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CEQA: California Environmental Quality Act

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: San Bernardino City Unified School District  
956 West 9th Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92411

☒ County Clerk  
County of San Bernardino  
222 West Hospitality Lane, 1st Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

George Brown Junior Elementary School Grade Span Reconfiguration Project  
Project Title

2525 North G Street, San Bernardino, CA 92405 and 2299 North G Street, San Bernardino, CA 92405  
Project Location - Specific

San Bernardino  
Project Location - City

San Bernardino  
Project Location - County

George Brown Elementary School is currently experiencing overcrowding. To address this, the District is proposing to modify the grade span configuration at George Brown Junior Elementary School from kindergarten through sixth grade to kindergarten through fifth grade, starting in the 2025-2026 school year. The sixth-grade programming at George Brown Junior Elementary School would be accommodated at Arrowview Middle School (directly adjacent to George Brown Elementary School) which currently offers a grade span configuration of sixth through eighth grade and has sufficient capacity. No construction activities are proposed; all future construction work, if any, would be subject to additional environmental review.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project

San Bernardino City Unified School District  
Name of Public Agency Approving Project

Thomas Pace, Director – Facilities Planning and Development  
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project

CEQA: California Environmental Quality Act

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Exempt Status: (check one below)

- ☐ 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: Sections 15301, 15314, and 15322
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Section 15282(i)
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The proposed project would involve the grade span reconfiguration at George Brown Junior Elementary School to reduce overcrowding; sixth grade students at George Brown Junior Elementary School would be accommodated at Arrowview Middle School. As such, the proposed project qualifies for a statutory exemption under CEQA Section 15282(i), Other Statutory Exemptions. Additionally, the proposed project is categorically exempt under CEQA Section 15301, Existing Facilities, because no expansion is required and the existing facilities have sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed project; Section 15314, Minor Additions to Schools, because the proposed project would not require additional classroom space and therefore, would not exceed a capacity increase of 25 percent or 10 classrooms; and Section 15322, Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes, because the proposed project would not require physical changes to the schools to accommodate the grade span reconfiguration.

See Attachment to Notice of Exemption for further explanation on the evaluation of the proposed project, as it relates to Sections 15282(i), 15301, 15314 and 15322 of the CEQA Guidelines, which is available for review at the San Bernardino City Unified School District, 956 West 9th Street, San Bernardino, CA 92411.

Reasons why project is exempt

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Thomas Pace, Director, Facilities Planning and Development (909) 388-6100

Contact Person:

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

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If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption findings
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project ☒ Yes ☐ No

Date  
Received for  
Filing:

5-20-2025

Signature:



Title: Director, Facilities Planning and Development

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# **Attachment to Notice of Exemption**

## **George Brown Junior Elementary School Grade Span Reconfiguration Project**

### **SAN BERNARDINO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The San Bernardino City Unified School District (District) the Board of Education approved Resolution Number 10.2, adopting a resolution directing District staff to solicit public input on a proposed modification of the grade span configuration at George Brown Junior Elementary School (George Brown Jr. ES). This resolution initiated a process to evaluate the feasibility of adjusting George Brown Jr. ES' grade span to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade, beginning with the 2025-26 school year, with sixth grade students being relocated to Arrowview Middle School, adjacent to George Brown Jr. ES. This supplemental information provides justification for the Statutory Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines under Section 15282(i). This supplemental information provides justification for the Categorical Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15301, Section 15314, and Section 15322, as well as justification that the proposed project qualifies for a Statutory Exemption under CEQA Section 15282(i).

## **1. EXISTING CONDITIONS**

### **PROJECT LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES**

The approximately 8.3-acre George Brown Jr. ES campus is at 2525 North G Street, San Bernardino, CA 92405, and the approximately 17.6-acre Arrowview Middle School (Arrowview MS) campus is at 2299 North G Street, San Bernardino, CA 92405 in the City of San Bernardino, San Bernardino County. Regional access to the campuses is from State Route 259 (SR-259), approximately 0.23-mile west of the campuses, and SR-210, approximately 0.43-mile north of the George Brown Jr. ES and 0.5-mile north of Arrowview MS (see Figure 1, *Regional Location*). George Brown Jr. ES is surrounded by residential uses to the north, east, and west, and Arrowview MS to the south. Arrowview MS is surrounded by George Brown Jr. ES to the north; residential and commercial uses to the south, east, and west (see Figure 2, *Aerial Photograph*).

### **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

George Brown Jr. ES is currently a kindergarten through sixth-grade elementary school with a capacity of 840 seats and an enrollment of 734 students for the 2024-2025 school year. The campus consists of permanent buildings, surface parking lots, hardcourts, a playfield, and play structures. Arrowview MS is a sixth- through eighth-grade middle school with a capacity of 1,995 seats and an enrollment of 918 students for the 2024-2025 school year. The campus consists of permanent and portable buildings, surface parking lots, a playfield, and hardcourts. Figure 2 shows an aerial view of both campuses.

## **2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

George Brown ES is currently experiencing overcrowding. To address this, the District is proposing to modify the grade span configuration at George Brown Jr. ES from kindergarten through sixth grade to kindergarten through fifth grade, starting in the 2025-2026 school year. The sixth-grade programming at George Brown Jr. ES would be accommodated at Arrowview Middle School (directly south of George Brown Jr. ES) which currently offers a grade span configuration of sixth through eighth grade and has sufficient capacity. After the grade span reconfiguration, the projected 2025-2026 enrollment at George Brown Jr. ES is expected to be 639 students while the projected 2025-2026 enrollment at Arrowview MS is expected to be 960 students. As such, overcrowding at George Brown Jr. ES is unlikely to occur and Arrowview MS would still have sufficient capacity, after the proposed changes. No construction activities are proposed; all future construction work, if any, would be subject to additional environmental review.

### 3. REASONS WHY THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The proposed project is exempt from further environmental review, as described below, under the requirements of CEQA (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.) because it is consistent with Class 1, Existing Facilities, Class 14, Minor Additions to Schools, and Class 22, Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes, as well as Section 15282(i), Other Statutory Exemptions.

**Class 1, Existing Facilities (CEQA Guidelines § 15301)** consists of the 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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. (CEQA Guidelines § 15301).

The proposed project qualifies for a Class 1 (Existing Facilities) exemption under CEQA § 15301 because it involves no physical expansion or alteration of school facilities. The proposed project would relocate 6th grade students to an underutilized middle school (with no new construction or capacity increase) which constitutes a minor operational change with no expansion of the existing use. Therefore, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301.

**Class 14, Minor Additions to Schools (CEQA Guidelines § 15314)** consists of minor additions to an existing school building within the existing school grounds and the additions do not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, whichever is less. The addition of portable classrooms is included in this exemption. (CEQA Guidelines § 15314).

The proposed project qualifies for a Class 14 (Minor Additions to Schools) exemption under CEQA § 15314 because it does not require an increase in capacity or classrooms to accommodate the proposed grade span reconfiguration. Arrowview MS has sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed increase in enrollment. Therefore, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15314.

**Class 22, Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes (CEQA Guidelines § 15303)** consists of the adoption, alteration, or termination of educational or training programs which involve no physical alteration in the area affected or which involve physical changes only in the interior of existing school or training structures. (CEQA Guidelines § 15322).

The proposed project qualifies for a Class 22 (Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes) exemption under CEQA § 15322 because no physical alterations to buildings or grounds would be required to accommodate the proposed grade span reconfiguration. The proposed project would be accommodated by the existing structures at Arrowview MS. Therefore, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15322.

**Section 15282(i), Other Statutory Exemptions.** The proposed project would involve the grade span reconfiguration at George Brown Jr. ES to reduce overcrowding; sixth grade students at George Brown Jr. ES would be accommodated at Arrowview MS. As such, the proposed project qualifies for a statutory exemption under CEQA Section 15282(i), Other Statutory Exemptions, which states:

*(i) The closing of any public school or the transfer of students from that public school to another school in which kindergarten or any grades 1 through 12 is maintained as set forth in 21080.18 of the Public Resources Code.*

## 4. REVIEW OF SITE CONDITIONS

The campuses have been reviewed under the following conditions to determine the impacts of the proposed project on the environment:

- **Location and Hazards Waste Sites.** Will the proposed project impact sensitive environments, or be located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5?
- **Cumulative Impacts.** Will the proposed project result in a cumulative impact?
- **Significant Impacts.** Will the proposed project result in a significant impact on the environment?
- **Scenic Highways.** Will the proposed project impact scenic resources, such as trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within an officially designated state scenic highway?
- **Historical Resources.** Will the proposed project impact historical resources?

Table 1, *Site Conditions Explanation*, provides reasoning as to why the proposed project would not meet the site conditions, and is therefore exempt under CEQA.

**Table 1 Site Conditions Explanation**

Site Conditions	Explanation
Location and Hazards Waste Sites	According to the Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species Mapper and Wetlands Mapper, there are no wetlands or threatened and endangered species onsite (USFWS 2025a; USFWS 2025b). George Brown Jr. ES is listed on EnviroStor as a school clean-up site and has a cleanup status of "Certified O&M (with land use restrictions)" as of September 5, 2013 (DTSC 2025). Arrowview MS is listed on EnviroMapper as a "Generator" (Handler # CAD982331274); however, the site's status is "Inactive" as of June 30, 2020 (USESPA 2025; DTSC 2025a). The campuses are not listed on any other hazardous list or database pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5 (SWRCB 2025, DTSC 2025b, CalRecycle 2025). Therefore, this condition does not apply.
Cumulative Impacts	The proposed project does not require construction activities. Any construction work proposed for other projects in the vicinity of the campuses would be confined to the project site's boundaries, which would reduce cumulative impacts. Therefore, this condition does not apply.
Significant Impacts	There is no reasonable possibility that the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The George Brown Jr. ES and Arrowview MS currently operate as schools and would continue to operate as elementary and middle schools. Additionally, no construction activities are needed for the proposed project. The proposed project is exempt under Classes 1, 14, and 22, because no expansions, additional capacity, or physical changes are required. The existing capacity at Arrowview MS is sufficient to accommodate the proposed increase in enrollment. Additionally, the pick-up/drop-off areas at Arrowview MS are adequate in handling the additional students due to the low enrollment and sufficient capacity; Arrowview MS was constructed to accommodate more vehicles than what is currently occurring given the capacity of Arrowview MS. No additional vehicle trips or changes to circulation patterns would occur since the schools are directly adjacent to each other. Therefore, this condition does not apply.

Scenic Highways	According to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), both schools are approximately 17 miles west of SR-38, which is the nearest designated state scenic highway, and 6 miles west of SR-330, which is the nearest eligible state scenic highway (Caltrans 2019). Given the distance and varying topography, the proposed project would not impact scenic highways. Therefore, this condition does not apply.
Historic Resources	The campuses are not listed on the National Register of Historic Places, California Historic Resources, or San Bernardino County Historic Archives (NPS 2020, OHP 2025, San Bernardino County 2025). Therefore, this condition does not apply.
Sources: USFWS 2025a, 2025b; UESPA 2025; SWRCB 2025; DTSC 2025a, 2025b; CalRecycle 2025; Caltrans 2019; NPS 2020; OHP 2025; San Bernardino County 2025.	

## 5. CONCLUSION

The proposed project qualifies for a statutory exemption under CEQA Section 15282(i), Other Statutory Exemptions, because the proposed project would result in the transfer of the sixth grade program from George Brown ES to Arrowview ES to reduce overcrowding at George Brown ES. Additionally, the proposed project is categorically exempt under Classes 1, 14, and 22 because the proposed project would not result in expansions, additional capacity, or physical changes. As outlined in the analysis above, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to sensitive environments, scenic highways, historic resources, or cumulative effects. Additionally, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts and the campuses are not listed on any hazardous materials sites list. Consequently, the grade span reconfiguration project would not lead to significant environmental impacts, and is therefore, statutorily and categorically exempt.

## 6. REFERENCES

- California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). 2025, March (accessed). SWIS Facility/Site Search. <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Search>.
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2019. Scenic Highways: California State Scenic Highways. <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa>.
- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2025a, March (accessed). Hazardous Waste Tracking System. <https://hwts.dtsc.ca.gov/>
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2025b, March (accessed). EnviroStor. <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/>.
- National Parks Service (NPS). 2020, September. National Register Database and Research. <https://www.nps.gov/maps/full.html?mapId=7ad17cc9-b808-4ff8-a2f9-a99909164466>.
- Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). 2025, March (accessed). California Historical Resources. <https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/ListedResources/?view=county&criteria=36>.
- San Bernardino County Assessor-Recorder-Clerk. (San Bernardino County). 2025, March (accessed). San Bernardino County Historical Archives Interactive Map. <https://arc.sbcounty.gov/san-bernardino-county-historical-archives-interactive-map/>.
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2025, March (accessed). GeoTracker. <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>.

US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 2025, March (accessed). EnviroMapper for EnviroFacts.  
<https://www3.epa.gov/enviro/index.html>.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2025a, March (accessed). Critical Habitat for Threatened & endangered Species – Mapper.  
<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77>

\_\_\_\_\_. 2025b, March (accessed). Wetlands Mapper. <https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper>.

#### **Attachments**

Figure 1 Regional Location

Figure 2 Aerial Photograph

Figure 1 - Regional Location

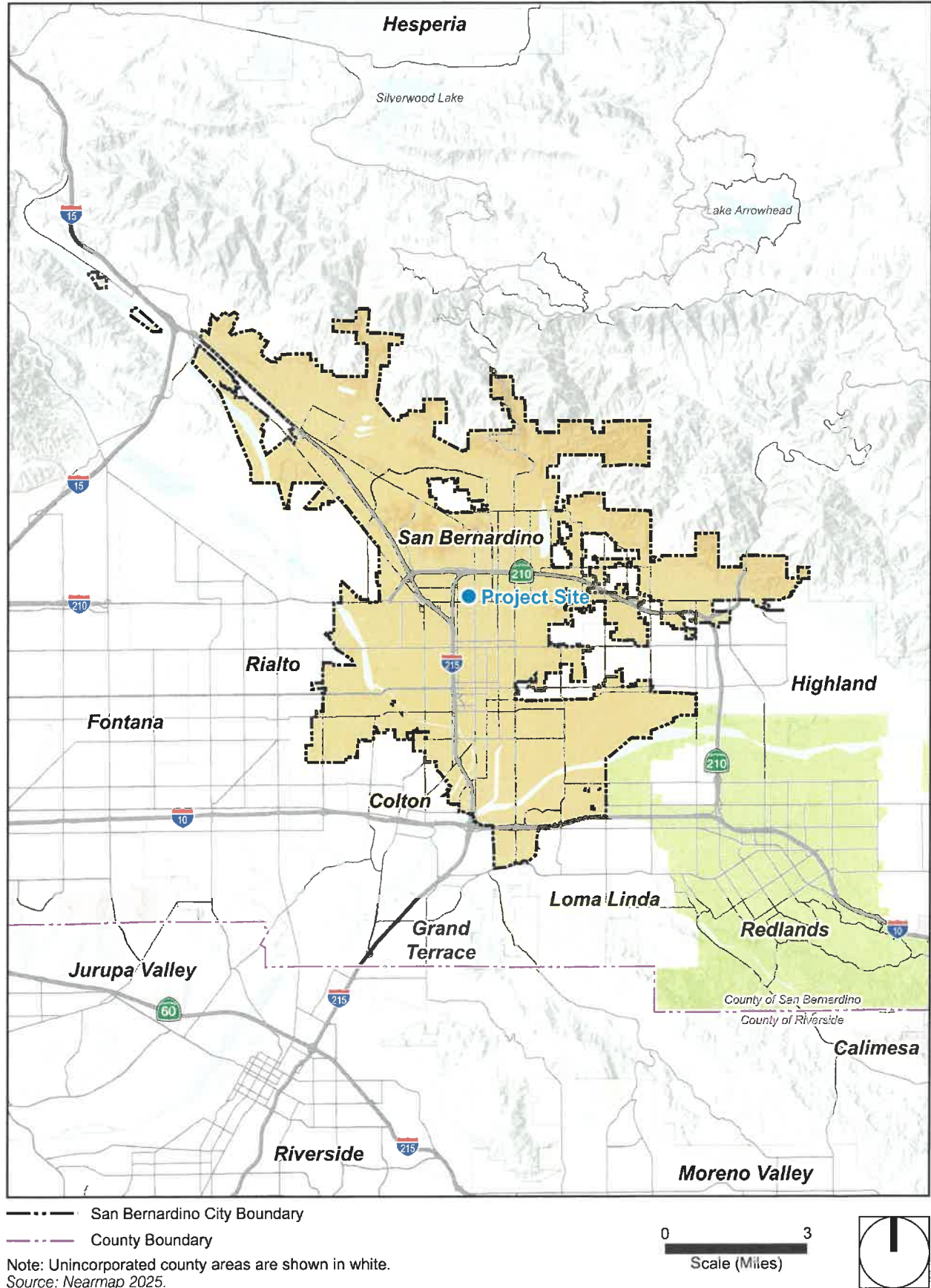




Figure 2 - Aerial Photograph



Project Boundary

0 350  
Scale (Feet)



Source: Nearmap 2025.

PlaceWorks