

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT THE JOHN ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL SOLAR
PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT,
APPROVING THE PROJECT, AND DIRECTING THE FILING OF A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District ("District") has developed the John Adams Middle School Solar Project ("Project") at John Adams Middle School ("JAMS") located at 2425 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405, which consists of the construction and installation of an 118 kW solar/photovoltaic system and associated equipment to provide supplemental renewable electricity from solar energy; and

WHEREAS, the Project consists of approximately 42 rooftop mounted solar panel systems on three classroom buildings adjacent to 17th Street, and one shade structure adjacent to the quad area, located on the northeast side of JAMS; and

WHEREAS, the District must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") before approving the Project; and

WHEREAS, categorical exemptions to CEQA are set forth in Article 19 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations ("CEQA Guidelines"); and

WHEREAS, the Class 3 Categorical Exemption, set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15303, exempts a project that consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures and installation of small 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 structure, an express example in the exemption includes accessory structures, such as carports, which are substantially similar to shade structures; and

WHEREAS, the Project consists of the construction and installation of a solar/photovoltaic system, which is a limited number of new small structures comprised of rooftop mounted solar panels on three existing rooftops and a shade structure, all of which are accessory structures to the school; and

WHEREAS, the Class 11 Categorical Exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15311 exempts a project that consists of construction or placement of minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Project consists of the construction of a solar/photovoltaic system that will be located on building rooftops and a shade structure, all of which are minor to an existing institutional facility consisting of a public school; and

WHEREAS, the Class 14 Categorical Exemption, set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15314, exempts a project that consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the additions do not increase original student capacity by more than twenty-five percent (25%) or ten (10) classrooms, whichever is less; and

WHEREAS, the Project consists of a minor addition of a solar/photovoltaic system to an existing school site; and

WHEREAS, the Project will not increase student capacity because the Project does not change the physical space for housing students, since the Project is solely for the construction,

installation, and operation of a solar/photovoltaic system and associated equipment to generate and supply renewable electricity to an existing school site; and

WHEREAS, the Project will not increase the number of classrooms at the existing school site; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2(c) provides that if unusual circumstances exist, an otherwise categorically exempt project would be disqualified from being exempt; and

WHEREAS, the Project is a typical solar/photovoltaic system mounted to typical school rooftops and shade structures within an urbanized area of a city; and

WHEREAS, the District is unaware of any unusual circumstances that would negate the use of the Class 3, Class 11, and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions; and

WHEREAS, attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"** is a Notice of Exemption for the Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that based upon the whole record of proceedings, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education ("Board") hereby finds as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. The Project meets the definitions of the Class 3, Class 11, and Class 14 Categorical Exemptions (CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15303, 15311, and 15314).
3. There is no indication of unusual circumstances that would cause a potentially significant environmental impact related to the Project.
4. The applicable requirements of CEQA have been fulfilled for the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee is authorized and directed to file a Notice of Exemption for the Project with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County at its regularly scheduled meeting held on this 18th day of January 2018 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein
President, Board of Education

I, Dr. Ben Drati, Secretary of the Board of Education of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, do certify that the foregoing Resolution was regularly introduced, passed and adopted by the Board of Education at its regularly scheduled board meeting held on this 18th day of January 2018.

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District