

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency)
Monterey County Office of Education
(Monterey County Board of Education)
901 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901

County Clerk
County of Monterey
168 West Alisal St, 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Project Title: South Monterey County School Districts Reorganization and Unification

Project Applicant: Monterey County Committee on School District Organization

Project Location – Specific: South Monterey County Joint Union High School District Boundary

Project Location – City: Greenfield, King City

Project Location – County: Monterey

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of the Project:

Nature: The proposed project consists of unifying Greenfield Union Elementary School District and Greenfield High School into a new Greenfield Unified School District, and unifying King City Elementary School District, King City High School, Pinnacle Coastal Valley High School, and Portola-Butler Continuation High School into a new King City Unified School District. Greenfield High School, King City High School, Pinnacle Coastal Valley High School, and Portola-Butler Continuation High School are currently part of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District. The South Monterey County Joint Union High School District would be dissolved. The proposed project would not result in physical changes or change student enrollment and the new unified school district would continue to accommodate current programs.

Purpose: In the State of California, the goals for school district reorganization (e.g., unification) include promoting a high-quality education, fiscal responsibility, equitable access to educational resources and programs, and aligning boundaries with changing community needs.

Beneficiaries: Students within the unification boundary areas and taxpayers.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Monterey County Office of Education (Monterey County Board of Education)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Monterey County Office of Education (Monterey County Board of Education)

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:
- Common Sense Exemption. Article 5, Section 15061 (b)(3)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

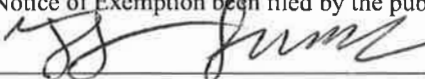
The proposed project would not result in physical changes or change student enrollment and the new unified school districts would continue to accommodate current programs. The proposed project would not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. See attachment.

Lead Agency Contact: Dr. Colleen Stanley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 831-755-0308

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: January 29, 2026 Title: Consultant to Office of Education

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Signed by Applicant

Revised 2011

South Monterey County School Districts Reorganization and Unification Description and Evidence for Common Sense Exemption

Project Description

The proposed project includes the following three actions, which would not result in physical changes or change student enrollment and the new unified school district would continue to accommodate current programs.

Greenfield Schools Unification

This proposed action consists of unifying Greenfield Union Elementary School District and Greenfield High School into a new Greenfield Unified School District.

King City Schools Unification

This proposed action consists of unifying King City Elementary School District, King City High School, Pinnacle Coastal Valley High School, and Portola-Butler Continuation High School into a new King City Unified School District.

South Monterey County Joint Union High School District Dissolution

Greenfield High School, King City High School, Pinnacle Coastal Valley High School, and Portola-Butler Continuation High School are currently part of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District. The South Monterey County Joint Union High School District would be dissolved.

Common Sense Exemption and Evidence

The proposed project qualifies for a common sense exemption under Public Resources Code Article 19, Section 15061(b)(3) of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Section 15061 (b)(3)

The proposed project is covered by the common sense exemption, as presented below in (b)(3).

“15061. Review for Exemption

- (a) Once a lead agency has determined that an activity is a project subject to CEQA, a lead agency shall determine whether the project is exempt from CEQA.
- (b) A project is exempt from CEQA if:
 - (1) The project is exempt by statute (see, e.g. Article 18, commencing with Section 15260).
 - (2) The project is exempt pursuant to a categorical exemption (see Article 19, commencing with Section 15300) and the application of that categorical exemption is not barred by one of the exceptions set forth in Section 15300.2.
 - (3) The activity is covered by the common sense exemption 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.
 - (4) The project will be rejected or disapproved by a public agency. (See Section 15270(b)).
 - (5) The project is exempt pursuant to the provisions of Article 12.5 of this Chapter
- (c) Each public agency should include in its implementing procedures a listing of the projects often handled by the agency that the agency has determined to be exempt. This listing should be used in preliminary review.
- (d) After determining that a project is exempt, the agency may prepare a Notice of Exemption as provided in Section 15062. Although the notice may be kept with the project application at this time, the notice shall not be filed with the Office of Planning and Research or the county clerk until the project has been approved.
- (e) When a non-elected official or decisionmaking body of a local lead agency decides that a project is exempt from CEQA, and the public agency approves or determines to carry out the project, the decision that the project is exempt may be appealed to the local lead agency’s elected decisionmaking body, if one exists. A local lead agency may establish procedures governing such appeals.”

Evidence and Findings

The unification of the Greenfield schools, the unification of the King City schools, and the dissolution of the South Monterey County Joint Union High School District would not result in physical changes or change student enrollment causing changes in traffic patterns and the new unified school districts would continue to accommodate current programs. Therefore, these activities are covered by the common sense exemption 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.