the criteria of a population of at least 5,000 to be designated an urban area. The proposed building will be used by RCOE staff for meetings and training. The proposed building will include office space, and meeting rooms. Construction of the new administration building will be within the project site boundaries.

The proposed administrative building meets the criteria of a Class 3 exemption because it is considered a small-scale, low-intensity facility, reinforced by the fact its GLFA is below the 10,000 sq ft threshold in a designated urban area; it is consistent with existing zoning and land use designations; it will not introduce significant operational impacts or increase population, and it will utilize existing infrastructure (utilities and roadways) without requiring the development of new capacity or off-site improvements. Additionally, no off-site improvements will occur as part of the proposed project.

As described above, the project involves the construction of a new administration building for RCOE staff. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 (Exceptions), a categorical exemption is not allowed if the project would have one of the following impacts: 1) cumulative impact; 2) significant effect; 3) impact to scenic highways; 4) hazardous impact due to project being located on any hazardous materials list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; and 5) impact on historical resources. The proposed project has been reviewed under Section 15300.2 to determine if there are any characteristics or circumstances that might invalidate the finding that the project is exempt under Section 15303. It was determined that the proposed project would not have a significant impact, and exceptions under Section 15300.2 would not prohibit the use of an exemption for this project. Therefore, project implementation meets the criteria under Class 3, and the District has determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.

Reasons why the project is exempt

Matt Snellings, Executive Director

(951) 826-6324

Contact Person:

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

If filed by applicant:

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

Date

Received for

Filing: _____

Signature: _____



Title: _____

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PROJECT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Source: Nearmap 2025.

Figure 1
Aerial Photograph