

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

12400 Imperial Highway

Los Angeles, CA 90650

From: (Public Agency): Pasadena Area Community College District
1570 E Colorado Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91106

(Address)

Project Title: Pasadena Area Community College District Construction Trades Lab Study Project

Project Applicant: Pasadena Area Community College District

Project Location - Specific:

1570 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91106

Project Location - City: Pasadena

Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Pasadena Area Community College District proposes to develop a Construction Trades Lab Study space on an approximately 0.5-acre site on the north side of Lot 3 at the College. The Project would include installation of a temporary portable classroom, portable restroom, three metal storage containers, a shaded table area, outdoor seating, lighting, fencing, and open-air wood-framed instructional structures. Ground-disturbing construction activities would be limited to minor demolition of existing concrete surfaces at the entry walkway, trenching for utility connections (water, electrical, and sewer), and subsequent repaving of disturbed areas.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Pasadena Area Community College District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Facilities & Construction

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: \$153013, \$15314
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

None of the exceptions specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15003.2 apply. See Attachment A for further analysis.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Richard Laret

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 626-585-7023

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: 6/3/2026

Title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

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: _____

Pasadena Area Community College District Construction Trades Lab Study Project Notice of Exemption (NOE)

The Pasadena Area Community College District (District), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), proposes to construct a Construction Trades Lab Study (Project/Proposed Project) on the Colorado Campus at Pasadena City College.

Project Location

Pasadena City College (College) is situated in a residential and urban area directly adjacent to the California Institute of Technology in the City of Pasadena, California (City). The Project site is located on the Colorado Campus which accommodates City College students. The Colorado Campus is located on approximately 53 acres at 1570 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91106. The Project would be located within the north side of an existing parking lot (Lot 3) at the College.

Description of Project

The Project consists of the construction of a Construction Trades Lab Study space and an adjacent portable restroom on an approximately 0.5-acre site on the north side of Lot 3 at the College. The Project would relocate several of the school's existing Career Technical Education (CTE) classes from the inside of the Industrial Technology Building (ITB) to the Project site. The proposed outdoor class environment would allow for additional hands-on learning opportunities and practical application of construction trades skills.

The Project would include installation of a temporary portable classroom (1,440 square feet (s.f.)), portable restroom (480 s.f.), three 8 ft by 20 ft metal storage containers, a shaded table area (480 s.f.), outdoor seating, lighting, fencing, and open-air wood-framed instructional structures (see Figure 1). Ground-disturbing construction activities would be limited to minor demolition of existing concrete surfaces at the entry walkway, trenching for utility connections (water, electrical, and sewer), and subsequent repaving of disturbed areas. The maximum height of the proposed structures would be approximately 13.5 feet. The Lab space would accommodate up to 25 students and 2 instructors at a time.

The proposed Lab space would operate between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday and 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, in accordance with Section 9.36.070(A) of the City Municipal Code.

The College currently provides 5,144 parking spaces for students, faculty, and visitors. Lot 3 contains 297 spaces, and the adjacent Lot 4 provides 2,190 spaces. The Proposed Project would remove 70 spaces from Lot 3, representing a minimal reduction of approximately one percent of the College's total parking supply, or about three percent of the parking within the immediate Project vicinity. Currently, Lot 3 is not typically fully utilized, and when it does reach capacity, parking demand is accommodated in nearby Lot 4 – a four-story parking structure that does not operate at full capacity. As a result, the reduction in parking spaces would not adversely affect overall campus parking availability.

Project Schedule

The Proposed Project is expected to occur over a 4-month period, starting in September 2026. Construction activities will take place between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday through

Friday and 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, in accordance with Section 9.36.070(B) of the City Municipal Code.

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt:

The proposed activity is a project subject to CEQA. However, it is exempt from further environmental analysis under Class 3, *New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures* (CEQA Guidelines §15303), and Class 14, *Minor Additions to Schools* (CEQA Guidelines §15314).

- Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure.
- 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 Proposed Project is exempt from further environmental review under CEQA because it meets the criteria for both Class 3 and Class 14 categorical exemptions. The Project involves the construction and installation of small, accessory educational facilities within an already developed portion of the existing College. These elements constitute limited, small-scale new facilities that are consistent with the Class 3 exemption for new construction of small structures. In addition, the Project qualifies for the Class 14 exemption because it represents a minor addition to an existing school within established school grounds and is intended to support existing CTE programs by relocating classes from the ITB rather than expanding enrollment or student capacity. The outdoor instructional space enhances hands-on learning opportunities without substantially altering campus operations or intensity of use and, therefore, falls within the scope of new construction and minor school additions described under CEQA Guidelines §15303 and §15314.

The Proposed Project does not have the potential to trigger any of the exceptions identified in CEQA Guidelines §15300.2. Consequently, as documented below, the Proposed Project is exempt from further CEQA review.

- (a) Location.** The proposed improvements will occur entirely within the existing College, which is located in an urbanized community. The existing conditions on and around the College consist of disturbed and paved ground, which is not considered environmentally sensitive. Minor site preparation would occur during construction but will be limited to the existing school property on previously disturbed, paved surfaces. The Proposed Project would not impact environmentally sensitive areas or an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern. This exception does not apply to the Proposed Project.
- (b) Cumulative Impact.** Details of future projects are clearly defined in the Facilities Master Plan (approved by the District in 2020) and the 2024 Facilities Strategic Plan Update (not yet approved). However, impacts of the projects are not clearly defined (District 2020; District 2024). Evaluation of any potential impacts of the future modernization projects will be completed in a separate environmental analysis. The Proposed Project will not result in any significant cumulative impacts in combination with any future projects which will be implemented on separate schedules from each other. Further, the majority of impacts associated with the Proposed Project will be associated with the temporary, short-term construction period and are limited to the immediate

vicinity of Pasadena City College. As such, no other cumulatively considerable projects have been identified that could incrementally contribute to the impacts associated with the Proposed Project. This exception does not apply to the Proposed Project.

- (c) **Significant Effect.** The construction of the Construction Trades Lab Study is not considered an unusual circumstance as campus updates are not unusual for school sites. The Project would not have a significant effect on the environment because it is limited in scope, located entirely within an existing, developed school campus, and would not intensify use of the site. The proposed improvements consist of small-scale, primarily temporary and open-air educational facilities that would be used for instructional purposes already occurring on campus. No new land uses are proposed, and the Project would not expand student enrollment, increase campus capacity, or substantially alter existing circulation patterns. Construction activities would be minor and short-term, involving typical installation of portable and accessory structures, with no grading beyond minimal site preparation.

The Project would not affect sensitive environmental resources, as it is sited on previously disturbed land and does not involve removal of natural habitat, mature trees, or other biological resources. Utilities, public services, and infrastructure would not be expanded beyond existing capacity. During instructional sessions, operational impacts such as noise, lighting, and activity levels would slightly increase compared to current campus conditions; however, they would return to existing conditions during non-class times. Because the Project supports existing educational programs and results in only negligible physical changes to the environment, it does not have the potential to cause a significant environmental effect. This exception does not apply to the Proposed Project.

- (d) **Scenic Highway.** The nearest eligible scenic highway is Interstate 210, located 2.25 miles northwest from the Project site (Caltrans 2026). The nearest designated scenic highway is State Route 110, which is approximately 2 miles west from the Project site; however, the Project site is visually separated from State Route 110 and Interstate 210 by residences and commercial businesses. The Proposed Project would not be visible from the highways and therefore would not result in damage to scenic resources within an officially designated state scenic highway. This exception does not apply to the Proposed Project.
- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** The Proposed Project would not result in any significant native soil disturbances that would expose school occupants or construction workers to any potentially hazardous soil materials. According to the Department of Toxic Substances Control and State Water Resources Control Board, there are no listed hazardous waste sites located within or immediately adjacent to the Project area (DTSC 2026; SWRCB 2026). No significant impact related to hazardous waste would occur. This exception does not apply to the Proposed Project.
- (f) **Historical Resources.** Pasadena City College was established in 1924. Although some buildings on the Campus may be considered historic, the Project would neither demolish historic resources nor cause significant adverse change to the character-defining features of the historic buildings on campus. Construction and operations would occur entirely within the existing parking lot (Lot 3), which contains no existing structures. No demolition or alteration of off-site structures are proposed. The Proposed Project would be compatible with the surrounding educational uses. This exception does not apply to the Proposed Project.

Figure 1. Conceptual Site Plan



Figure 1
Construction Trades Lab Study Project
Conceptual Site Plan

References:

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

- 2026 Statewide Scenic Highway. Available at:
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/47e2009986264718a5a13a2c81382774#data_s=id%3AdataSource_2-199ba74eec7-layer-5%3A226

Department of Toxic Substances Control

- 2026 EnviroStor Database. Available at:
<https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=pasadena+city+college>

State Water Resources Control Board

- 2026 GeoTracker Database. Available at:
https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?global_id=T0607100280

Pasadena Area Community College District (District)

- 2020 Facilities Master Plan 2020. Available at: https://pasadena.edu/business-administrative-services/facilities-and-construction/docs/PCC_Facilities_Master_Plan.pdf
- 2024 2024 Strategic Facilities Plan Update. Available at: <https://pasadena.edu/business-administrative-services/facilities-and-construction/docs/2024-PCC-FSP-Update-report.pdf>