

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: Stanislaus

1021 I Street, Suite 101

Modesto, CA 95354

From: (Public Agency): Chatom Union School District
7201 Clayton Road
Turlock, CA 95380

(Address)

Project Title: Mountain View Middle School Water Improvements

Project Applicant: Chatom Union School District

Project Location - Specific:

See attached

Project Location - City: Crows Landing and City of Ceres Project Location - County: Stanislaus

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See attached

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Chatom Union School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Chatom Union 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: Class 1: 15301 (a)(b), Class 3: 15303 (d-e) and Class 14: 15314
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: SB 974, PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, SECTION 21080.47

Reasons why project is exempt:

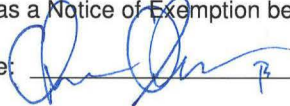
See attached

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Cherise Olvera, District Superintendent Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (209) 664-8505

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: 26 Aug 2026 Title: District Superintendent

■ 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: _____

Project Name: Mountain View Middle School Water Improvements**Project Location – Specific:**

Mountain View Middle School, 10001 Crows Landing Road, Crows Landing, CA 95313 and a 5.83 mile segment of Crows Landing Road going north from Mountain View Middle School to the City of Ceres.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Chatom Union School District (District) proposes to connect Mountain View Middle School to the City of Ceres' water supply because the school's existing water source from an on-site well is no longer a reliable potable water source. Improvements are intended to accommodate the existing student and staff populations and would not appreciably increase the student population or the capacity of the school. Construction will occur on previously disturbed ground on the school campus and within the right-of-way of Crows Landing Road. The Project proposes to undertake the following improvements:

- Develop 5.83 miles of up to 6 inch water line in the road right-of-way of Crows Landing Road going north from Mountain View Middle School to the City of Ceres
- Connect new water line to existing school water connections and infrastructure
- Construct new concrete pad for the booster pump, 24,000 gallon water storage tank (17 feet diameter x 15 feet height), and generator
- Install security fencing around the perimeter of the concrete pad

The project will provide the Mountain View Middle School with a reliable source of clean, safe drinking water, which will be a health and safety benefit both the students and faculty.

Reasons why project is exempt:**Categorical Exemptions:**

- 15300.2 Exceptions – the project is consistent with Class 1, 3 and 14 exemptions as it will have minimal to no impacts to the environment. There are no hazardous or critical concerns identified in the area. This project will not create a cumulative impact, as there are no other known projects on the site or in the area. There are no Caltrans designated Scenic Highways in the vicinity of the project. The closest designated Scenic Highway is State Route 152, which is more than 7 miles to the west. In addition, according to CA Dept of Toxic Substances Control, there are no identified hazardous waste sites or areas of concern within 5 miles of the site, which is a remediated site in western Ceres that will in no way impact the Project.
- The proposed improvements are consistent with Exemption 15301 (a)(b) (Class 1 - Existing Facilities), as the development of the water line from the City of Ceres to Mountain View Middle School would be considered exterior alterations of plumbing and a minor alteration of existing public facilities and utilities that would result in negligible expansion of the existing use. The pipeline would run along the previously disturbed shoulder of the road right of way, and would require minimal temporary ground disturbance. The project will not impact any biological resources, and there are no wetlands or water features within the project footprint. Once installed, the pipeline would have no impact to the environment. This project will not impact any known historical resources, as there are no known historical resources on the school site or along the Crows Landing roadway.

- The improvements are also consistent with Exemption 15303 (d, e) that would install a water utility pipeline extension and accessory equipment such as a water tank and pump station to facilitate the provision of clean drinking water to the school.
- The improvements are consistent with Exemption 15314 (Class 14 - Minor Additions to Schools) as improvements are proposed (water line connection, concrete pad for booster pump, water storage tanks, generator, security fencing) that are within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms. Improvements are intended to accommodate the existing student and staff populations and would not appreciably increase the student population, the capacity of the schools, nor include the construction of classrooms.

Statutory Exemption

SB 974, PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, SECTION 21080.47

PCR 210080.47

This PRC defines specific minor drinking water system projects that qualify for statutory exemptions from CEQA. This exemption applies to the installation, repair, or replacement of small-scale drinking water facilities and connections, including water storage tanks up to 250,00 gallons, pipelines up to 7 miles if addressing active drinking water violations, booster pumps, hydropneumatic tanks, service lines, meters, fire hydrants, valves, and emergency generators. The project meets these requirements and as noted above, is not anticipated to generate or create any significant environmental impacts to the environment.