Print Form

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 93301-4639

From: (Public Agency): Panama-Buena Vista Union School District
5901 Schirra Ct, 2nd Floor West
Bakersfield, CA 93313
(Address)

Project Title: Five Elementary School Sites Improvement Project

Project Applicant: Panama-Buena Vista Union School District (PBVUSD)

Project Location - Specific:

See attached page

Project Location - City: Bakersfield Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See attached page

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Panama-Buena Vista Union School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Paul Johnson, Construction and Facilities Director

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 1-15301(c), (d), Class 2-15302(b)(c), Class 11- 15311(b) & Class 14- 15314
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

See attached page

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Paul Johnson, Construction and Facilities Director Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 831-8331 ext. 6280

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: 5/12/2026 Title: Construction and Facilities Director

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: _____

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Project Name: Five Elementary School Sites Improvement Project

Project Location – Specific:

1. Wayne Van Horn Elementary School, 5501 Kleinpell Avenue (APN 331-032-43)
2. Laurelglen Elementary School, 2601 El Portal Drive (APN 381-010-12)
3. Bill L. Williams Elementary School, 5601 Harris Road (APN 49901107)
4. Castle Elementary School at 5900 Wilson Road (APN 355-020-18)
5. Stockdale Elementary School, 7801 Kroll Way (APN 339-010-30)

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Panama - Buena Vista Union School District (P-BVUSD) proposes improvements to five existing school sites. Improvements at all schools are intended to accommodate the existing student and staff populations and would not appreciably increase the student population or the capacity of the schools. The improvements are intended to modernize school infrastructure to increase safety, more effectively utilize district property and improve the educational services provided. The Project proposes to undertake the following improvements:

1. **Wayne Van Horn Elementary School**
   Proposed improvements at Wayne Von Horn Elementary School include:
   a. Placement of a 36 feet x 40 feet (1,440 square feet [sf]) relocatable portable Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) building
   b. Relocation of seven existing relocatable portable classrooms
   c. Relocation of an existing 12 feet x 40 feet (480 sf) relocatable portable restroom building
   d. Construction of two new 30 feet x 30 feet (900 sf) shade structures for existing playground equipment
   e. Reconstruction of existing pedestrian improvements, such as concrete walkways

   Improvements are anticipated to be developed entirely within the existing campus.

2. **Laurelglen Elementary School**
   A new relocatable portable ELOP building, restroom and expanded parking lot are proposed on the northeast side of the campus. Existing buildings and trees may need to be removed for the proposed construction. If construction takes place during nesting season (February 1 to September 15), pre-construction clearance surveys for nesting birds will be conducted within 14 days prior to the start of construction.

3. **Bill Williams Elementary School**
   The Project proposes expanding the existing staff and visitor parking lot located on the eastern boundary of the campus. The expansion will include the addition of a 55-foot turn radius at the end of the parking lot and associated pedestrian improvements. Four existing trees will be removed to accommodate the expanded parking lot and turning radius. In the event that construction takes place during nesting season (February 1 to September 15), then a pre-construction clearance surveys for nesting birds will be conducted within 14 days prior to the start of construction.

4. Castle Elementary School

Improvements include the development of a new parking lot for staff and visitors. The parking lot will be located on the northwest boundary of an existing stormwater retention basin owned by the City of Bakersfield, located directly southwest of the school campus. The parking lot will include up to 92 parking spaces, with one ADA compliant space, and two access points from Edgemont Drive. Existing landscaping may need to be removed or relocated.

5. Stockdale Elementary School

Improvements include the following:

a. Installation of artificial grass turf to replace natural grass
b. Removal of sprinkler system
c. Concrete walkways
d. Planter landscaping
e. Interactive edible garden
f. Chain link fence and gate
g. Relocatable portable Restroom building
h. Installation of a 30 feet by 40 feet (1,200 sf) fabric shade structure
i. Removal of existing basketball courts and repaved with new asphalt.
j. Removal of existing playground structure would be replaced with a new playground structure.
k. Accessible passenger drop-off from Kroll Way
l. Relocatable portable Administration building
m. Existing ELOP portable to be removed and replaced with new like building

If construction takes place during nesting season (February 1 to September 15), then a pre-construction clearance surveys for nesting birds will be conducted within14 days prior to the start of construction.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

1. Wayne Van Horn Elementary School

The improvements are consistent with Exemption 15301 (Class 1 - Existing Facilities), as these are minor alterations of existing public structures, facilities and mechanical equipment that would result in negligible or no expansion of the existing use. The improvements are also consistent with Exemption 15314 (Class 14 - Minor Additions to Schools), as all improvements will be within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity or number of classrooms, including portable classrooms. No new portable classrooms are being proposed.

2. Laurelglen Elementary School

The improvements are consistent with Exemption 15314 (Class 14 - Minor Additions to Schools), since minor additions are proposed within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms.

3. **Bill Williams Elementary School**

Improvements are consistent with Exemption 15301 (c) and (d) (Class 1 - Existing Facilities), as the improvements seek to perform minor alterations to an existing school parking lot to improve public safety by expanding the existing turning radius to 55 feet. This increased turning radius will allow for emergency personnel to turn around effectively in an emergency, thereby improving public safety. The additional parking spaces will create negligible or no expansion of the existing use. No additional automobile lanes would be created through this Project.

Improvements are also consistent with Exemption 15311 (Class 11 - Accessory Structures), as the Project proposes to construct an addition to a small parking lot that is accessory to an institutional facility.

The Project is also consistent with Exemption 15214 (Class 14 - Minor Additions to Schools) since this is an addition that does not increase original capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, whichever is less.

4. **Castle Elementary School**

Improvements are consistent with Exemption 15311 (Class 11 - Accessory Structures), as the Project proposes to construct an addition to a small parking lot that is accessory to an institutional facility.

5. **Stockdale Elementary School**

Improvements are consistent with Exemption 15301 (Class 1 - Existing Facilities) as the Project proposes to improve existing pedestrian walkways, replacement of existing asphalt and landscaping, and construct a new ADA compliant drop off, without adding additional automobile lanes.

Improvements are also consistent with Exemption 15302 (Class 2 - Replacement or Reconstruction) as the Project proposes to remove and replace existing playground equipment.

Improvements are consistent with Exemption 15314 (Class 14 - Minor Additions to Schools), as the construction of a new buildings and facilities will be within existing school grounds and does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, including portable classrooms.

CONCLUSION

The Project will construct minor upgrades and additions to the existing schools. The Project will not expand the student and faculty population at the school sites but will improve educational experience and provide additional amenities to each school. New walkways will improve accessibility and increase vehicle and pedestrian safety.

As discussed, the improvements at these existing schools would not result in a significant environmental impact and are consistent with the provisions of Class 1, 2, 11 and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions as per Section 21084 of the Public Resources Code.