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May 13, 2026

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Solano County Clerk
675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533

State Clearinghouse
Submitted online via CEQA
Submit Portal

Re: **VALLEJO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
FROM CEQA - (HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY CLOSURE)**

Dear Solano County Clerk and State Clearinghouse:

The Board of Education ("Board") of the Vallejo City Unified School District determined that its project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). The Board has directed the filing of the Notice of Exemption for the project pursuant to CEQA. The Notice of Exception with regard to this project is enclosed.

Pursuant to the provisions of the California Public Resources Code Section 2000 et seq., we hereby request that the enclosed Notice of Exemption be filed and posted by the Clerk of the Board's office as required by law. Also, enclosed is one (1) additional copy of the Notice of Exemption, as well as a check in the amount of Fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Following the completion of the required posting of the Notice of Exemption for thirty (30) days, pursuant to the statutory requirements of California Public Resources Code Section 21152(c) and 14 CCR § 15062(c)(2), we ask that your office confirm the filing and return the copies to our office in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided for your convenience.

We also hereby request that pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21152(d), the State Clearinghouse at the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation post the notice on its website for a period of 30 days as required by law following submission of the applicable NOE via the CEQA Submit portal.

Solano County Clerk
State Clearinghouse
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Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at the number referenced above.

Sincerely,

FAGEN FRIEDMAN & FULFROST, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Polito". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "P".

Sarah Polito

SDP:ks

Enclosures: (1) Original NOE; (2) Copy NOE; (3) \$50.00 check; (4) SASE

288-519/9346217

Resolution No. 5129

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF VALLEJO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT TO CLOSE A SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
UNDER CEQA****(HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY CLOSURE)**

WHEREAS, the Vallejo City Unified School District (“District”) is a California public school district with broad authority to take actions that are necessary or desirable pursuant to Education Code section 35160, including closing and consolidating District schools;

WHEREAS, Highland Elementary School (“Highland Elementary”) is a TK-6 school located at 1309 Ensign Avenue, Vallejo, California 94590 (“Campus”), with a current enrollment of approximately five hundred sixteen (516) students;

WHEREAS, Lincoln Elementary School is a TK-3 school located at 620 Carolina Street, Vallejo, California 94590, with a current enrollment of approximately one hundred four (104) students and a total capacity of approximately two hundred seventy (270) students;

WHEREAS, Steffan Manor Elementary School is a TK-5 school located at 815 Cedar Street, Vallejo, California 94591, with a current enrollment of approximately four hundred twenty-nine (429) students and a total capacity of approximately nine hundred sixty (960) students;

WHEREAS, Johnston Cooper Elementary School is a TK-5 school located at 612 Del Mar Avenue, Vallejo, California 94589, with a current enrollment of approximately three hundred sixty (360) students and a total capacity of approximately seven hundred eighty (780) students;

WHEREAS, Federal Terrace Elementary School is a TK-6 school located at 415 Daniels Avenue, Vallejo, California 94590, with a current enrollment of approximately two hundred forty-two (242) students and a total capacity of approximately seven hundred eighty (840) students;

WHEREAS, for the 2026-2027 school year, to enhance efficiency while still providing educational programs for District students, administration recommends that the District close Highland Elementary, and transition all students to other District schools potentially including, without limit, a combination of Johnston Cooper Elementary, Lincoln Elementary School, Steffan Manor Elementary and Federal Terrace Elementary (the “Closure”);

WHEREAS, as a result of the closure there will be no physical changes to the Campus;

WHEREAS, the Board analyzed the Closure in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) as set forth in California Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines, and the Board has found that the Closure is categorically exempt from CEQA and will therefore file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk;

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code section 21080.18 exempts the closing of any public school in which kindergarten or any grades 1 through 12 is maintained or the transfer of students from that public school to another school if the only physical changes involved are categorically exempt;

WHEREAS, Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15314 creates an exemption for “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;

WHEREAS, because the reassignment of former Highland Elementary students to any other school site will be structured to not increase enrollment at any site beyond existing capacity, will not require any physical changes to any other school site, and will not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, the Closure fits within the exception provided in §15314.

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14 section 15061, the District has considered whether the Closure may have a significant effect on the environment and has concluded, through its own independent review and analysis, that the Closure will not have a significant impact on the environment;

WHEREAS, Education Code Section 41329(a)(2)(D)(i) requires that upon an affirmative action by the governing board of the school district to implement a school closure or consolidation, the school district shall provide information to parents and pupils in multiple formats, including, but not limited to, email and paper notifications;

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the Closure is in the best interest of the District; and

WHEREAS, at the November 19, 2025, Board meeting, the Board approved Resolution 5091, in which the Board presented its final recommendations regarding school closure and consolidations and concluded the community engagement process.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. Based on an analysis of existing data, and after hearing and receiving community input, the Board hereby finds and determines that the Closure is in the best interests of the District, its students, and the community and hereby authorizes the Closure.
3. The Closure falls within Public Resources Code section 21080.18 and California Code of Regulations, Title 14,

section 15314 because any increase in enrollment at other school sites will not increase original student capacity of those sites by more than 25% or 10 classrooms.

- 4. The Closure will not have a significant effect on the environment due to any unusual circumstances.
- 5. The Closure will not result in damage to a scenic resource pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21084.
- 6. The Project will not result in substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21084.1.
- 7. The Superintendent or his designee is authorized to file a Notice of Exemption from CEQA, consistent with this Resolution, with the County Clerk.
- 8. The Superintendent or his designee is authorized to take all other actions as necessary to effect the intent of this Resolution.
- 9. The District shall provide information regarding the impending closure and consolidation to District parents and pupils in multiple formats, including, but not limited to, email and paper notifications.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Education of the Vallejo City Unified School District of Solano County, California, this 1st day of April, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

STATE OF CALIFORNIA]

] ss

COUNTY OF SOLANO]

I, Rubén Aurelio, Clerk of the Board of Education of the Vallejo City Unified School District, certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a regular meeting as stated.



Rubén Aurelio, Clerk of the Board of Education

Exhibit A

Notice of Exemption from CEQA

[see attached]

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Solano County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
675 Texas Street
Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533

FROM: Vallejo City Unified School District

665 Walnut Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94592

PROJECT TITLE: Closure of Highland Elementary School
and Transfer of Students and Programs to Existing District
Sites

PROJECT LOCATION: Highland Elementary School: 1309 Ensign Avenue, Vallejo,
California 94590

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:

The Project consists of the District closing the Highland Elementary School and relocating the students and staff of this school to other school sites.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Vallejo City Unified School District

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Vallejo City Unified School District

EXEMPT STATUS: The District has determined that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Pub. Resources Code §§ 21080.18, 21084, 21084.1 and Title 14 of Cal. Code Regs. § 15314.

REASON PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Under Public Resources Code section 21080.18, CEQA does not apply to the closing of any public school in which kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12 is maintained or the transfer of students from that public school to another school if the only physical changes involved are categorically exempt under Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 15000) of Division 6 of Title 14 of the California Administrative Code.

The Class 14 categorical exemption (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15314) applies to 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. Here, Highland Elementary School, which has an enrollment of 516 students, will close.

Here, Johnston Cooper Elementary School will receive no more than 82 total students from Highland Elementary School. Johnston Cooper Elementary School has a current enrollment of approximately 360 students with the campus having a capacity for 780 students. The addition of the Highland Elementary School students would result in a total of approximately no more than 442 students, still well below the capacity of 780.

Here, Lincoln Elementary School will receive no more than 99 total students from Federal Terrace Elementary School. Lincoln Elementary School has a current enrollment of approximately 104 students with the campus having a capacity for 270 students. The addition of the Federal Terrace students would result in a total of approximately 203 students, still well below the capacity of 270.

Here, Steffan Manor Elementary School will receive 288 total students from Highland Elementary School. Steffan Manor Elementary School has a current enrollment of approximately 429 students with the campus having a capacity for 960 students. The addition of the Highland students would result in a total of approximately 717 students, still well below the capacity of 960.

Here, Federal Terrace Elementary School will receive 47 total students from Highland Elementary School. Federal Terrace Elementary School has a current enrollment of approximately 242 students with the campus having a capacity for 840 students. The addition of the Highland students would result in a total of approximately 289 students, still well below the capacity of 840.

Thus, the additional students do not increase the original student capacity at any receiver school. While students from the closed Highland Elementary School may be assigned to a mixture of the schools described above, the District will review school boundaries as necessary to prevent a school site from having more students than that school's current capacity.

Additionally, there is no reasonable possibility that the closure and transfer of students will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances, the closure and transfer of students will not result in damage to scenic resources, and the closure and transfer of students will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Thus, under Public Resources Code sections 21080.18, 21084, and 210841, and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, section 15314, the Project is exempt.

CONTACT PERSON:

Rubén Aurelio, Superintendent

Vallejo City Unified School District

665 Walnut Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94592
(707) 556-8921

Signature: 

Date: 4/1/26

The Notice of Exemption has been filed by the public agency approving the Project.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING: _____

288-519/9284170.1