

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: Sonoma

585 Fiscal Drive, #103F

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

From: (Public Agency): Santa Rosa City Schools

211 Ridgeway Ave.

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

(Address)

Project Title: James Monroe Elementary School Fencing, Shade, and Painting Project

Project Applicant: Santa Rosa City School District

Project Location - Specific:

2567 Marlow Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project Location - City: Santa Rosa

Project Location - County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would entail: 1) replacing and adding fencing and gates around portions of the campus; 2) repainting the exteriors of all buildings at the school; and 3) construction of an 25 x 75-foot shade structure in an open area of the school. The work would occur between May and December 2026. Beneficiaries would be students and staff at the school.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Rosa City School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Rosa City 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; Section 15301

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed fencing and shade structures would be minor alterations of an existing facility. The repainting would be maintenance of existing buildings. Work would be consistent with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(a) and (d).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mr. Erik Oden

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 967-2701

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has Signed by: Erik Oden tion been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature: 41E98BFADD9B409... Date: 9/8/2026 Title: Director, Maintenance and Facilities

☒ 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: _____

**JAMES MONROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PAINTING, FENCING, AND SHADE STRUCTURE
PROJECT
CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DISCUSSION**

Project Description

Existing Facilities

James Monroe Elementary School, located at 2567 Marlow Road, Santa Rosa, is owned and operated by Santa Rosa City Schools. The school has a current enrollment of approximately 365 students.

The school is in the northeaster area of Santa Rosa, and is bordered on the south, east, and west by single- and multiple-family residential development, and, to the north, by the Santa Rosa Creek greenway. The primary access to the school is off of Marlowe Road.

Proposed Project

The project would entail replacing chain link fencing and gates around portions of the campus perimeter to provide security to the interior of the school campus, repainting the exteriors of all buildings at the school and installation of a new approximately 25 x 75-foot shade structure would be placed in an open area of the school. Beneficiaries would be students and staff at the school. No trees are proposed for removal as part of this project. The work would occur between May and December 2026.

Categorical Exemption Analysis

Class 3 Exemption

The CEQA Class 1 exemption (14 CCR § 15301) applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures and facilities, provided there is negligible or no expansion of previous use. It is a categorical exemption covering improvements like interior remodeling, repairs, and minor additions.

The proposed fencing and shade structures would be minor alterations of an existing facility. The repainting would be maintenance of existing buildings. Work would be consistent with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(a) and (d).

Exceptions to the Exemption

Per CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2, exceptions to these categorical exemptions can apply where the following occur:

- Cumulative impact of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.
- Damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a state scenic highway.

- Hazardous Waste Sites included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
- A substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.
- Significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

As summarized below, none of these exceptions appear to apply to this project and therefore these exemptions would apply:

- The project area is a small project in a developed school campus, and no cumulative development is likely to occur nearby. The three project activities are all of the work proposed at the school at this time.
- Repainting would be visible from nearby houses, but would be a beneficial effect. The fencing would replace existing fencing, so would have no effect on aesthetics. The shade structure would be in the interior of the campus and would not be visible from off-site. Therefore, no potentially significant impact to visual resources is expected.
- The site is not on or near a listed hazardous waste site (database search performed March 23, 2026) ¹
- The proposed project would not demolish or substantially alter any historic structures. The project would require construction on a portion of a previously graded open area. Therefore, no historic resources would be affected.
- There do not appear to be any unusual circumstances that could result in significant environmental impacts at the site.

Conclusion

As discussed above, the project is within the parameters of the Class 1 Categorical Exemption. Further, as detailed above, none of the exceptions to the exemption would apply.

¹ <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=James+Monroe+elementary+school+santa+rosa>