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: New Brighton Middle School Modernization and District Facilities Project
Project Location - Specific: District Educational Campus:

New Brighton Middle School
250 Washburn Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

Soquel Union Elementary School District
620 Monterey Ave.
Capitola, CA 95010

Project Location - City: Capitola **Project Location - County:** Santa Cruz
Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The project scope for Phase I of the modernization at New Brighton Middle School broadly includes the following: renovation of Admin/Student Services Building E including new floor finishes, new casework, new exterior door installation, and minor power and data upgrades; flooring replacement in Room 38 of Classroom Building F; modernization of Buildings K (classrooms), L (classrooms) and M (Library), including new finishes, casework, minor door/window replacement, new exterior awnings, minor structural modifications, plumbing and mechanical upgrades, and electrical (power, data, lighting and fire alarm) upgrades; renovation of Gymnasium Building P, including restroom upgrades (including finishes and plumbing fixtures), backstop replacement (with related structural upgrades), new exterior awnings and minor power, data and lighting upgrades; and site improvements include accessibility upgrades, paving removal and replacement, minor landscaping/irrigation/storm drain and fencing scope. The project scope for Phase II of the modernization broadly includes the following: Classroom modernization of Buildings D, E and F, including new flooring, patch repair and painting of existing wall and ceiling surfaces, new casework and modifications to existing casework to remain, door/window replacement (including window curtain removal), new exterior awnings, minor structural modifications, plumbing upgrades (at classroom sink location), and electrical (power and data) upgrades and bracing of existing light fixtures. Exterior classroom scope to include removal of existing lockers and related exterior finish wall surface repair; modernization of Special Ed Admin Building H to include finish and electrical upgrades (interior doors to remain) and reconfiguration of existing restrooms into gender-neutral, ADA compliant restrooms; restroom (single occupancy and multiple-accommodation) modernization of Buildings D, E and F, including partial removal of finishes at walls, floor and ceiling to stud and related patch/repair/painting of those surfaces. Restroom scope to also include toilet partition replacement and selective plumbing fixture replacement; refinishing of existing MP wood stage flooring; site improvements include accessibility upgrades, paving removal and replacement, landscaping/irrigation/storm drain improvements (primarily in classroom courtyards), two new shade structures, renovation of covered walkway roofs including stucco soffit replacement, replacement of existing roofing (including flashing and gutters) and abandonment/removal of obsolete roof-mounted utilities and a campus-wide fire alarm upgrade.

The project also includes a District Office and MOT Department facility component, which broadly includes the following: Renovations/tenant improvements to the existing District Office building including reconfiguration of interior rooms/spaces (with new interior partitions), new interior finishes, exterior wall finishes/roofing improvements, door and window replacement, new casework, new restrooms and utility improvements including power, signal/LV (including lighting and fire alarm), mechanical and plumbing upgrades. Demolition of the existing Board Room/tech offices portable building and replacement with a new pre-engineered Steel Building facility that may include a bus/maintenance shop, offices, restrooms, and storage rooms. Site improvements to include site paving and landscaping

improvements, site security (fencing/gates) and pertinent underground utility (dry and wet) upgrades.

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 and District facilities on the existing campus, including interior and exterior renovations such as new finishes, casework, door/window replacement, restroom modernization and reconfiguration, and 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, including replacement of existing roofing, backstop replacement, and renovation of covered walkway roofs. Class 3 (Sec. 15303): The proposed Project includes the construction of small new structures, including two new shade structures accessory 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, storm drain, and fencing 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 new exterior awnings and shade structures. 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 consists of the normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were 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 Superintendent Business Services — Telephone: (831) 464-5632

Signature: Alison Warner — Date: 10/13/2026