

Notice of Exemption

To: Santa Cruz County Clerk's Office
701 Ocean Street, Rm. 310
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Via CEQASubmit/CEQANet

From: Soquel Union Elementary School District
620 Monterey Ave
Capitola, CA 95010
Attn: Alison Warner, Assistant
Superintendent Business Services

Project Title: Soquel Elementary School Modernization Project Phases I and II

Project Location - Specific: Soquel Elementary School
2700 Porter Street
Soquel, CA 95073

Project Location - City: Soquel **Project Location - County:** Santa Cruz

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project scope for Phase I of the modernization at Soquel Elementary School is the DSA review and approval phase and broadly includes the following: Modernization of Building 1A (Administration/Library/Classrooms), including new interior partitions, finishes, casework, doors/windows (including replacement of existing), restroom upgrades, structural modifications, plumbing and mechanical upgrades, and electrical (power, data, signal, lighting and fire alarm) upgrades. Site improvements include accessibility upgrades, paving removal and replacement, and minor storm drain scope. The project scope for Phase II of the modernization is the schematic design phase and broadly includes the following: Modernization of four classrooms (Kindergarten/TKK) in Buildings 2 and 3, including new finishes, casework, door replacement, electrical upgrades (power/data/signal/lighting) and mechanical upgrades. Modernization of two existing restrooms and provision of four new restrooms in Buildings 2 and 3. Two of the new restrooms will include exterior wall/ceiling framing, finishes, doors, MEP, etc. Modernization of the existing MP room and minor modernization of the existing kitchen. Site improvements include accessibility upgrades, AC paving removal and replacement in the Kindergarten/TKK Classroom Buildings 2 and 3 courtyard (and related storm drain system adjustments), new shade structure in the same courtyard, landscaping and irrigation improvements in the two planter/landscaped areas at the school frontage and campus-wide fire alarm upgrade.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Soquel Union Elementary School District

Name of Agency Carrying Out Project: Soquel Union Elementary 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: Sec. 15301; Class 2: Sec. 15302; Class 3: Sec. 15303; Class 4: Sec. 15304; Class 11: Sec. 15311; Class 14: Sec. 15314; Class 23: Sec. 15323**
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:
- ☒ Other. Common Sense Exemption: **Sec. 15061(b)(3)**

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt:

Class 1 (Sec. 15301): The proposed Project consists of the minor alteration and modernization of existing school facilities on the existing campus, including interior and exterior renovations such as new interior partitions, finishes, casework, door/window replacement, restroom upgrades and reconfiguration, and structural, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical upgrades, and involves negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Class 2 (Sec. 15302): The proposed Project includes the replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities on the same site with substantially the same purpose and capacity, including paving removal and replacement and related storm drain system adjustments, and the replacement of existing doors and windows. Class 3 (Sec. 15303): The proposed Project includes the construction of small new structures, including a shade structure to the existing campus. Class 4 (Sec. 15304): The proposed Project includes the minor alteration of the condition of land, including paving removal and replacement and minor landscaping, irrigation, and storm drain improvements,

without the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Class 11 (Sec. 15311): The proposed Project includes the construction or placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities, including a new shade structure in the Kindergarten/TKK courtyard. Class 14 (Sec. 15314): The proposed Project would be located within an existing school campus, and will not increase original student capacity by more than 10 classrooms or 25 percent. Class 23 (Sec. 15323): The proposed Project includes the modernization of the existing multipurpose (MP) room, an existing facility designed for public gatherings, which will continue to be used for the normal operations for which it was designed. Common Sense Exemption: It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed Project involves any activity that may have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact: Alison Warner, Assistant
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Signature: *Alison Warner*

Date: 10/13/2026