

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: Orange

601 N. Ross Street

Santa Ana, CA 92701

From: (Public Agency): Anaheim Union High School District
501 N. Crescent Way
Anaheim, CA 92801

(Address)

Project Title: Kennedy High School Track & Field Project

Project Applicant: Anaheim Union High School District

Project Location - Specific:

Kennedy High School - 8281 Walker St., La Palma, CA 90623

Project Location - City: La Palma Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Anaheim Union High School District (District) proposes recreational and athletic improvements by enhancing the existing track and field consisting of a new turf and striping, and installing new field lighting and bleachers. The upgraded track and field area will offer enhanced exterior learning opportunities and increased safety for sports and student assemblies.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Anaheim Union High 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: \$15301, \$15302, \$15311[a], \$15314
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

None of the exceptions specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply.
See Attachment A.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Patricia Neely Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 714 999 3505

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: 6/12/2026 Title: Assist. Superintendent, Business
Nancy C. Nien, Ph.D.

▪ 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: _____

FILED

JUN 15 2026

HUGH ROYEN, CLERK-RECORDER

BY: LT DEPUTY

Kennedy High School Track & Field Project Notice of Exemption (NOE)

The Anaheim Union High School District (District), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), proposes to implement recreational and athletic improvements at Kennedy High School (HS) by enhancing the existing track and field consisting of a new turf and striping, and installing new field lighting and bleachers.

Project Location

Kennedy HS is located at 8281 Walker St, La Palma, CA 90623. Kennedy HS enrolls 2,300 students serving grades 9 through 12 on an approximately 45-acre property, comprised of 14 permanent buildings, a swimming pool, hardcourts, playfields, tennis courts, and a parking lot. Currently, Kennedy HS does not have any existing bleachers for their track meets, soccer matches, football games, and band practices.

Description of Project

The Proposed Project will consist of the following upgrades:

- Modular restrooms
- Provide utility infrastructure for future sound system
- Extend the existing campus PA system to the track and field
- Replace the existing natural turf football/soccer field with a new synthetic turf field
- Replace the existing decomposed granite (DG) track with a new synthetic, all-weather track, reoriented from its existing north-south alignment to an east-west alignment, with a new stormwater management system via biofiltration. The site is not conducive to infiltration, so stormwater will be captured and detained in an underground storage facility prior to release.
- Add field lighting and score board
- Install new path of travel improvements, concrete paving, sound walls, and fencing
- New bleachers with approximately 900 seats

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt:

The proposed activity is a project subject to CEQA. However, it is exempt from further environmental analysis under Class 1, *Existing Facilities* (CEQA Guidelines §15301), Class 2, *Replacement or Reconstruction* (CEQA Guidelines §15302), Class 11 *Accessory Structures* (CEQA Guidelines §15311[a]) and Class 14 *Minor Additions to Schools* (CEQA Guidelines §15314), described in detail below:

- Class 1 categorical exemption 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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.
- Class 2 consists of the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity of the structure replaced.
- Class 11 consists of construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities.
- 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 will result in the improvement of the existing track and field at the existing Kennedy HS. The improvements will not involve an increase in student capacity, and will include repairs, maintenance, reconstruction, and minor additions to an existing school campus. The Proposed Project will not result in significant environmental impacts and is exempt from further review under the conditions in Article 19.

Therefore, the application of Class 1, Class 2, Class 11, and Class 14 categorical exemptions is appropriate for the Proposed Project. 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 improvements will occur entirely within the existing Kennedy HS campus, which is located within an urbanized community. The existing conditions on and around Kennedy HS are disturbed, paved ground and are not considered environmentally sensitive. Ground disturbance would occur during construction but will be limited to the existing school property on previously disturbed surfaces. The Proposed Project will 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.** Once the Proposed Project has been approved by the District's Board of Education, project construction activities would occur over a 12-month period, approximately between the 4th Quarter of 2026 and the 4th Quarter of 2027. The majority of impacts associated with the Proposed Project will be temporary (the construction timeframe) and are limited to the immediate vicinity of Kennedy HS. In addition, the area around the Project site is completely built-out, and no known projects have been identified in the area that would cause potential impacts. 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 activities associated with the upgrading of the existing track and field are not considered an unusual circumstance as campus updates are not unusual for school sites. All upgrades associated with the Proposed Project would be installed on or within the existing developed site. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not appear visually incompatible with existing equipment and accessories on the Project site. Normal operations will be similar and consistent with current uses within the Project boundary.

The Proposed Project is located within a disturbed, urbanized environment in the City of La Palma. The campus vegetation is limited to ornamental landscaping, and it is anticipated that no candidate, sensitive, or special status species are anticipated to exist on or around Kennedy HS. The majority of work associated with the Proposed Project would occur on the existing track and field area and would result in minor ground disturbing activities. Thus, the Proposed Project and will not involve the removal of any native vegetation or scenic trees, nor would it impact any scenic vistas within the immediate area.

Therefore, no reasonable possibility exists that the Proposed Project would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Therefore, this exception does not apply to this Project. Please refer to the Initial Study Checklist (IS Checklist) for further details on potential impacts.

- (d) **Scenic Highways.** The Project site is approximately 6.7 miles north of California State Route 1 (SR-1), an eligible State scenic highway that stretches from Long Beach to San Diego (Caltrans

2026). The Project site is not within the viewshed of any scenic highway or expressway due to intervening development, distance, and topography. No rock outcroppings, historic buildings, or trees would be impacted by the Proposed Project. Therefore, no impact to scenic highways would occur, and this exception does not apply to the Project.

- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** The Proposed Project will not include any significant structural renovations that would result in the accidental release of hazardous materials to the environment. According to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database, a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) report was prepared for Kennedy HS in order to investigate and screen specific building sites (DTSC 2004). Historically, the Project site was used for agriculture from around 1947 to the mid-1960s.

The PEA report and investigation concluded that neither an actual or potential hazardous materials release, or presence of naturally occurring hazardous material which could pose a threat to human health or the environment under unrestricted land use, exists. No further investigations were required, and the case was closed in 2004 (DTSC 2004). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact associated with known hazardous materials sites. The Proposed Project would involve improvements to the existing Kennedy HS track and field, including new turf, track replacement and reorientation, lighting, bleachers, restrooms, and utility upgrades. Given DTSC's determination that there are no human health or environment threats, impacts would be less than significant. This exception does not apply to the Proposed Project.

- (f) **Historical Resources.** Kennedy HS is located on a 45-acre property, comprised of 14 permanent buildings, a swimming pool, hardcourts, playfields, tennis courts, and a parking lot. Kennedy HS was constructed in 1964 and modernized in 2006. Work associated with the Proposed Project would be completed on the existing track and field and would not involve any improvements to the existing permanent buildings, which have the potential to be designated as a historic resource.

Based on the results of the records search at the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at Cal State Fullerton on January 21, 2026, no cultural resources are mapped within the Project site.

Given ground disturbance of any native soils or soils not previously disturbed would not occur as part of Project implementation, impacts to historical and archaeological resources would be less than significant, and this exception does not apply to the Project.

References:

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

2026 Scenic Highway Mapper. Available at:

https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46c_c8e8057116f1aaca

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

2004 EnviroStor Database. Available at: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/>