

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: Los Angeles
From: (Public Agency): Rio Hondo Community College District
3600 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601
(Address)

Project Title: Business and Arts Building Project

Project Applicant: N/A - Rio Hondo Community College District is the CEQA Lead Agency and Project Proponent

Project Location - Specific:
Rio Hondo Community College Campus - 3500 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601

Project Location - City: Whittier Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The new Business and Arts Building will replace the existing Business Education Building #2, and house high-enrollment programs including Business, Information Technology, Art and Journalism. The existing existing Business Education Building #2 must be replaced due to the following: 1) The poor condition of the worn-out HVAC, electrical, and plumbing systems is a daily disruption to classes and inhibits the ability to deliver required coursework. 2) The building does not meet current seismic safety codes, and it is located at the edge of a steep hilltop on a site that is vulnerable to slope failure. 3) The existing building was not constructed to be flexible and easily reconfigured for modern instruction. The replacement facility will provide a modern environment to support current and future learning methods and equipment, located on a hilltop site that is more seismically stable. The existing Information Technology Services (ITS) activities will be consolidated with existing ITS facilities in another facility.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Rio Hondo Community College District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Rio Hondo Community College 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: Replacement or Reconstruction, Section 15302(a)
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

As stated above, the new Business and Arts Building will replace the existing Business Education Building #2 on the Rio Hondo Community College campus. The CEQA Guidelines Class 2, Section 15302(a) Categorical Exemption includes replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced and includes, but is not limited to, replacement or reconstruction of existing schools to provide earthquake resistant structures which do not increase capacity more than 50 percent. As stated above, one of the purposes of the Project is to construct a new Business and Arts Building that complies with current seismic safety requirements. The Project will not increase the capacity of Rio Hondo Community College in terms of cumulative project development, enrollment, etc., by more than 50 percent. Further, the Project will not: (1) make a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact; (2) result in a significant impact on the environment due to unusual circumstances; (3) damage a scenic resource within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway; (4) be located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; and/or (4) cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

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: Stephen Kibui Date: 02/20/2026 Title: Asst. Supt./Vice President

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:

Signature: *Kibui Steven*

Email: skibui@riohondo.edu





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Final Audit Report

2026-02-20

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