

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-24-03

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: (1) FINDING THE PROPOSED WILLOWS HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURAL FACILITY PROJECT TO BE EXEMPT UNDER CEQA AND ADOPTING CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS; (2) APPROVING THE PROJECT; AND (3) AUTHORIZING FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION UPON PROJECT APPROVAL

WHEREAS, Willows Unified School District (the "District"), proposes to undertake the Willows High School Agricultural Facility Project at the **Willow High School Campus**, 203 N. Murdock Avenue Parkway, Willows, CA 95988 (the "Project") as further described below; and

WHEREAS, as more specifically described in the attached Notice of Exemption ("NOE", attached hereto at Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference), the proposed Project consists of the construction of an approximately 3,500 square foot barn building furthering the District's agricultural instruction and related programs/pathways. The Project will include space for an animal exercise yard, an animal washing area, an attached teaching facility, and path of travel upgrades to the Project to accommodate students and staff's access to the facility. The beneficiaries of the Project will be students, staff, and surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, the District must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") for the proposed Project, unless the Project is exempt from CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, categorically exempts certain projects, including projects consisting of:

- Class 1 – operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use (§ 15301);
- Class 3 – construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structures (§ 15303);
- Class 11 – construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities (§ 15311); and
- Class 14 – minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25 percent or ten classrooms, whichever is less (§ 15314); and

WHEREAS, based on the record, as further explained below, the proposed Project meets the criteria for, and thus is exempt from CEQA under the respective exemption(s), as set forth in the table below:

Proposed Project	Applicable Exemptions
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Willows High School Agricultural Facility Project	CatEx: Class 1, Class 3, Class 11 & Class 14.
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WHEREAS, the proposed Project meets the criteria for, and thus is categorically exempt from CEQA, under each respective categorical exemption Class set forth in the table above; and

WHEREAS, the CEQA Guidelines also set forth exceptions to the categorical exemptions (§ 15300.2); and

WHEREAS, based on the record, the Project is not subject to any of the exceptions to categorical exemptions, including, without limitation, because:

- The Project is located on a developed, operating high school campus and would not impact a designated environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern;
- There are no other projects of the same type in the same place as the Project that would result in cumulative impacts;
- There is no indication of unusual circumstances that would cause a significant environmental impact related to the Project;
- The Project would not result in damage to scenic or natural resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway because the Project would be located on an existing developed and operating high school site, and does not result in an encroachment of any incompatible land use, does not detract from scenic views or scenic quality, and includes proper siting;
- The Project is not located on a hazardous waste site; and
- The Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Education of the Willows Unified School District hereby finds, determines, declares, orders, and resolves as follows:

1. That the foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.
2. That the Willows High School Agricultural Facility Project meets the criteria for, and thus is categorically exempt from CEQA under, Class 1, Class 3, Class 11, and Class 14.
3. That none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions apply to the Project.
4. That all applicable CEQA requirements have been fulfilled for the Project.
5. That the exemptions from CEQA set forth herein respective to the Project are hereby adopted.
6. That all actions required to be taken by applicable law related to the approval of the Project have been taken. Therefore, the Board hereby approves the Project as more specifically identified in the attached NOE. This action constitutes an "approval" as defined under section 15352(a) of the CEQA Guidelines for the Project.

7. That the following NOE, attached hereto as Exhibit "A", is approved and incorporated herein by reference: Notice of Exemption for Willows High School Agricultural Facility Project.
8. That District staff is hereby authorized and directed to file and post the attached NOE for the Project, consistent with this Resolution, with all appropriate public agencies or entities.
9. That the District's Superintendent and/or designee is hereby authorized to take all further action necessary to otherwise carry out, give effect to, and comply with the terms and intent of this Resolution.

APPROVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Willows Unified School District held this ___ day of September 2023.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

Clerk, Board of Trustees

Attachment:

-Exhibit A: Notice of Exemption for the Willows High School Agricultural Facility Project

Notice of Exemption

To: Glenn County Clerk-Recorder
516 West Sycamore Street
Willows, CA 95988

From: Willows Unified School District
823 West Laurel Street
Willows, CA 95988

Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
If Courier Service or Hand Delivery: 1400
Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Willows High School Agricultural Facility Project

Project Location - Specific: Willow High School, 203 N. Murdock Avenue, Willows, CA 95988

Project Location - City: Willows

Project Location - County: Glenn

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Willows High School Agricultural Facility Project ("Project") at the Willow Unified School District's ("District") existing high school campus includes the construction of an approximately 3,500 square foot barn building furthering the District's agricultural instruction and related programs/pathways. The Project will include space for an animal exercise yard, an animal washing area, an attached teaching facility, and path of travel upgrades to the Project to accommodate students and staff's access to the facility.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Willows Unified School District

Name of Agency Carrying Out Project: Willows Unified 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 3: Sec. 15303; Class 11: Sec. 15311; and Class 14: Section 15314.
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Class 1: Operation, repair, maintenance or minor alterations to existing public facilities, topographical features, and utilities involving no or negligible expansion of use. Class 3: Small new facilities, reasonable utility extensions, and accessory improvements. Class 11: Construction, placement of minor structures, accessory to existing facilities. Class 14: Minor additions to facilities within existing grounds.

District Contact Person: Emmett Koerperich
Superintendent
Telephone: 530 934-6600

Signature: _____

Date: _____

