

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: Kern
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: (Public Agency): Wasco Union High School District
2100 7th Street
Wasco, CA 93280

(Address)

RECEIVED
KERN COUNTY

MAR 24 2026

Project Title: Wasco High School New Gymnasium

Project Applicant: Wasco Union High School District

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY [Signature] DEPUTY

Project Location - Specific:

1900 7th Street Wasco, Kern County, California 93280

Project Location - City: Wasco Project Location - County: Kern County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project is located on an existing school campus and consists of adding an additional gymnasium with one classroom to the campus. This addition does not increase student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms. The project therefore, falls within the Categorical Exempt classification.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Wasco Union High School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

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: 15300, 15314
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

All aspects of the proposed project fall under the following Categorical exemption:
Class 14 consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, whichever is less.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Kevin Tallon Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 661-758-8447

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: [Signature] Date: 3/20/2026 Title: Superintendent

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:

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

TO: Kevin Tallon, Superintendent; WUHS
FROM: Martin Lonza, Consulting, Director of Facilities and Planning
RE: Wasco High School New Gymnasium CEQA categorical exemption
DATE: January, 14, 2026

A component of the Wasco High School New Gymnasium project necessitates a determination as to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

This project is located on an existing school campus and consists of adding an additional gymnasium with one classroom to the campus. This addition does not increase student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms. The project therefore, falls within the Categorical Exempt classification.

I request that the Wasco High School New Gymnasium project be certified as Categorical Exempt from CEQA requirements.

Supporting documentation:

Title 14. California Code of Regulations
**Chapter 3. Guidelines for Implementation of the
California Environmental Quality Act**

Article 19. Categorical Exemptions

Sections 15300 to 15333

15300. Categorical Exemptions

Section 21084 of the Public Resources Code requires these Guidelines to include a list of classes of projects which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which shall, therefore, be exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

In response to that mandate, the Secretary for Resources has found that the following classes of projects listed in this article do not have a significant effect on the environment, and they are declared to be categorically exempt from the requirement for the preparation of environmental documents.

15314. Minor Additions to Schools

Class 14 consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, whichever is less. The addition of portable classrooms is included in this exemption.

Note: Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code; Reference: Section 21084, Public Resources Code.

Wasco Union High School District
Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting
Wasco High School
Board Room 202
February 12, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Adopted Minutes

- I. A regular meeting of the Wasco Union High School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the President Carl Joe Hively.

Board Members Present

Mr. Joe Hively, President
Mrs. Sharon Nicol, Clerk
Mr. Juan Bernal

Mr. Hector Gutierrez
Mr. John Steward

Administrators Present

Mr. Kevin Tallon
Mrs. Sunni Dobbs
Jessica Castruita

Mrs. La'Steveia Dixon
Mr. TJ Yasenchak

Classified Management Present

Mr. Michael Adams
Mr. Christian Parra

Mr. Jose Quintana
Mrs. Nelly Sanchez

Secretary Present

Mrs. Gracie Saldaña

Visitors

Joe Blanchard, Jose Rios, Yareli Vidales

Flag Salute

The flag was saluted.

- II. Adopt Agenda

It was moved by Steward and seconded by Nicol to adopt the agenda. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. Bernal, Aye; Gutierrez, Aye; Hively, Aye; Nicol, Aye; Steward, Aye.

- III. Public Comments

None

- IV. Executive Session

The meeting convened in executive session at 5:32 p.m.

Regular Session

The meeting convened in regular session at 6:00 p.m.

Announcement of Executive Session Actions

The board took action during Executive Session to approve the following

- a. Consider Approval of Certificated Employee(s)

- I. Summer School Teacher(s)
 - a. Adams, Monica ATS
 - b. Contreras, Sergio Integrated I
 - c. Jones, Stephanie Integrated I
 - d. Bryson, Kayli Integrated II
 - e. Okolonwamu, Violeta EL Coordinator
 - f. Tyack, Haleigh English 9
 - g. Wara, Garth Physical Education
 - h. Gonzalez, Rafael ELD Acceleration
 - i. Abernathy, David Ag Academy Coordinator
 - j. Hunter, Ian Ag Academy Coordinator
 - k. Medina, Jackie Ag Academy Support
 - l. Gonzales, Greg Ag Academy Support
 - m. Rodriguez, Amanda Ag Academy Support
 - n. Rios, Allie Early College Support
 - o. Steward, Jessica Early College Support
 - p. Pineo, Julie Beginning Art
 - q. Castillo, Jennifer Independent Study
 - r. Soto, Blanca Independent Study
 - s. Gentry, Rosemarie Independent Study
 - t. Alvarado, Millie Credit Recovery (Edgenuity)
 - u. Wedel, Angela Credit Recovery (Edgenuity)
 - v. Mayo, Joey Credit Recovery (Edgenuity)
 - w. Moreno, Katie Credit Recovery (Edgenuity)
 - x. McCurdy, Jill SPED Teacher
 - y. Wedel, Kyle SPED Teacher
 - z. Aufforth, Jennifer Migrant Credit Recovery
 - aa. Oliva, Luz Early College Counselor
 - bb. Prado, Irma Counselor
2. Freshmen Academy Teacher(s)
 - a. Almaguer, Michelle English Freshman Academy
 - b. Pelayo, Liliana English Freshman Academy
 - c. Santillan, Sean English Freshman Academy
 - d. Fahey, Denise English Freshman Academy
 - e. Cisneros, Dayzee English Freshman Academy
 - f. Williams, Madison Math Freshman Academy
 - g. Flores, Charmae Math Freshman Academy
 - h. Castro, Victor Math Freshman Academy
- b. Consider Approval of Classified Employee(s)
 1. Garcia, Yolanda Registration Clerk
 2. Student Workers
 - a. Cisneros, Estevan
 - b. Ocampo, Anahi
 3. Substitute Pool
 - a. Aguilar, Diane
 - b. Cisneros, Guillermo
 - c. Galvan, Jessica
 - d. Martinez, Vivica
 - e. Navarro, Amanda
 - f. Padilla, Patricia
 - g. Pena, Nickolas
 - h. Ramirez, Julian
 - i. Snow, Nevaeh

4. Summer School Staff						
a.	Medina, Gloria			Supp Service Aides (Migrant)		
b.	Aguilar, Kassandra			Instructional Assistant		
c.	Cortez, Guadalupe			Instructional Assistant		
d.	Galvan, Cassidy			Instructional Assistant		
e.	Galvan, Michelle			Instructional Assistant		
f.	Martinez, Jocelyn			Instructional Assistant		
g.	Montoya, Deanna			Instructional Assistant		
h.	Flores, Fatima			Instructional Assistant		
i.	Sharp, Sharon			Instructional Assistant		
j.	Gil, Elena			Instructional Assistant		
k.	Velez, Arianna			Instructional Assistant		
l.	Derington, Donna			Campus Supervisor		
m.	Dunlap, Desha			Campus Supervisor		
n.	Rodriguez, Manolo			Campus Supervisor		
o.	Pineda, Adriana			Cafeteria Assistant		
p.	Fernandez, Sara			Cafeteria Assistant		
q.	Ocampo, Monica			Cafeteria Assistant		
r.	Vargas, Bertha			Cafeteria Assistant		
c. Athletic Coach(es)						
a.	Martinez, Dominic	Spring	Walk-On	BaseballAssistant	Var	Paid
b.	Martinez, Jimmy	Spring	Employee	BaseballHead	JV	Paid
c.	Martinez, Nacho	Spring	Walk-On	Softball Assistant	JV	Volunteer
d.	Granados, Jessie	Spring	Walk-On	BaseballAssistant	Var	Paid

It was moved by Nicol and seconded by Bernal to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. Bernal, Aye; Gutierrez, Aye; Hively, Aye; Nicol, Aye; Steward, Aye.

V. Reading and Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Bernal and seconded by Steward to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 15, 2026. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. Bernal, Aye; Gutierrez, Aye; Hively, Aye; Nicol, Aye; Steward, Aye.

VI. Public Comments

Mr. Blanchard – Wasco High School Teacher/CTA Representative, provided an update regarding Proposition 55 expiring this year. Informed the Board of an ongoing petition effort and invited Board members to sign the petition.

VII. Items from Board Members

Mr. Hively – None

Mrs. Nicol – She reported on the Delegate Assembly and shared that she will be presenting a CSBA resolution. She noted that more information will be provided in the coming months.

Mr. Bernal – None

Mr. Steward – None

Mr. Gutierrez – He shared his prayers for the WIHSD students who were recently injured. He thanked the Athletics Department for hosting an amazing Soccer Senior Night. He also congratulated Mrs. Amanda Rodriguez on receiving the *One Teacher at a Time* award. He concluded by sharing that the Super Bowl halftime show was beautiful, highlighting a celebration of culture, and appreciated the overall message that together, we are America.

Reports

1. Student Board Representative Yareli Vidales. She reported on several upcoming events and student activities, including Snowball and updates on Tilly's Closet. She also provided a SkillsUSA update and shared information on winter playoffs. She announced that the cheer team won the SS Championship and will be attending Nationals in Anaheim. She also shared an update on LCAP participation and the student survey. She noted that this Tuesday, ASB and Student Council will be attending the Jostens Renaissance event. She concluded by sharing that ASB is also preparing for the next rally.

Superintendent Tallon reported on the legal update regarding federal and state revenue. He reviewed the revenue projection overview and provided updates on federal funding.

Superintendent Tallon then reported on fog procedures and school closure updates. He reviewed the fog delay determination process, noting that five bus routes run each morning and transport over 300 students. He also discussed notification and communication procedures, as well as how athletic events are determined and rescheduled when necessary. He concluded by reviewing the impact of school cancellations, including make-up days and the potential J-13 option.

Superintendent Tallon then introduced Mr. Prado to review the make-up day options. Mr. Prado presented Plan A, which includes J-13 approval and maintaining the academic calendar as is, and Plan B, which includes a final schedule adjustment. Under Plan B, seniors would not be impacted, and the summer school schedule would be adjusted to end on July 2nd, with appropriate notification provided.

Mr. Tallon reported on the following;

Transportation Services – Driver Training – I am proud to share that Transportation Coordinator Stephanie Wymer completed the state-required Driver Instructor Certification program and graduated today. This rigorous, month-long training in Sacramento restores our ability to conduct in-house bus driver training. Congratulations to Stephanie for this significant professional accomplishment and for strengthening our transportation program.

Winter Athletics – Congratulations to our winter student-athletes and coaches on a strong season representing the District with pride and perseverance.

Wrestling – The Boys Wrestling team are SSL Champions and will compete at Valley this weekend at Clovis East. The Girls team will compete at Golden Valley. Congratulations to Coach Juan Gallardo and our student-athletes as they advance to Valley competition.

Girls Soccer – Our team qualified for the playoffs, finishing 4th in the SSL. They earned the 10th seed in Division V and will travel to East Bakersfield for the first round on Friday at 6:00 p.m. Coach Castro has announced his resignation effective at the end of the season. We thank him for his service to the program.

Boys Soccer – The JV team are SSL Champions. Varsity finished 3rd in the SSL, with the playoff bracket was released today we are the #15 seed in Division III and playing on the road against # 2 seed Templeton on Saturday at 6:00 PM.

Girls Basketball – Under first-year leadership, the team secured its first winning season and third playoff appearance in twenty years, finishing 4th in the SSL. The playoff bracket was released today, and we are the #10 seed in Division VI playing on the road against Fowler on Saturday at 6:00 PM. Congratulations to Coach Eddie Velasquez and the team on a significant milestone season.

Boys Basketball – While the program continues to rebuild, the team showed commitment throughout the summer and off-season. With only one senior starter and three promising sophomore starters, the foundation is being established for future success. We remain optimistic that next year will mark a turning point for the program.

Trustee Visit – Earlier today, Trustee Gutierrez visited Wasco High School and Wasco Independence High School. He toured classrooms and met with operational departments to gain a deeper understanding of our instructional programs and district systems. We appreciate his time and engagement.

Trustee Winter Dinner Meeting – The Kern County School Boards Association Winter Dinner Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2026. Please return your attendance and meal selection card to Gracie this evening.

That concludes my report.

Enrollment Data:

Last Year

WHS	1613
IHS	111
District	1725

Last Month

WHS	1659
IHS	108
District	1746

This Week

WHS	1653
IHS	96
District	1749

This is an increase of 24 students from last year.

CHANGES

- 3 Transferred to IHS
- 2 Moved to Community School (WHS, IHS)
- 2 Moved to Other California Schools (WHS)
- 2 Student Moved Out of State
- 2 Students Graduated from ISP

VIII. Discussion and Action

1. It was moved by Bernal and seconded by Nicol to approve the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar Fees. The Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. Bernal, Aye; Gutierrez, Aye; Hively, Aye; Nicol, Aye; Steward, Aye.
2. It was moved by Steward, and seconded by Bernal, to approve the 2025-2026 Comprehensive School Safety Plan. The Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. Bernal, Aye; Gutierrez, Aye; Hively, Aye; Nicol, Aye; Steward, Aye.
3. It was moved by Gutierrez, and seconded by Nicol, to approve the SCArchitect Professional Services Architect's Proposal for the Wasco High School Basketball Courts Project. The Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. Bernal, Aye; Gutierrez, Aye; Hively, Aye; Nicol, Aye; Steward, Aye.

4. It was moved by Nicol, and seconded by Steward, to approve the Wasco High School New Gymnasium CEQA Categorical Exemption. The Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. Bernal, Aye; Gutierrez, Aye; Hively, Aye; Nicol, Aye; Steward, Aye.
5. It was moved by Gutierrez, and seconded by Bernal to approve the Field Trip(s). The Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. Bernal, Aye; Gutierrez, Aye; Hively, Aye; Nicol, Aye; Steward, Aye.

IX. Discussion and Information

1. Correspondence from Kern County Superintendent of Schools regarding the Return of First Interim Report
2. Correspondence from Kern County Superintendent of Schools regarding the Kern County School Boards Association Winter School Trustee Dinner Meeting

X. Claims, Transfers and Accounts

It was moved by Nicol and seconded by Bernal to approve the claims, transfers and accounts for batches 52-61 and payrolls in the amount of \$2,705,151.62. The Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. Bernal, Aye; Gutierrez, Aye; Hively, Aye; Nicol, Aye; Steward, Aye.

XI. Executive Session (cont'd)

None

XII. Adjournment

It was moved by Steward, seconded by Gutierrez, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. Bernal, Aye; Gutierrez, Aye; Hively, Aye; Nicol, Aye; Steward, Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.