

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: Marin
 3501 Civic Center Drive
 San Rafael, CA 94903

From: (Public Agency): Novato Unified School District
1015 Seventh Street
Novato, CA 94945
 (Address)

Project Title: Novato Charter School Re-Roofing Project

Project Applicant: Novato Unified School District

Project Location - Specific:
 940 C Street, Novato, CA. 94949

Project Location - City: Novato Project Location - County: Marin

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would consist of installing a new roof overlay at eight modular classrooms at the school. Beneficiaries would be students and staff at the school.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Novato Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Novato Unified School 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: Class 1; Section 15301
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 15061 (3) General Rule Exemption


Reasons why project is exempt:

Project would be repairs to existing school buildings. No increase in capacity would occur. Project would not have any significant impacts (Section 15061(3) exemption). See attached Discussion.

Lead Agency
 Contact Person: Joshua Braff, CBO Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 415 493-4260

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: 3/11/26 Title: CBO

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: _____

NOVATO CHARTER SCHOOL RE-ROOFING PROJECT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION

Project Description

Existing Conditions

The Novato Charter School, located at 940 C Street in Novato, is owned and operated by the Novato Unified School District. The school is located between the SMART Light Rail line to the east and a paved area that was part of the former Hamilton Air Force Base to the west. To the north is a large parking lot and other public buildings, including a branch library. The nearest residences are about 100 feet south of the project site, across Main Gate Road.

The school is comprised of about 15 portable/modular buildings on a paved area surrounding a landscaped play/lunch area. A basketball court and parking are located to the northeast and north of the school buildings, respectively. A landscaped garden/play/lunch area has been developed directly to the east of the buildings.

Proposed Project

The project would consist of installing a new roof overlay on eight of the existing modular classrooms at the school. No building additions, expansions, or new buildings are proposed as part of this project, and there would be no school capacity increase.

The project would be constructed between June 15 and July 14, 2026.

The purpose of the project would be to ensure an appropriate and safe educational environment for students and faculty.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 1 Exemption

The CEQA Class 1 Exemption for work on Existing Facilities (Guidelines, Section 15301) consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use.

The proposed re-roofing would fall under maintenance and repair of existing school facilities. The project would not affect school capacity and would not add any classrooms.

Exceptions Discussion

Per CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2, exceptions to this categorical exemption can apply where any of the following occur:

- Cumulative impact of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.
- Significant effect due to unusual circumstances.
- Damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a state scenic highway.
- Hazardous Waste Sites included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
- A substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

These exceptions and their applicability to this project are discussed below:

- The project area is a mostly developed neighborhood, and no other projects are currently proposed at the school. A review of the City of Novato Current Projects list indicated that there are no cumulative projects proposed or recently approved in the project vicinity¹. In addition, the proposed project would not have any environmental impacts that would be cumulatively considerable, and therefore the significance of this impact is considered non-significant.
- Construction would be replacement of existing fencing and improved lighting, safety and educational systems on existing structures, none of which would change the appearances of the buildings. In addition, views of the buildings from off-site would be buffered by vegetation, distance, and intervening school site structures. Therefore, this impact would be non-significant.
- The project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. Proposed new equipment would be similar in scale and location as existing facilities. Therefore, no historic resources would be affected.
- The project is at a fully developed school and there are not any unusual circumstances that could result in significant environmental impacts at the site.
- The site is not listed on the DTSC Cortese List² (database search performed October 4, 2024). A nearby parcel at 970 C street is listed as being the site of an old gas station, and the former Hamilton Elementary School site at C street and State Access Road is a school cleanup site. Both of those sites are across C street from the Novato Charter School site, and that school is not located on a listed site. In addition, the proposed re-roofing would not affect or be affected by site soils. Therefore, this impact would not be significant.

¹ <https://www.novato.org/government/community-development/planning-division/planning-projects>, accessed February 13, 2026

² https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?global_id=8000120, accessed February 13, 2026

General Rule Exemption

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 environmental review. In such cases, the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (See CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)). As described above, the re-roofing project does not have the potential to result in a significant impact to the physical environment. Therefore, this exemption would apply.