

CEQA: California Environmental Quality Act

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: San Ysidro School District
4350 Otay Mesa Road
San Diego, CA 92154

☒ County Clerk
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway #260
San Diego, CA 92101

Willow Elementary School Beautification Project
Project Title

226 Willow Road, San Ysidro, CA 92173
Project Location - Specific

San Ysidro
Project Location - City

San Diego
Project Location - County

The San Ysidro School District proposes to improve the Willow Elementary School campus and address stormwater drainage issues, site improvements, and safety issues through demolition of existing ball walls; installation of new concrete curbs, fencing, security cameras, and traffic delineators; landscaping upgrades; and synthetic turf replacement. The proposed project would not increase student capacity or affect other existing facilities on-site. Construction would occur from June 2026 to July 2026 within the existing campus boundaries. Beneficiaries include students, staff, and the surrounding community.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project

San Ysidro School District
Name of Public Agency Approving Project

San Ysidro School District
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project

Exempt Status: (check one below)

- ☐ 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: Sections 15301, 15302, 15303, and 15304
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

The proposed project would involve the demolition of existing ball walls; installation of new concrete curbs, fencing, security cameras, and traffic delineators; landscaping upgrades; and synthetic turf replacement at Willow Elementary School to address stormwater drainage issues, site improvements, and safety issues. The new improvements would serve the same function as the existing facilities without increasing student capacity or changing campus operations. As such, the proposed project qualifies for a categorical exemption under CEQA Section 15301, Existing Facilities, because the project consists of the repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use; Section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction, because the new facilities will be located on the same site as the uses being replaced and will have substantially the same purpose as existing conditions; Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, because the project involves the installation of new equipment and associated improvements, including new security cameras, fencing, traffic delineators, and curb barriers, which are limited in size and scope and accessory to the existing elementary school campus; and Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land, because the project involves minor alterations to land through patching and infilling of ground surfaces, installation of curb barriers, turf replacement, and landscape improvements, none of which involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed project has been reviewed under CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 and does not trigger any exceptions to categorical exemptions, including no impacts to sensitive environments, scenic highways, historical resources, or hazardous waste sites, and no cumulative or significant impacts due to unusual circumstances.

See attached "Attachment to Notice of Exemption – Willow Elementary School Beautification Project" for further explanation on the evaluation of the proposed project, as it relates to Sections 15301, 15302, 15303, and 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines, which is available for review at the San Ysidro School District, 4350 Otay Mesa Road, San Ysidro, CA 92173.

Reasons why project is exempt

Jose F. Iniguez, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent,
Administrative Leadership, School Support, & Safety

(619) 428-4476 ext. 3065

Contact Person:

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption findings
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project ☒ Yes ☐ No

Date
Received for
Filing:

Signature:



Title: Assistant Superintendent Administrative
Leadership, School Support, & Safety