Fresno Unified School District

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PROJECT INFORMATION

Date:	March 20, 2026
Project Title:	Calwa Elementary School Reconstruction
Project Address:	4303 East Jensen Avenue, Fresno, CA 93725
Zoning:	Public and Institutional (PI)
Site Area:	10 Acres
Lead Agency	Fresno Unified School District
Project Sponsors:	Fresno Unified School District
	Alex Belanger Chief Executive, Operational Services (559) 457-3074 William.Belanger@fresnounified.org
	Heidi Heltne Project Manager (559) 457-3066 heidi.heltne@fresnounified.org

Introduction

The Fresno Unified School District (District) has issued this Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines for the Calwa Elementary School Reconstruction Project (proposed project or project). This NOP is to solicit comments from responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and the public about the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR will provide information about any potentially significant physical environmental effects of the proposed project, to identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and to describe and analyze possible alternatives to the proposed project that would reduce or avoid those effects. This notice also identifies environmental issues anticipated to be analyzed in the Draft EIR. Comments received during the public scoping process will be considered during the preparation of the Draft EIR for this project.

Written Comments

This notice is available for public review on the Fresno Unified School District's website at https://www.fresnounified.org/departments/facilities and at the Fresno Unified School District Facilities Department office located at 4600 N. Brawley Avenue, Fresno, CA 93722.

Written comments should be sent to Heidi Heltne, Project Manager for Fresno Unified School District Facilities Management & Planning by mail to 4600 N Brawley Avenue, Fresno, CA 93722 and by email to calwaeirteam@fresnounified.org

Public NOP Hearing

The District will hold a public scoping meeting to provide an opportunity for agencies and the public to comment on the scope of the Draft EIR. The scoping hearing will take place on April 9, 2026 at 4 p.m. at Calwa Elementary School at 40303 E Jensen Avenue, Fresno, CA 93725. The meeting will be held in the red brick Multipurpose Room (MPR) along Cedar Avenue.

The hearing's purpose is to give an overview of the proposed project, describe the range of project alternatives, and summarize the potential environmental effects that the Draft EIR would evaluate. Members of the public and agency representatives will have the opportunity offer input on the scope and content of the EIR, including environmental issues, project alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be considered.

Translation services for **Spanish** and **Hmong** speakers will be available at the hearing to ensure broad community participation.

Project Summary

The District proposes to implement the Calwa Elementary School Reconstruction Project ("project") using Measure H bond funds. The school's buildings are some of the oldest buildings in the District, having been constructed between 1945-1970, and do not meet the building standards of the District or the needs of students.

The project would demolish and reconstruct the entire Calwa Elementary School campus in three phases to replace facilities that no longer meet current building, accessibility, and educational standards. Construction activities would take place while keeping students in session by shifting classroom buildings from the south of the campus to the north. The project would not increase student enrollment or capacity but would provide equitable access to modern, energy-efficient, and safe facilities consistent with other recently modernized District campuses.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the project include:

1. **Provide, Equitable, and Inclusive Educational Facilities**

   Upgrade or replace aging, obsolete buildings so students in a historically underserved community would have access to safe, equitable, ADA-complainant, and inclusive learning environments that support current instructional methods, technology integration, and long-term District educational goals.

2. **Improve Student Health, Safety, and Environmental Quality**

   Deliver facilities and site improvements that would meet current building, fire, accessibility, and environmental health standards; reduce exposure to environmental hazards; and incorporate AB

617 appropriate strategies to improve indoor environmental quality and promote student wellbeing.

3. **Enhance Campus Security and Operational Efficiency**

   Implement a modern campus layout that incorporates contemporary school safety design principles, specifically a single point of entry layout, and improves internal circulation, day-to-day operations, and campus functionality.

4. **Replace Inefficient Facilities to Reduce Long Term Costs-**

   Remove deteriorated and inefficient buildings that no longer meet educational, energy, or infrastructure needs and replace them with durable, future ready facilities designed to reduce lifecycle operating, utility, and maintenance burdens.

5. **Maximize Cost Effectiveness and Efficient Use of Measure H Funds**

   Construct the project in a cost-effective manner while keeping students in session and safe. Maximize the District's ability to apply remaining Measure H funds to other campuses with substantial facility needs.

Project Location, Region, and Site

Project Location

The project site is located at the existing Calwa Elementary School campus, located at 4303 East Jensen Avenue, Fresno, California 93725 (APN 480-351-27T). The project location and region are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

TABLE 1: PROJECT LOCATION

City	Fresno
County	Fresno
Zip Code	93725
Assessor's Parcel Number	480-351-27T
Nearest Existing Major Cross Streets	S. Cedar Ave. and E. Jensen Ave.
Elevation	293 feet
USGS Map	Fresno South USGS 7.5-Minute Quad Map
Section, Township & Range	Section 13, Township 14 South, Range 20 East
Latitude/Longitude	36° 42' 29.0334" N, -119° 45' 13.2228" W

Project Site

The project site includes approximately 10 acres, including the 7.89-acre existing Calwa Elementary School campus, and 1.11 acres of surrounding sidewalk right of way and City of Fresno streets. The site is designated Public Facilities in the City of Fresno General Plan and zoned Public and Institutional (PI) (County of Fresno, 2024). The project site can be seen in Figure 3.

FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP

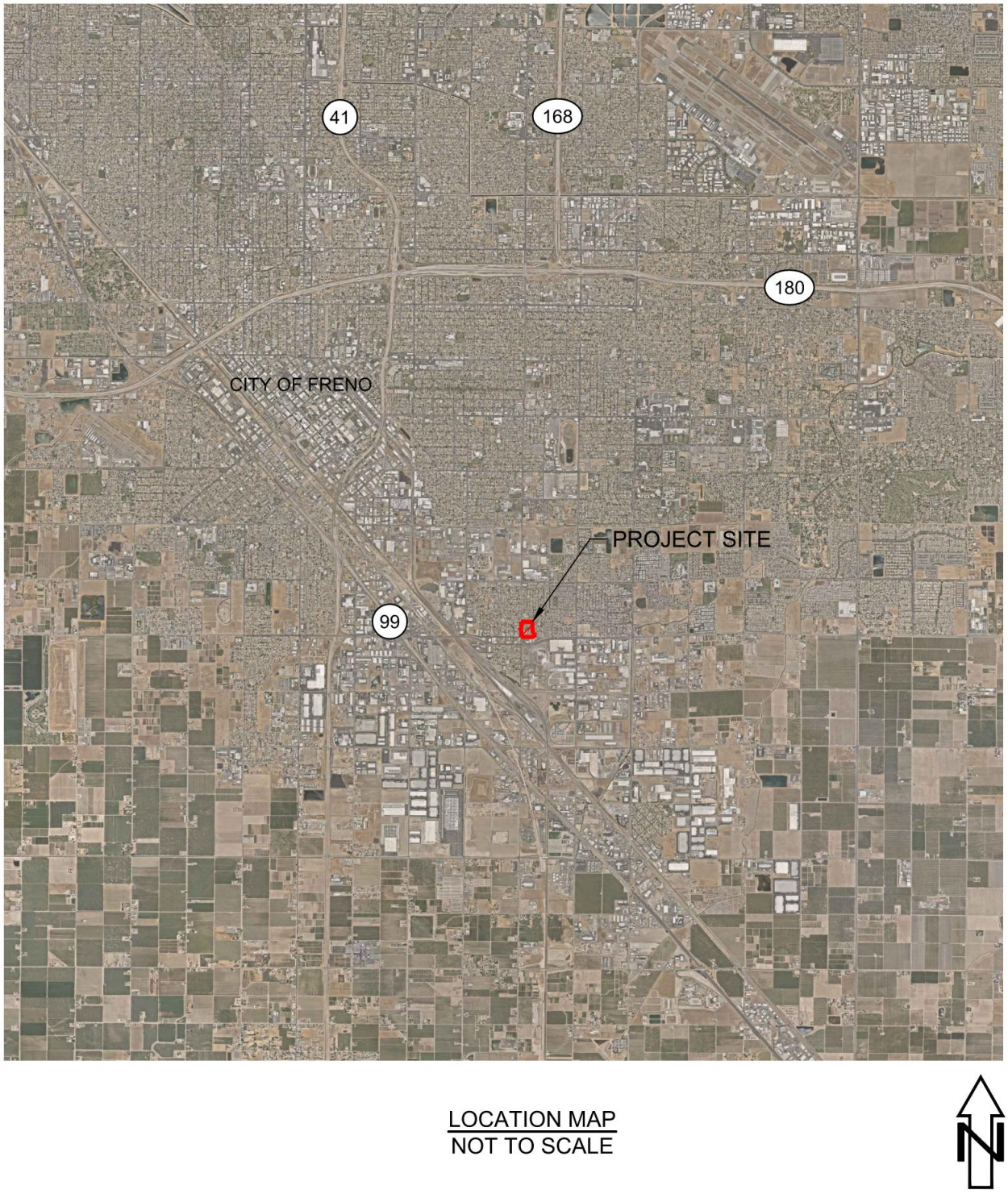


Figure 1: Project Location Map showing an aerial image of the proposed project site in the context of the City of Fresno. The project site is in south-central Fresno, east of Highway 99 and south of Highway 180.

FIGURE 2: VICINITY MAP

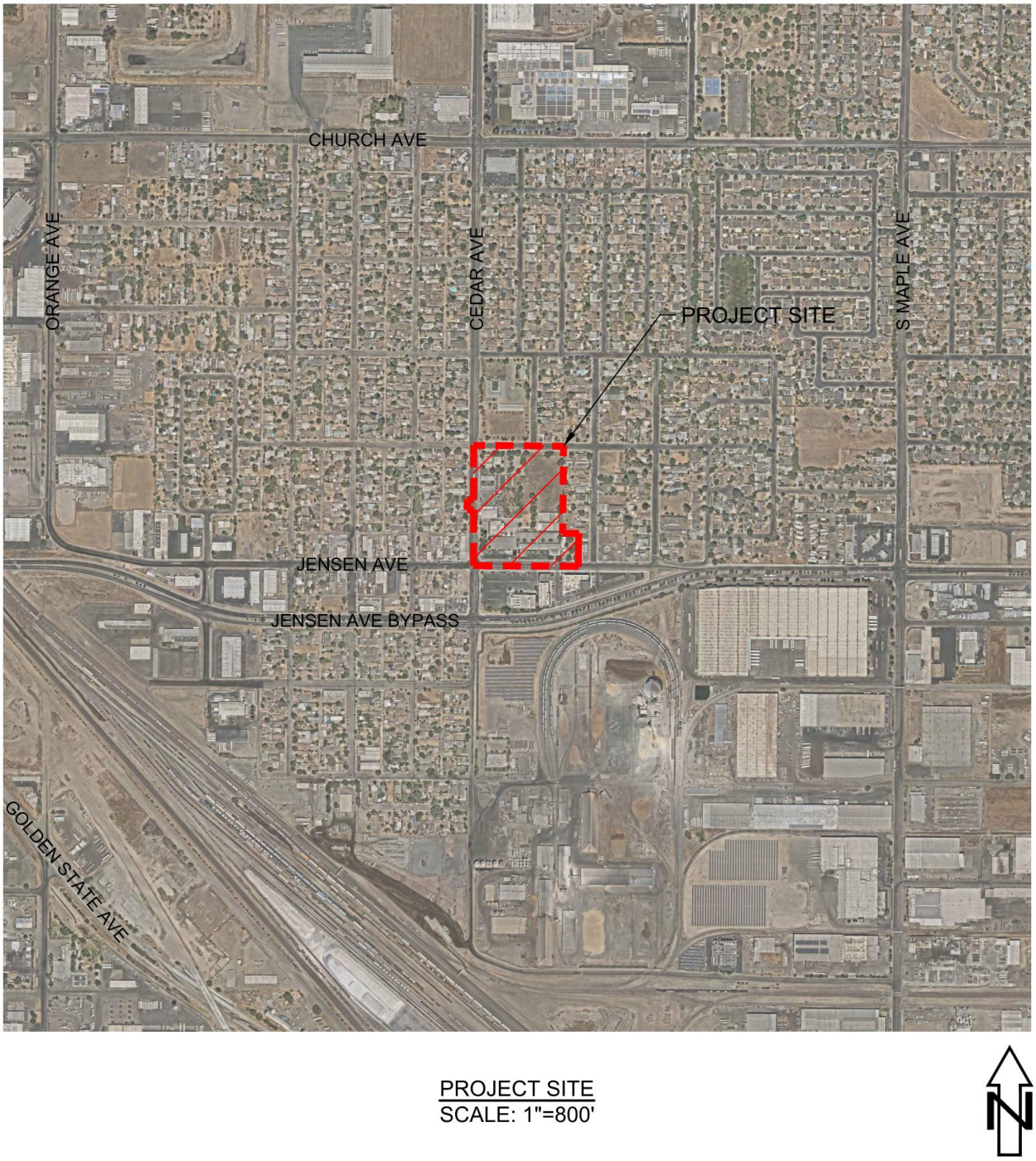


Figure 2: Vicinity Map showing an aerial image of the proposed project site within approximately a 0.75-mile radius around Calwa Elementary School and surrounding land uses. The site is located northeast of the intersection of Jensen Avenue and Cedar Avenue. Residential land uses are to the north, east, west, and southwest, while industrial uses are to the south and southwest. Railroads and Golden State Avenue are located in the southwest.

FIGURE 3: PROJECT SITE



Figure 3: Project Site showing an aerial image of Calwa Elementary School with the project boundary outlined in red. The property is bounded by Kaviland Avenue to the north, Cedar Avenue to the west, Jensen Avenue to the south, and single-family homes along Rowell Avenue to the east. The image shows school buildings of various sizes, parking lots, play fields, athletic courts, and play structures. A small section of the boundary extends west to include an existing traffic signal and crosswalk across Cedar Avenue.

Existing Site Characteristics

The project site is an operational elementary school and preschool with existing permanent buildings constructed between 1945 and 1970. The school currently serves approximately 537 students in ten permanent buildings and thirteen portable one-story classroom buildings totaling 56,700 square feet. Buildings include:

- Classroom Buildings C and D, constructed in 1945, totaling 9,110 square feet.
- A Library, constructed in 1945, 1,140 square feet.
- A Multi-Purpose Room (MPR), constructed in 1947, 5,860 square feet.
- Classroom Buildings E and F, constructed in 1949, totaling 4,040 square feet.
- Classroom Buildings A and B, constructed in 1957, totaling 7,450 square feet.
- Classroom Building H, constructed in 1963, 8,950 square feet.
- Classroom Building I, constructed in 1970, 6,500 square feet.
- Ten Portable Classroom Buildings P1 through P10, totaling 10,300 square feet.
- Three Portable Classroom Buildings P11 through P13 are used for a preschool, totaling 3,350 square feet.

Other site features include grass playfields, a ballfield backstop, blacktop play courts and basketball courts, play equipment, concrete walkways, parking lots, landscaped area, and associated utilities. The existing buildings exhibit age-related deficiencies in classroom configuration, infrastructure, accessibility, environmental quality, and energy performance, and have exceeded their useful life. A diagram of the existing Calwa Elementary School campus can be seen in Figure 4.

Historical-Era Buildings

The school has stood at its current location since 1913. Buildings built at the school that pre-date 1945 have since been destroyed and/or demolished. The buildings proposed for removal include Classroom Buildings B and C, and the library. Both buildings were constructed in 1945, designed by architect William D. Coates and retain a high level of historic integrity. The project would also demolish the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR), built in 1947 and designed by Franklin and Simpson, which is a distinctive example of mid-century modern educational architecture (Hattersley-Drayton, 2026).

Proposed Project Description

The District proposes to implement the Calwa Elementary School Reconstruction Project (“project”) using Measure H bond funds. The project would demolish and modernize, the entire campus in three phases, thereby replacing facilities that no longer meet current building, accessibility, and educational standards. Construction activities would occur while the school is in session. The project would not increase student enrollment or capacity. The existing school site map is shown below in Figure 4; phased conceptual proposed site plans displayed in Figures 5 through 9. These proposed conceptual site plans show the scale, scope, and intent of the project; however, the final design of the proposed reconstructed school would vary from these conceptual Figures.

Proposed Improvements

The Project would reconstruct the campus at the same educational capacity with modern facilities and site improvements. The new campus would include, approximately:

- A 47,300 square-foot, two-story classroom/administration/library building;
- A 9,500 square-foot MPR building (totaling 64,800 square feet of new building area);
- A 58-stall parking lot and parent drop-off loop fronting Kaviland Avenue;
- A staff parking lot (33 stalls) on the west side of the campus on Cedar Avenue;
- Bus drop-off lane and loading area on Cedar Avenue;
- New blacktop, playgrounds, backstop, and turf playfields in the campus interior and southern portion.

The proposed site improvements describe the scale, scope, and intent of the project; however, the final design of the proposed reconstructed school would vary from this description.

All new facilities would be designed and constructed in compliance with the 2025 California Building Standards Code and other applicable Division of the State Architect (DSA) standards, incorporating state requirements for energy and water efficiency, seismic and fire safety, indoor environmental quality, accessibility, and drought-tolerant landscaping.

Construction Phasing and Schedule

Construction would be implemented in three phases to maintain on-campus operations throughout the two-year construction period, anticipated from June 2028 through June 2030. Construction would occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 7 am to 5 pm:

1. Temporary Facilities – June 2028 to August 2028:
   Install eight portable classrooms in the center of the campus to house students and staff during phased construction.

2. North Campus Demolition and Reconstruction – August 2028 to July 2029:
   Complete pre-demolition hazardous-materials abatement in accordance with all applicable federal, State, and local regulations. This would include required surveys and removal procedures for asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint, consistent with the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), Cal/OSHA requirements, and applicable hazardous-waste management regulations.

   Demolish Classroom Buildings E and F and three portable classrooms (P11, P12, P13) in the northwest of the campus. Demolish the north parking lot (27 stalls), east staff parking lot (12 stalls), playfields, backstop, and play equipment, and trees.

   Construct a two-story classroom/administration/library building, MPR, an approximately 58-stall parking lot fronting E Kaviland Avenue, a drop-off lane fronting Cedar Avenue, landscaping, and new play areas.

3. South Campus Demolition and Reconstruction – August 2029 to May 2030:
   Complete pre-demolition hazardous-materials abatement as described above.

   Demolish the remaining permanent classroom buildings (constructed 1945 -1970), interim portables, two south parking lots (41 stalls), and related improvements.

   Construct a staff parking lot (33 stalls), new turf playfield, ballfield backstop, blacktop, and playground.

Utilities and Infrastructure

- Water and Sewer: Provided by the City of Fresno.
- Storm Drainage: Managed through Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) systems. On-site stormwater would be collected via inlets and underground piping to off-site storm mains or directed by surface flow to curb-and-gutter inlets.
- Electricity and Natural Gas: Supplied by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).
- Telecommunications: Provided by existing utility providers within Kailand and/or Cedar Avenue rights-of-way.

FIGURE 4: EXISTING PROJECT SITE DIAGRAM

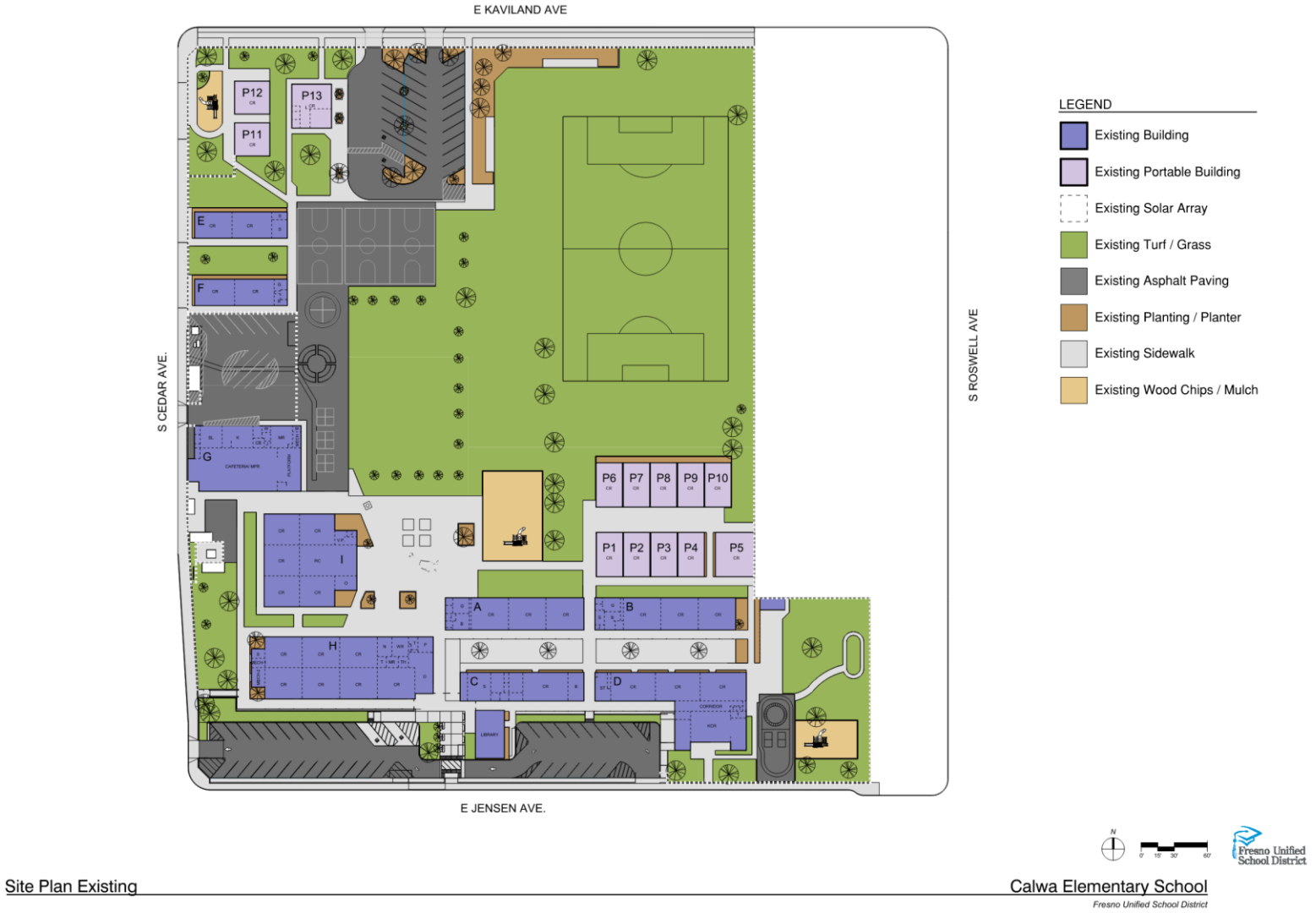


Figure 4: Existing Project Site Diagram showing Calwa Elementary School campus layout. The south portion includes eight permanent buildings (A, B, C, D, G, H, I, and Library) and ten portable buildings (P1–P10), with surrounding concrete areas, play structures, landscaping, and a parking lot along Jensen Avenue. The northwest corner has two permanent buildings (E and F), three portable buildings (P11–P13), and parking lots along Cedar Avenue and Kaviland Avenue, plus asphalt play courts. The northeast corner features a grass playfield for soccer and baseball.

FIGURE 5: PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL PHASE 1 SITE MAP

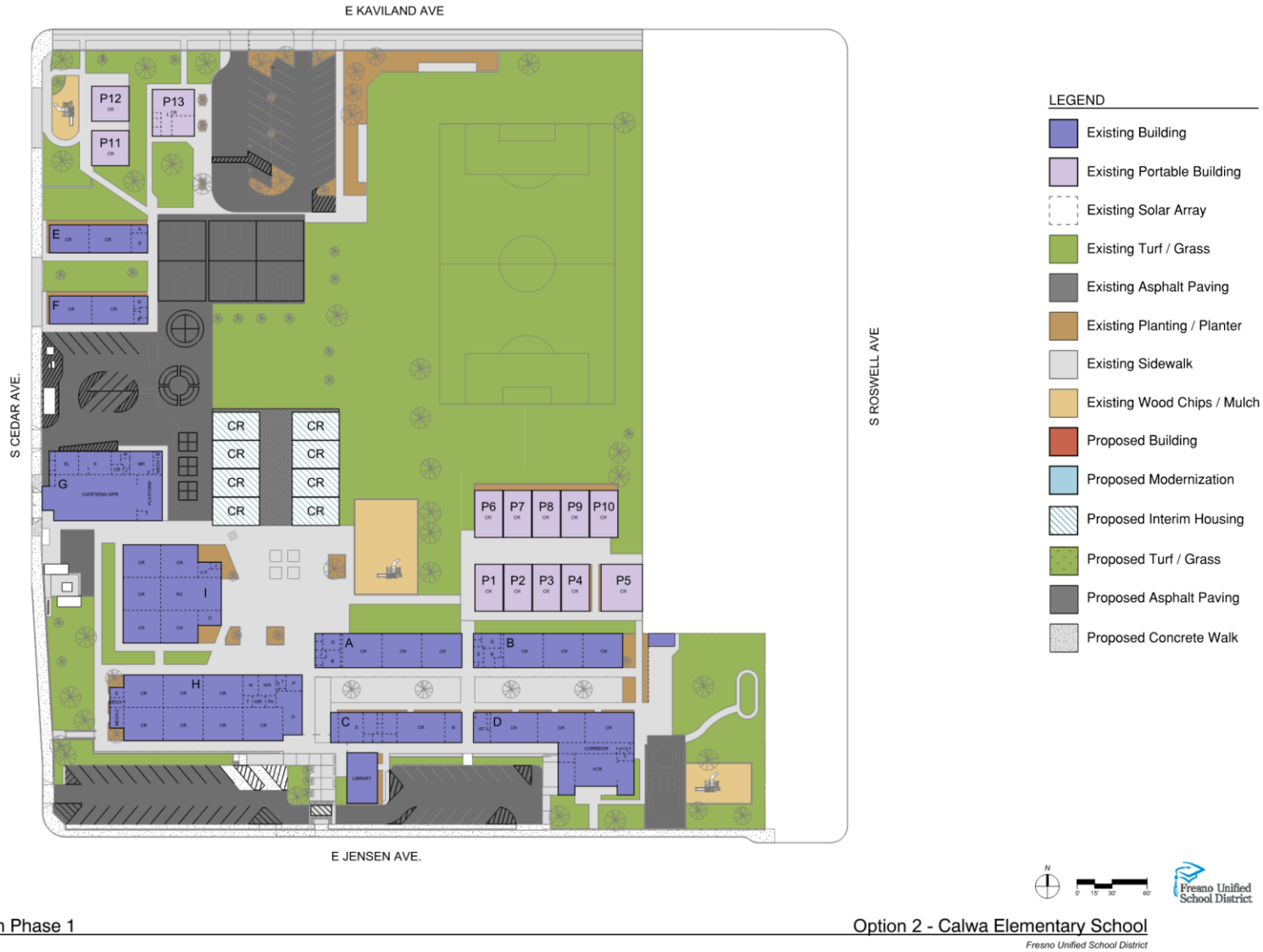


Figure 5: Proposed Phase 1 Site Map shows a diagram of the existing campus, but with eight interim portable classroom buildings proposed for construction in the center of the campus over areas formerly shown as turf playfield.

FIGURE 6: PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL PHASE 2 DEMOLITION SITE MAP

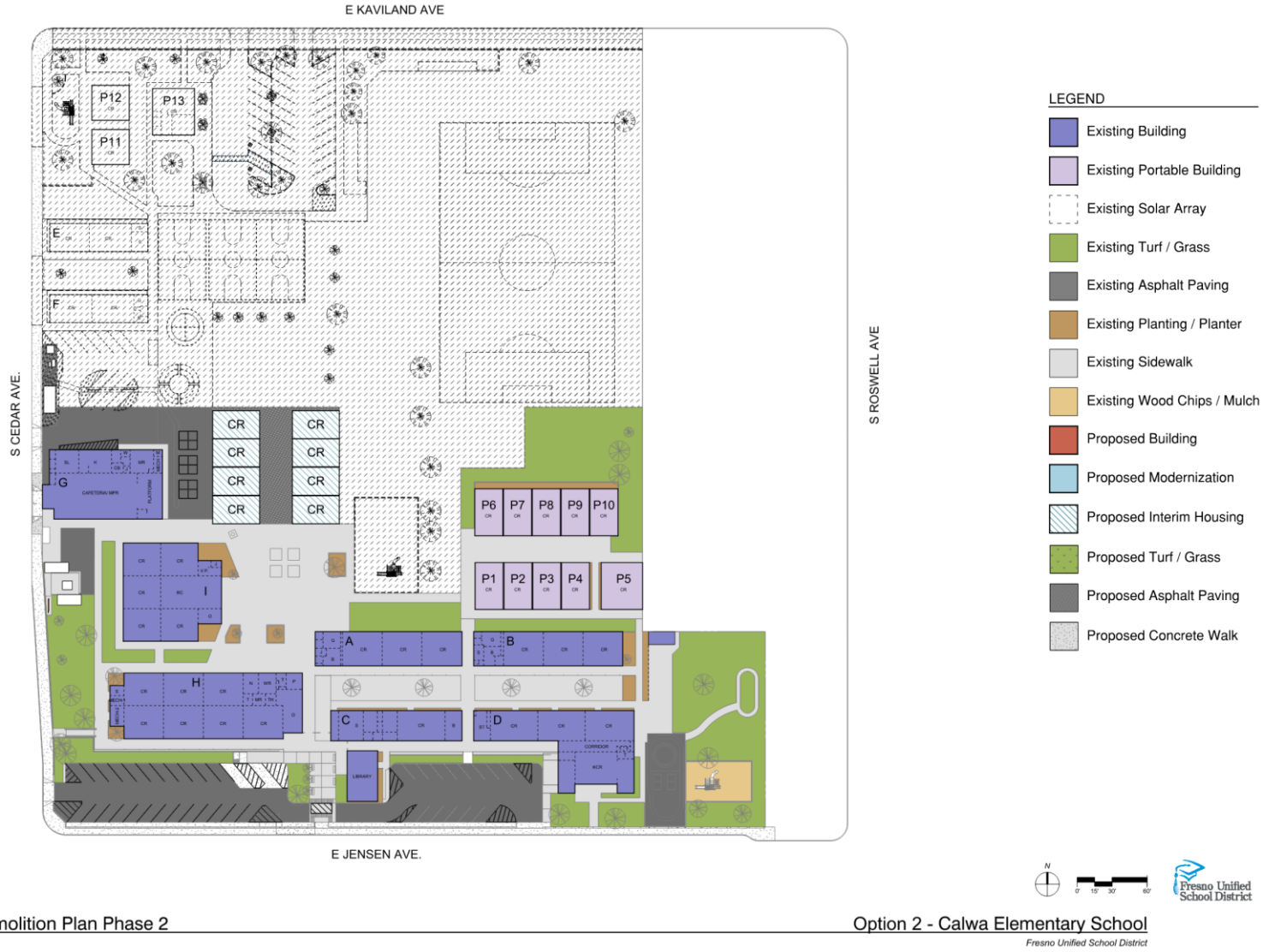


Figure 6: Proposed Phase 2 Demolition Site Map showing Calwa Elementary School campus with Phase 1 portables in place and the north half of the campus marked for demolition. Facilities to be removed include Buildings E and F, portable classrooms P11–P13, the east and north parking lots, concrete and landscaped areas, asphalt play courts, a play structure, and the northeast grass playfield.

FIGURE 7: PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL PHASE 2 SITE MAP

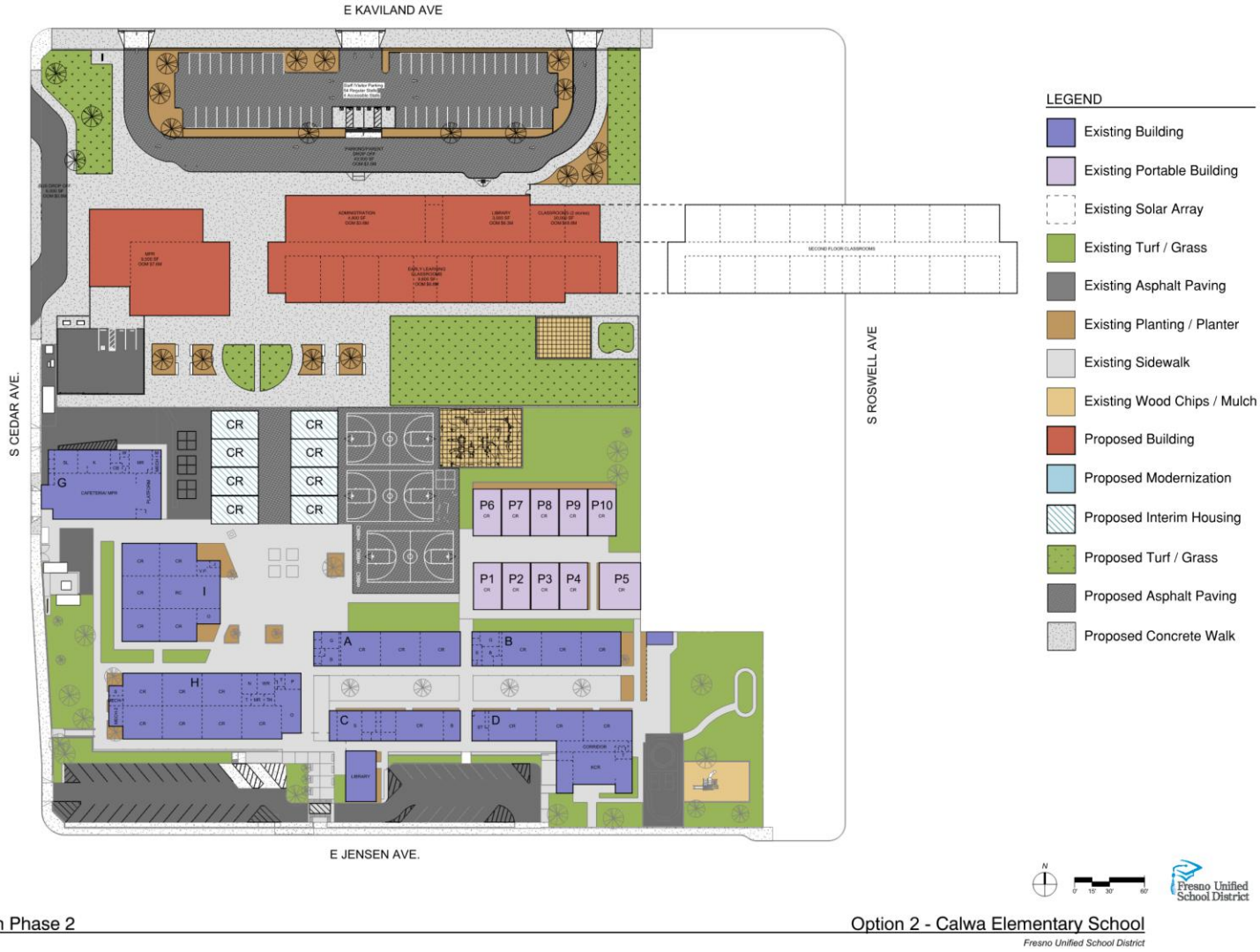


Figure 7: Proposed Phase 2 Site Map showing Calwa Elementary School campus with Phase 1 portables and a reconstructed north half. New facilities include a Multi-Purpose Room (MPR), a two-story building with administration, library, and classrooms, a large parking lot with drop-off loop along Kaviland Avenue, a bus drop-off lane and small loading lot along Cedar Avenue, landscaped and concrete areas, asphalt basketball courts, play structures, and a grass playfield.

FIGURE 8: PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL PHASE 3 DEMOLITION SITE MAP

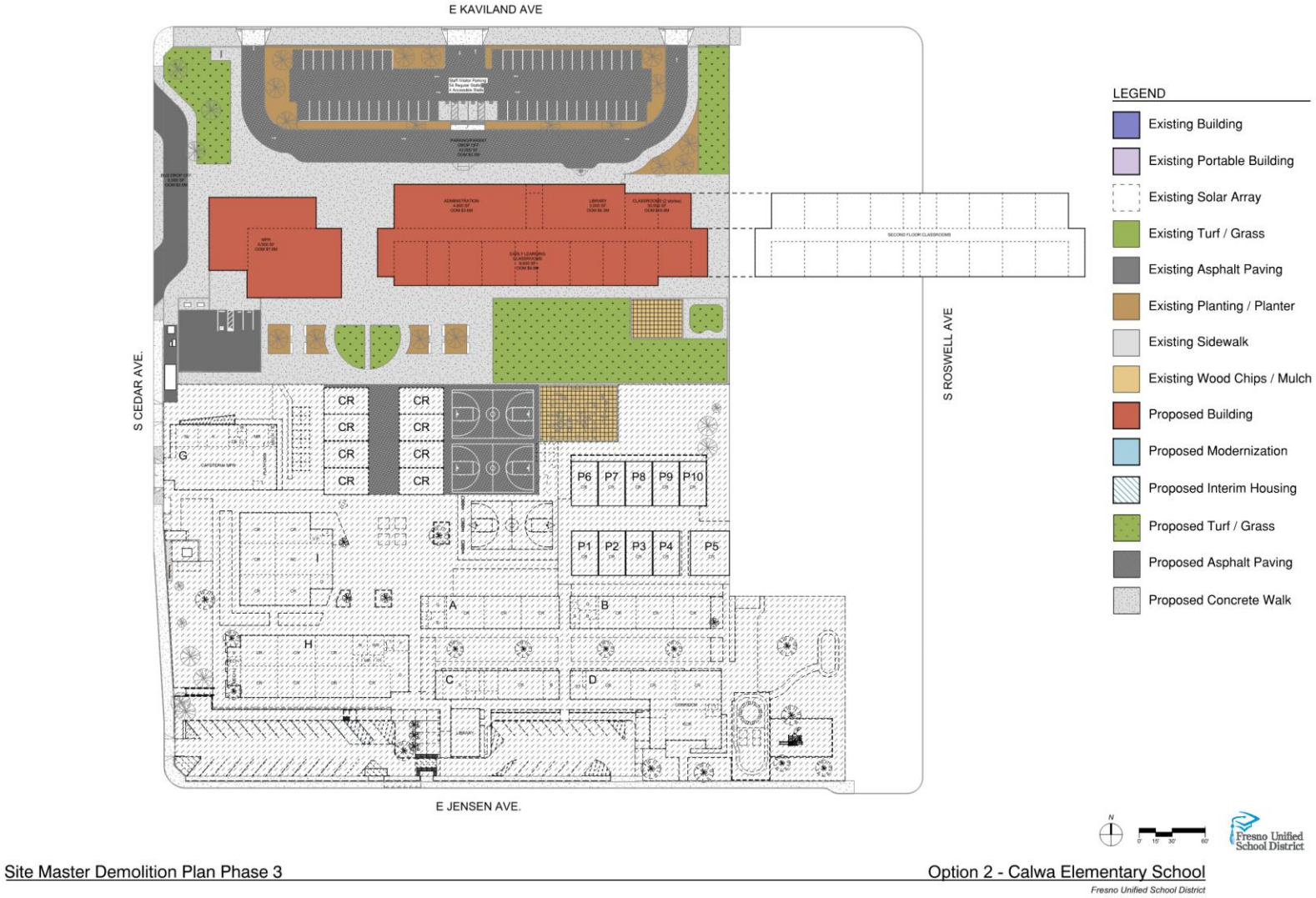


Figure 8: Proposed Phase 3 Demolition Site Map showing Calwa Elementary School campus with the north half reconstructed from Phase 2b and the south half marked for demolition. Demolition includes permanent buildings A, B, C, D, G, H, I, the Library, portable buildings P1–P10, and eight interim portables from Phase 1. Additional removals include the south parking lot along Jensen Avenue, play structures, landscaped and concrete areas, one basketball court, and a play structure/play area.

FIGURE 9: PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL PHASE 3 FINAL SITE MAP

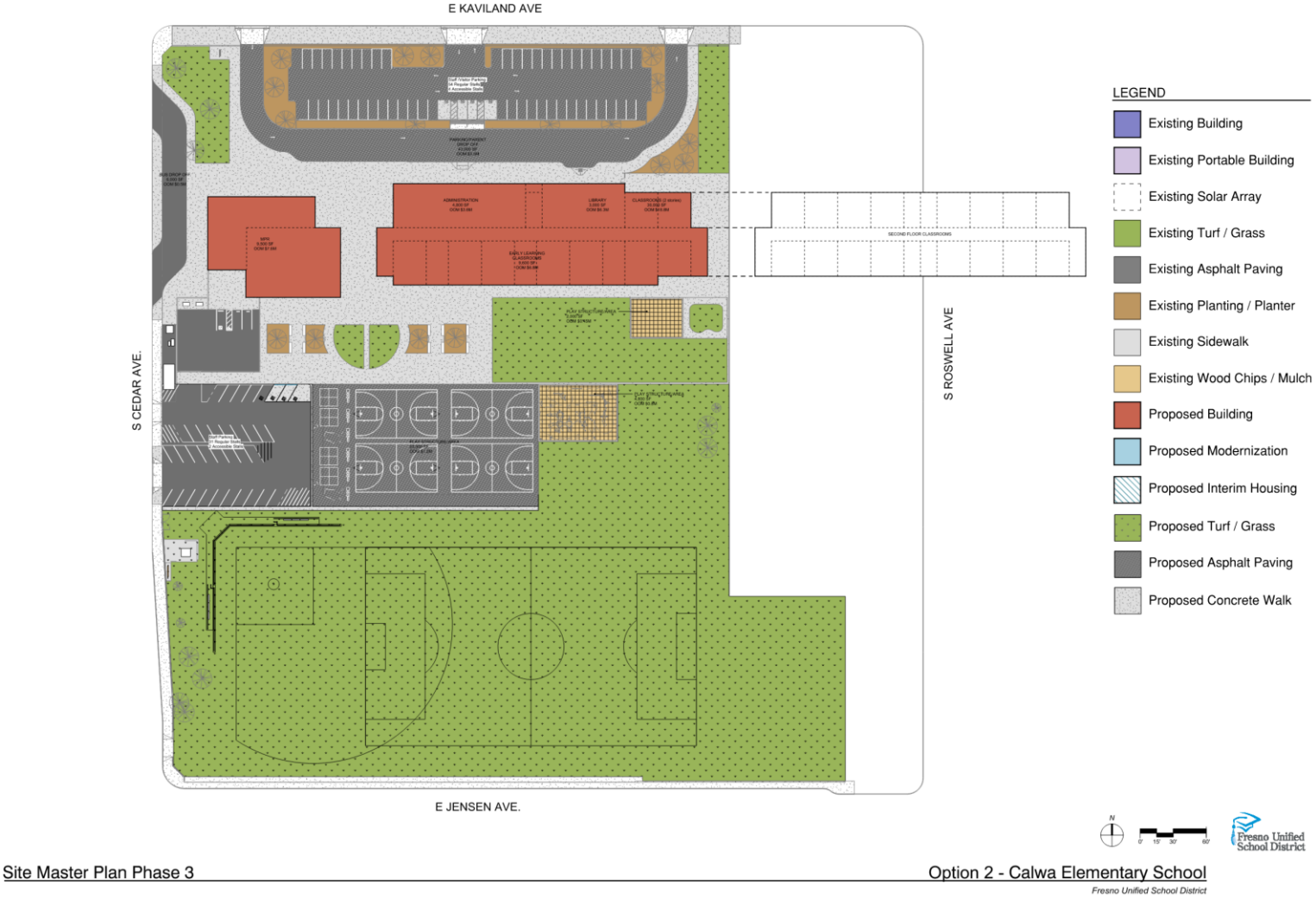


Figure 9: Proposed Phase 3 Final Site Map showing the reconstructed Calwa Elementary School campus. The north section includes a Multi-Purpose Room (MPR), a two-story building with administration, library, and classrooms, a large parking lot with a drop-off loop along Kaviland Avenue, and three parking areas along Cedar Avenue including a bus drop-off lane, a small loading lot, and a medium-sized parking lot. Landscaped and concrete areas surround these facilities. The center of the campus features four asphalt basketball courts, play structures, and a grass playfield. The south section includes a large playfield with a baseball/softball backstop and a soccer field. North is at the top of the map.

Required Project Approvals

The District must undertake the following actions to implement the project:

- Complete the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process for the project by certifying the EIR.
- Adopt and implement the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).
- Certify a statement of overriding considerations.
- Approve the project.
- Plan Review and Approval from the Division of State Architects (DSA).
- Off-site plan review and approval by the City of Fresno.
- Grading and drainage plan review and approval by Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD).
- Encroachment Permit and Traffic Control Plan review and approval by the City of Fresno.
- Fresno County Environmental Health plan review and approval, a preopening inspection, and issuance of a Permit to Operate as a retail food facility.-opening inspection, and
- Submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).
- Receive Indirect Source Review (ISR) Air Impact Assessment (AIA) approval letter from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD).
- Submittal of an asbestos inspection/survey, a completed Asbestos Notification Form, and issuance of a Demolition Permit Release Form from SJVAPCD confirming compliance with NESHAP asbestos requirements.
- Receive Dust Control Plan (DCP) approval from the SJVAPCD.

Project Design Alternative Analysis

The District will prepare project design alternatives that may avoid or reduce one or more of the project's potential environmental impacts. At the time of this NOP, the District plans to consider one alternative that would preserve and rehabilitate all historically significant buildings at the project site, a second alternative that would preserve and rehabilitate some historically significant buildings, and the "no project" alternative.

As part of the scoping process, the District welcomes public input on reasonable and feasible alternative project designs, including alternative site layouts or configurations, that could reduce potential environmental impacts while meeting most or all of the project objectives.

Summary of Potential Environmental Issues

The proposed project could result in potentially significant environmental effects. Accordingly, the District will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to evaluate the project's potential physical environmental impacts and determine the extent to which mitigation measures could reduce those impacts to less-than-significant levels. As required by CEQA, the EIR will examine all environmental issues that may result in potentially significant effects, identify feasible mitigation measures, and evaluate whether those measures would adequately reduce impacts.

The EIR will be prepared in compliance with CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines. The EIR will serve as an informational document for public agencies and the community to support decision-making related to the proposed project. The EIR will disclose all potentially significant physical environmental effects of the project and analyze feasible approaches to avoiding or reducing those impacts.

The EIR will evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed project associated with both construction and operational activities and will identify mitigation measures for impacts determined to be significant. The EIR will also evaluate cumulative impacts by considering the effects of the proposed project together with impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. The EIR will address all environmental topics in the CEQA Appendix G checklist, including:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise and Ground-borne Vibration
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

Additionally, the EIR will compare the environmental impacts of feasible project alternatives to determine whether they would reduce or avoid one or more significant impacts while still meeting all or most project objectives. The EIR will also describe alternatives considered but rejected and will evaluate a No Project Alternative that examines reasonably foreseeable conditions if the project were not undertaken. The EIR will also discuss CEQA required topics such as growth inducing impacts, significant unavoidable impacts, significant irreversible environmental changes, and any known areas of public controversy related to the project and its effects, as well as identify the environmentally superior alternative.

Topics Expected to Be a Focus of Analysis in the EIR

The District has preliminarily determined that the proposed project may result in significant environmental effects related to cultural resources, air quality, and hazardous materials. These topics have been identified as requiring detailed evaluation in the EIR. The District welcomes public and agency input during the NOP review period to help identify any additional environmental issues that may warrant in-depth analysis to ensure that all potentially significant impacts of the proposed project are thoroughly evaluated and addressed.

Historical Resources

Based on a Historic Building Evaluation Report prepared by Karana Hattersley-Drayon for the campus dated January 3, 2026, the District understands that three onsite buildings appear eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. The proposed project includes removal of Classroom

Buildings B and C (treated as a single historical resource) and the Library, constructed in 1945 and designed by William D. Coates, as well as the MPR, constructed in 1947 and designed to Franklin & Simpson (Hattersley-Drayton, 2026). Because demolition or material alteration may constitute a "substantial adverse change" to a historical resource under CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, this topic is expected to be controversial and would be a primary focus of the EIR.

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines, Section 15082, this NOP provides this information to enable meaningful scoping. The Draft EIR would evaluate whether onsite buildings meet the definition of historical resources under Section 15064.5, analyze whether project activities would result in a substantial adverse change, and consider a reasonable range of preservation forward alternatives (e.g., retention/rehabilitation in place and site layout refinements) that would avoid or substantially reduce adverse effects while meeting most or all project objectives. The Draft EIR would also identify feasible mitigation measures (e.g., documentation, salvage, interpretive elements) to reduce the severity of any impacts. The full Historic Building Evaluation Report would be included in the Draft EIR appendices.

Although primary concerns involve historic period buildings, ground-disturbing activities could encounter previously unknown (buried) archaeological resources. The EIR would assess this potential and identify discovery and treatment procedures consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5

Air Quality Impacts

The project site is located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, an air basin that continues to experience some of the highest ozone and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentrations in the nation (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, n.d.). The project is also situated in the South-Central Fresno community, a densely developed industrial area designated under Assembly Bill (AB) 617 as a Community Air Protection area due to its elevated cumulative exposure to air pollutants and documented environmental justice concerns (California Air Resources Board). As part of the AB 617 program, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) has adopted the South-Central Fresno Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP), which establishes community-focused emission reduction-reduction strategies and informs regulatory expectations for activities occurring within the area (SJVAPCD, 2019).

The EIR will evaluate the project's potential construction and operational air emissions, including criteria air pollutants, toxic air contaminants, and localized community level exposure considerations. The analysis will assess the project's consistency with applicable SJVAPCD rules, thresholds, and relevant CERP objectives. The EIR will also identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts and fully assess whether any impacts would remain significant and unavoidable.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Given the age of the onsite buildings (constructed between 1945 and 1970) and the potential for historical land uses to have involved hazardous materials, the project site may contain structures with hazardous building materials or areas of soil contamination. In particular, the onsite buildings may include asbestos-containing materials (ACM), lead-containing materials (LCM), and lead-based paint, which are commonly present in structures built prior to 1990 and 1978, respectively (California Department of Public Health, 2017) (DTSC, 2006). In addition, soils around older buildings may contain chlordane, the most widely used organochlorine termiticide applied directly to building foundations from the mid-1940s through the late 1980s, which is known to persist in soil for decades (DTSC, 2006).

Demolition and ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed project could result in the disturbance or release of these substances, potentially exposing construction workers, nearby sensitive

receptors (i.e. students), or future site users to hazardous materials. The EIR will evaluate the presence and extent of hazardous materials within existing structures and soils, assess potential exposure pathways, and identify feasible regulatory compliance actions and mitigation measures to reduce associated risks. The analysis will also determine whether any hazardous materials impacts would remain significant and unavoidable after mitigation.

Topics Expected to Be Addressed in a Limited or Streamlined Manner

Based on the characteristics of the proposed project and existing site conditions, the District anticipates that the environmental topics listed below would not require a full chapter level analysis but would still receive focused evaluation in the EIR to determine whether the project would result in a significant impact and to identify appropriate mitigation measures, if needed. These topics include:

Aesthetics	Related to changes in visual character associated with demolition and reconstruction of the campus.
Biology	Related to potential disturbance to urban adapted wildlife and migratory birds.
Archeology	Related to potential disturbance of underground archeological resources.
Energy	Related to construction energy consumption and long-term operational efficiency of new campus facilities.
Geology and Soils	Related to the potential for geologic or seismic hazards and the currently unknown potential for paleontological resources.
Greenhouse Gases	To evaluate construction and operational emissions and assess consistency with applicable greenhouse gas reduction plans.
Hydrology and Water Quality	Related to construction stormwater pollution, localized flooding conditions, and operational water use.
Noise and Groundborne Vibrations	Related to temporary construction noise and typical operational noise levels for a school campus.
Transportation	Related to temporary construction period traffic, operational campus circulation, and traffic/pedestrian safety.
Tribal Cultural Resources	Related to the potential presence of previously unidentified tribal cultural resources within ground disturbing areas.

Topics Not Expected to Require Detailed Evaluation in the EIR

Based on the characteristics of the proposed project and existing site conditions, the District anticipates that the environmental topics listed below would not require detailed study in the EIR. Each topic would receive a brief explanation in the Draft EIR to confirm whether the project would result in an impact and whether any mitigation measures are warranted.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources	The project site contains no agricultural or forestry lands, and no such resources are present in the surrounding urbanized area.
Land Use and Planning	The proposed project would not change the existing land use; the site would continue to operate as a school campus.
Mineral Resources	The project site is an existing, fully developed school campus, and no known mineral resources are present.
Population and Housing	The project would not displace housing or generate population growth, as it involves reconstruction of an existing school campus for the same student population.
Public Services	Because the project would continue existing campus operations and would not increase the population, the project is not expected to place additional demands on public services.
Recreation	The project would not increase demand for recreational facilities and would reconstruct existing on-site playfields used by the school community.
Utilities and Service Systems	The reconstructed campus would not substantially increase utility demand, and all utility hookups would be subject to existing permitting and service procedures through the City of Fresno.
Wildfire	The project site is not located in or near a State Responsibility Area or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and wildfire hazards are not expected to be an issue for this urbanized area.

Findings

The proposed project may result in significant environmental effects, and therefore preparation of an EIR is required. This determination is based on CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064 (Determining Significant Effect) and 15065 (Mandatory Findings of Significance). The purpose of the EIR is to evaluate the project's potential physical environmental impacts, identify feasible measures to reduce significant

effects, and analyze reasonable alternatives to the proposed project. Issuance of a Notice of Preparation or preparation of an EIR does not indicate whether the lead agency will ultimately approve or deny the project; however, decisionmakers must review and consider the analysis in the EIR before taking action on the project.

Public Scoping Comments

The District welcomes your comments concerning potential environmental effects of this project. Written comments will be accepted until **5 p.m.** on April 19, 2026. Written comments should be sent to Heidi Heltne, Fresno Unified School District Facilities Management & Planning, 4600 N Brawley Avenue, Fresno, CA 93722, or emailed to calwaeirteam@fresnounified.org.

If you work for an agency that is a Responsible or a Trustee Agency, we need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR when considering a permit or other approval for this project. Please include the name and contact person for your agency.

Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the District. All written or oral communications, including submitted personal contact information, may be made available to the public for inspection and copying upon request and may appear on the District's website or in other public documents.

Recipients of this notice are encouraged to share this information with others who may have an interest in the project.



03/20/26

Alex Belanger
Chief Executive, Operational Services
Fresno Unified School District

Date

References

Following are the documents and other sources consulted in preparing this Notice of Preparation:

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