Appendix E Geologic and Environmental Hazards Assessment

Appendix

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September 2024 | Geologic and Environmental Hazards Assessment

HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM/CLASSROOM BUILDING PROJECT

Hope Elementary School District

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Hope Elementary School District (District) is proposing to develop a new gymnasium and classroom building at the existing Hope Elementary School (ES) campus in the southwestern portion of unincorporated Tulare County. The State of California's standards for school site selection are found in Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 14010, and additional codes and regulations applicable to school facilities that are found in the Education, Government and Public Resources Codes (Ed. Code, Gov't Code and PRC, respectively). This study provides an assessment and supporting documentation of State school facility standards applicable to State-funded new school sites.

In addition to the standards addressed herein, other health and safety requirements are under the purview of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Also, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires lead agencies to address the environmental impacts of a project on the environment. These are separate and distinct from the issues addressed in this study, which deal with a site's ability to provide a safe and healthy environment for school use. Documentation of the project's environmental impacts under CEQA and the health and safety evaluation per DTSC are provided under separate cover.

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The project site encompasses approximately 2.45 acres of the eastern portion of the existing school campus, located at 613 West Teapot Dome Avenue in the southwestern portion of unincorporated Tulare County, within the City of Porterville's urban area boundary. The Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) associated with this site is 303-060-041. The project site includes approximately 0.03 acres of existing campus, approximately 0.78-acre of an unpaved parking lot and approximately 1.64-acres of agricultural citrus trees. Figure 1, *Regional Location,* Figure 2, *Local Vicinity,* and Figure 3, *Aerial Photograph*, show the project site from regional, local, and aerial perspectives.

1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

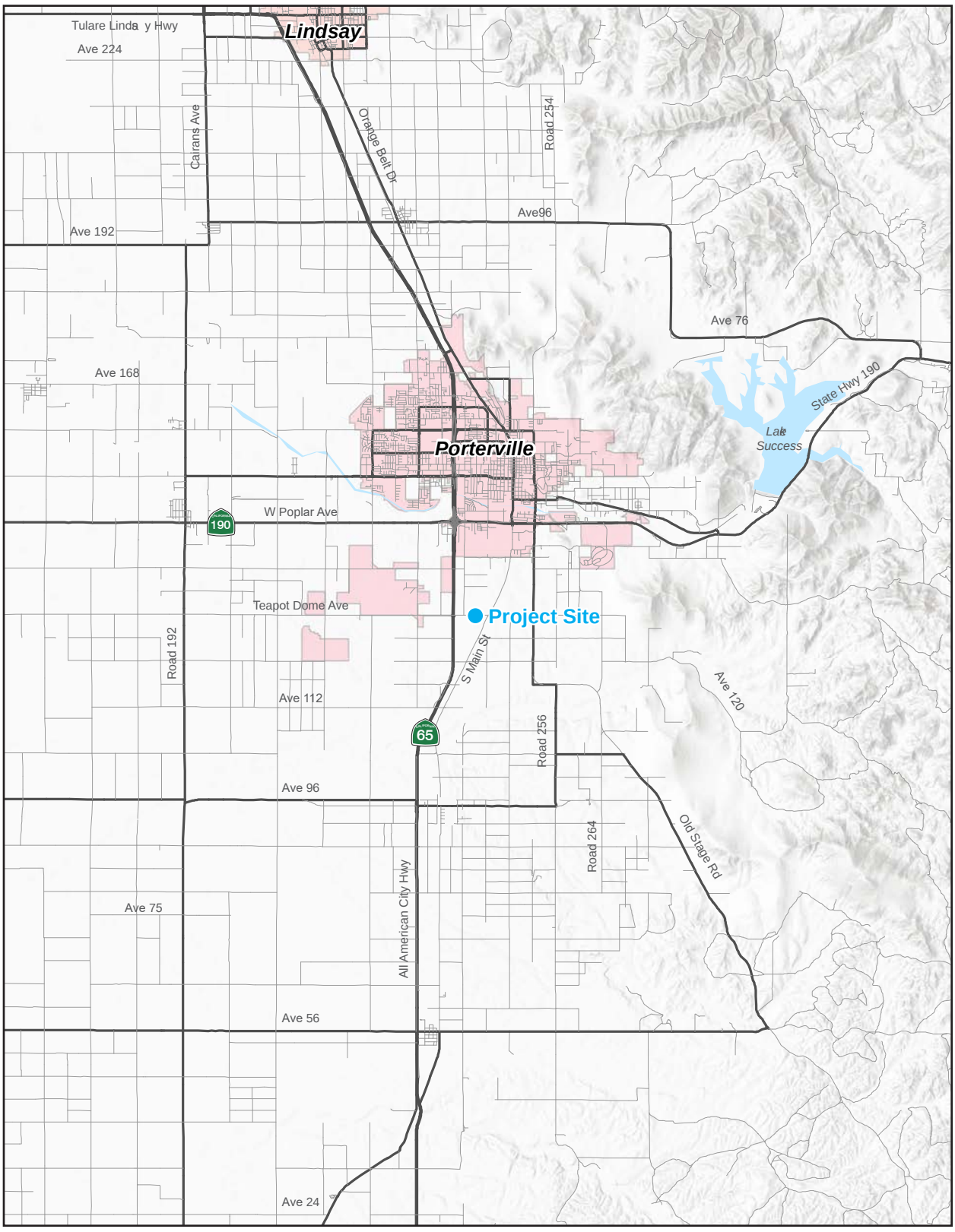
The District would develop the 11,462 square foot gymnasium/classroom building on District-owned property immediately east of the existing school campus. The new gymnasium/classroom building would be setback approximately 280 feet south of West Teapot Dome Avenue, with a new parking lot planned for the area fronting the street. The project site is bounded by West Teapot Dome Avenue to the north, by the Hope ES campus to the west, and by agricultural uses to the east and south.

1.4 CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on a review of various information sources contained in this report, all of the environmental health and safety hazards evaluated for this report are not expected to create a significant hazard, with the exception of the following:

- The Porterville Municipal Airport is less than 2 nautical miles from the project site. The California Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics is currently in the process of conducting an aeronautical review of the project site, which has not been completed upon completion and submittal of this Geologic and Environmental Hazards Assessment (GEHA). If findings from the aeronautical review suggest a hazard to the project site, an addendum to this GEHA will be prepared.

Figure 1 - Regional Location



Note: Unincorporated county areas are shown in light grey.
Source: Generated using ArcMap 2024.

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1. Introduction

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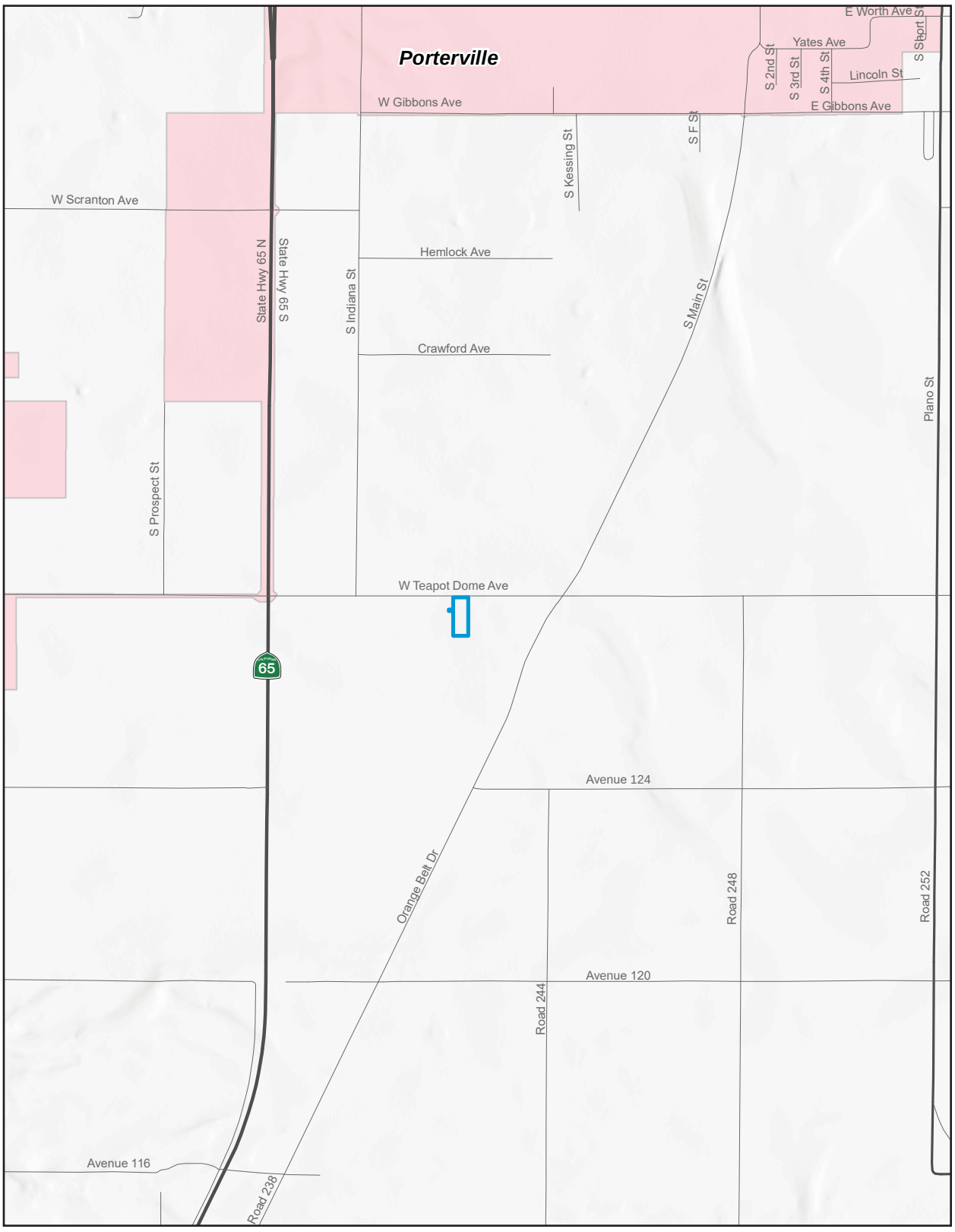
Figure 2 - Local Vicinity



Project Site

Note: Unincorporated county areas are shown in light grey.
Source: Generated using ArcMap 2024.

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PlaceWorks

1. Introduction

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Figure 3 - Aerial Photograph

Project Site

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Source: Nearmap 2024.

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1. Introduction

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2. State Standards for School Facilities

The State of California's standards for school site selection are found in 5 CCR Section 14010, and additional codes and regulations applicable to school facilities are found in the Education, Government and Public Resources Codes. The following table is a checklist of questions and code citations related to state-funded new school site and new construction approvals.

STATE STANDARDS CHECKLIST FOR STATE-FUNDED SCHOOL FACILITIES –
SCHOOL SITE APPROVAL
(Documentation for SFPD 4.0, 4.01–4.03, School Site Approval)

Topic	Code References
Air Quality	
Is the boundary of the proposed school site within 500 feet of the edge of the closest traffic lane of a freeway or busy traffic corridor? If yes, would the project create an air quality health risk due to the placement of the school?	Ed. Code § 17213(c)(2)(C); CCR Title 5 § 14010(q)
Would the project create an air quality hazard due to the placement of a school within one-quarter mile of: (a) permitted and non-permitted facilities identified by the jurisdictional air quality control board or air pollution control district; (b) freeways and other busy traffic corridors; (c) large agricultural operations; and/or (d) a rail yard, which might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions, or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste?	Ed. Code § 17213(b); CCR Title 5 § 14010(q)
Geology and Soils	
Does the site contain an active earthquake fault or fault trace, or is the site located within the boundaries of any special studies zone or within an area designated as geologically hazardous in the safety element of the local general plan?	Ed. Code, §§ 17212 and 17212.5; CCR Title 5 § 14010(f)
Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on the trace of a geological fault along which surface rupture can reasonably be expected to occur within the life of the school building?	Ed. Code § 17212.5
Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to moderate-to-high liquefaction, landslides, or expansive soils?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010(i) School Site Selection and Approval Guide, Appendix H
Are naturally occurring asbestos minerals located at the site?	School Site Selection and Approval Guide, Appendix H
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	
Does the proposed school site contain one or more pipelines, situated underground or aboveground, which carry hazardous substances, acutely hazardous materials, or hazardous wastes, unless the pipeline is a natural gas line that is used only to supply natural gas to that school or neighborhood?	Ed. Code § 17213(a)(3)
Is the proposed school site located near an aboveground water or fuel storage tank or within 1,500 feet of an easement of an aboveground or underground pipeline that can pose a safety hazard to the site?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010 (h)

2. Environmental Checklist

Is the school site in an area designated in a city, county, or city and county general plan for agricultural use and zoned for agricultural production, and if so, do neighboring agricultural uses have the potential to result in any public health and safety issues that may affect the pupils and employees at the school site? *(Does not apply to school sites approved by CDE prior to January 1, 1997.)*	Ed. Code § 17215.5
Is the property line of the proposed school site less than the following distances from the edge of respective power line easements: (1) 100 feet of a 50–133 kV line; (2) 150 feet of a 220–230 kV line; or (3) 350 feet of a 500–550 kV line?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010 (c)
Does the project site contain a current or former hazardous waste disposal site or solid waste disposal site and, if so, have the wastes been removed?	Ed. Code § 17213(a)(1)
Is the project site a hazardous substance release site identified by the state Department of Health Services in a current list adopted pursuant to § 25356 for removal or remedial action pursuant to Chapter 6.8 of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code?	PRC § 21151.8 (a)(1)(B); Ed. Code § 17213(a)(2)
If prepared, has the risk assessment been performed with a focus on children's health posed by a hazardous materials release or threatened release, or the presence of naturally occurring hazardous materials on the school site?	Ed. Code § 17210.1(a)(3)
If a response action is necessary and proposed as part of this project, has it been developed to be protective of children's health, with an ample margin of safety?	Ed. Code § 17210.1(a)(4)
Is the proposed school site situated within 2,000 feet of a significant disposal of hazardous waste?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010 (t)
Is the site within 300 feet of an active oil or natural gas well?	Fire Code § 3406.3.1
Hydrology and Flooding	
Is the project site subject to flooding or dam/tank inundation or street flooding?	Ed. Code §§ 17212 and 17212.5 CCR, Title 5 § 14010 (g) School Site Selection and Approval Guide, Appendix H
Land Use and Planning	
Would the proposed school conflict with any existing or proposed land uses, such that a potential health or safety risk to students would be created?	Ed. Code § 17213 Gov't. Code § 65402 CCR, Title 5 § 14010 (m)
Are there easements on or adjacent to the site that would restrict access or building placement?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010(r)
Is the school site proportionate in its length to width ratio to accommodate the building layout, parking and playfields that can be safely supervised and does not exceed the allowed passing time to classes for the district?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010(j)
Is the site located within the proposed attendance area to encourage student walking and avoid extensive bussing unless bussing for ethnic diversity?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010(n)
Has the district considered environmental factors of light, wind, noise, aesthetics, and air pollution in its site selection process?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010(q)
Is the site within a designated Farmland Security Zone?	Government Code § 51296.5
Noise	
Is the proposed school site located adjacent to or near a major arterial roadway or freeway whose noise generation may adversely affect the educational program?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010 (e)
Public Services	
Does the site promote joint use of parks, libraries, museums, and other public services?	CCR, Title 5, § 14010 (o)
Is the site conveniently located for public services, including but not limited to fire protection, police protection, public transit and trash disposal wherever feasible?	CCR, Title 5, § 14010 (p)
Transportation/Traffic	
Are traffic and pedestrian hazards mitigated per Caltrans' School Area Pedestrian Safety manual?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010 (l)
Is the site easily accessible from arterials and is the minimum peripheral visibility maintained for driveways per Caltrans' Highway Design Manual?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010 (k)

2. Environmental Checklist

Is the proposed school site within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement?	CCR, Title 5 § 14010 (d)
Is the proposed school site within two nautical miles, measured by air line, of that point on an airport runway or potential runway included in an airport master plan that is nearest to the site? *(Does not apply to school sites acquired prior to January 1, 1966.)*	Ed. Code §§ 17215 (a)&(b)

Note: Any documentation related to the California Environmental Quality Act is provided under separate cover.
This checklist is also applicable to property additions to existing school sites.

2. Environmental Checklist

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3. Environmental Analysis

Section 2 provided a checklist of the State of California's health and safety standards for school sites. This section provides documentation and an evaluation of applicable standards, and mitigation measures where appropriate.

3.1 AIR QUALITY

3.1.1 Is the boundary of the proposed school site within 500 feet of the edge of the closest traffic lane of a freeway or busy traffic corridor? If yes, would the project create an air quality health risk due to the placement of the school?

No Significant Hazard. There are no freeways or busy traffic corridors within 500 feet of the site (Google Earth Pro. 2024). Public Resources Code Section 21151.8(b)(9) and Education Code Section 17213(d)(9) define a "freeway or other busy traffic corridors" as roadways that on an average day have traffic in excess of 50,000 vehicles in a rural area or 100,000 vehicles in an urban area.

3.1.2 Would the project create an air quality hazard due to the placement of a school within one-quarter mile of: (a) permitted and non-permitted facilities identified by the jurisdictional air quality control board or air pollution control district; (b) freeways and other busy traffic corridors; (c) large agricultural operations; and/or (d) a rail yard, which might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions, or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste?

No Significant Hazard. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Valley Air) was contacted to identify stationary sources within a quarter-mile radius of project sites that have the potential to generate hazardous air emissions. The only identified permitted facility was Hope ES, which operates an emergency diesel-fueled generator (Valley Air 2024). The operation of the generator for maintenance and testing is restricted by permit requirements to times when school is not in session. Therefore, no permitted facilities would create an air quality hazard at the school site.

No non-permitted sources were identified within a quarter mile of the site. Additionally, there are no rail yards nearby, and the site is not within a quarter mile of a freeway or busy traffic corridor (see 3.1.1). The site, however, is surrounded by agricultural uses (i.e., citrus orchard) to the east and south. In 2018, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) adopted Rule 16-004, *Pesticide Use Near Schoolsites,* which prohibits pesticide application within a quarter-mile of a public K-12 school during school hours (DPR 2024). Therefore, the existing orchards would not create an air quality hazard at the school site.

3.2 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The project site is located in the southeastern portion of the Great Valley Geomorphic Province. The Great Valley Geomorphic Province, a north-south trending valley, is approximately 400 miles long by 50 miles wide. The southern portion of the Great Valley Geomorphic Province encompasses the San Joaquin Valley. The project site is located on the eastern flank of the San Joaquin Valley, west of the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. The surface of the San Joaquin Valley is composed primarily of unconsolidated Pleistocene and alluvial sediments (Padre 2024).

According to the *Geologic Map of California – Fresno Sheet (1965), California Geological Survey*, the project site is underlain by the quaternary age Pleistocene Nonmarine (Qc) sedimentary deposits. The surface soil at the project site consists of San Joaquin loam, which forms on terraces in alluvium derived from weathered granitic rock. Groundwater is present at depths of more than 100 feet below ground surface (Padre, 2024).

3.2.1 Does the site contain an active earthquake fault or fault trace, or is the site located within the boundaries of any special studies zone or within an area designated as geologically hazardous in the safety element of the local general plan?

No Significant Hazard. Based on the California Geological Survey (CGS 2024) and the Geotechnical Report provided by Krazan and Associates (Krazan 2023), the site is not within or immediately adjacent to (i.e., within a few hundred feet) an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (California Geological Survey 2023). The nearest zoned fault is a portion of the Great Valley Fault system and is located more than 49 miles west of the project site (Krazan, 2023).

3.2.2 Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on the trace of a geological fault along which surface rupture can reasonably be expected to occur within the life of the school building?

No Significant Hazard. As stated in Section 3.2.1, no faults are located in the immediate vicinity of the site (Jennings and Bryant 2010). The site is not within or immediately adjacent to (i.e., within a few hundred feet) an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (CGS 2024, Krazan 2023).

3.2.3 Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to moderate-to-high liquefaction, landslides, or expansive soils?

No Significant Hazard. Liquefaction refers to loose, saturated sand, or gravel deposits that lose their load-supporting capability when subjected to intense shaking. Liquefaction potential varies based upon three main contributing factors: 1) cohesionless, granular soils having relatively low densities (usually of Holocene age); 2) shallow groundwater (generally less than 50 feet); and 3) moderate to high seismic ground shaking. The Geotechnical Report for the project site determined that the liquefaction potential is low and mitigation for liquefaction is not required (Krazan 2023).

A landslide is a type of erosion in which masses of earth and rock move downslope as a single unit. Susceptibility of slopes to landslides and other forms of slope failure depend on several factors. These are usually present in combination and include steep slopes, condition of rock and soil materials, presence of

water, formational contacts, geologic shear zones, and seismic activity. The project sites and their adjoining properties are relatively level and exhibit no substantial elevation changes or unusual geographic features. Therefore, the project would not expose people or the new school buildings to adverse effects associated with landslides.

Expansive soils swell when they become wet and shrink when they dry out, resulting in the potential for cracked building foundations and in some cases, structural distress of the buildings themselves. In each case, minor to severe damage to overlying structures is possible. The Geotechnical Engineering evaluation for the site determined the surface and subsurface soils are considered to have a low expansion potential, and recommendations to mitigate expansive soils are provided in the geotechnical report (Krazan 2023). Additionally, all improvements would be performed in compliance with the California Building Code and requirements of the Division of the State Architect (DSA). The DSA will ensure that the buildings are constructed in accordance with the recommendations in the geotechnical report for the on-site soil conditions. Therefore, the project would not expose people or the new school building to adverse effects associated with expansive soils.

3.2.4 Are naturally occurring asbestos minerals located at the site?

No Significant Hazard. As part of the PEA process, soil samples were collected and analyzed in the unpaved parking area in the northwest portion of the project site. The samples were analyzed for naturally occurring asbestos (NOAs) and all of the results were below detection limits (Padre 2024). Although there are small outcrops of ultrabasic rocks approximately 2.5 to 4 miles northeast, east, and southeast of the project site, the outcrops are not located in the drainage basin that includes the school site. Additionally, several proposed school sites in the Porterville area that are located within the drainage basin of the ultrabasic rock outcrops sampled for NOA during the PEA process and no NOAs were reported in any of the samples. Therefore, project implementation would not result in the exposure of hazardous materials or naturally occurring hazardous materials on the proposed school site.

3.3 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

3.3.1 Does the proposed school site contain one or more pipelines, situated underground or aboveground, which carry hazardous substances, acutely hazardous materials, or hazardous wastes, unless the pipeline is a natural gas line that is used only to supply natural gas to that school or neighborhood?

No Significant Hazard.

There are no chemical or petroleum pipelines within a 1,500-foot radius according to the National Pipeline Mapping System online mapping database (NPMS 2024). Additionally, the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) confirmed there are no high-pressure natural gas pipelines within 1,500 feet of the site (SoCalGas 2024).

3. Environmental Analysis

3.3.2 Is the proposed school site located near an aboveground water or fuel storage tank or within 1,500 feet of an easement of an aboveground or underground pipeline that can pose a safety hazard to the site?

Aboveground Water or Fuel Storage Tank

No Significant Hazard. There is one aboveground water storage tank located on the Hope Elementary school campus that supplies current water needs to the school. The 53,360-gallon tank is located at the southern portion of the existing campus, west of the project site. Based on site topography, any released water from a rupture of the tank would flow toward the southwest onto the playfield area and away from the project site to the east (Google Earth 2024). Additionally, there are plans to connect the school to the City's water system in the future, but it is not expected to occur during the implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, the existing aboveground water tank is not a significant safety hazard to the project site.

No other aboveground water and fuel tanks were identified within a 1,500-foot radius of the site based on a review of Google Earth Pro (2024) and a topographic map (USGS 2015. The closest off-site aboveground tanks are located approximately 2,100 feet west of the project site, at the N S Mini Mart. Therefore, due to distance from the project site and site topography, the aboveground tanks do not have the potential to impact the site.

Hazardous Substance Pipelines

No Significant Hazard. As stated in Section 3.3.1, no high-pressure natural gas pipelines and no chemical or petroleum pipelines were identified within a 1,500-foot radius according to the National Pipeline Mapping System online mapping database (NPMS 2024; SoCalGas 2024).

Sewer and Water Pipelines

No Significant Hazard. Based on the response from the Tea Pot Dome Water District, there is one 33-inch diameter water main along the northern boundary of the project site, beneath the sidewalk and gravel parking area immediately south of W. Teapot Dome Road/Road 128 (See Appendix A) A Water Pipeline Safety Hazard Assessment was prepared to evaluate potential flooding hazards from a water pipeline rupture to the project site (PlaceWorks 2024a). Based on the results of the flooding analysis, the Water Pipeline Safety Hazard Assessment determined a potential break in the 33-inch water main would not result in significant flooding at the school.

3.3.3 Is the school site in an area designated in a city, county, or city and county general plan for agricultural use and zoned for agricultural production, and if so, do neighboring agricultural uses have the potential to result in any public health and safety issues that may affect the pupils and employees at the school site? (Does not apply to school sites approved by CDE prior to January 1, 1997.)

Potentially Significant Hazard. Based on a review of the California Important Farmland Finder maintained by the Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP 2024), the project site and adjoining areas are zoned for agricultural production. The application of pesticides is prohibited during school hours

(between 6 am and 6 pm within 0.25 mile of a school site and school administrators must receive annual pesticide use notification from nearby growers, as per the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR, 2024). Also, the PEA has been completed under DTSC oversight to determine if soils on the project site had been impacted from previous pesticide applications (DTSC 2024). All soil samples analyzed for organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) were below detection limits and concentrations of arsenic and lead were comparable to background concentrations or below DTSC thresholds (Padre, 2024). Therefore, there is no potential health or safety issues that would affect students or staff at the school site.

3.3.4 Is the property line of the proposed school site less than the following distances from the edge of respective power line easements: (1) 100 feet of a 50–133 kV line; (2) 150 feet of a 220–230 kV line; or (3) 350 feet of a 500–550 kV line?

No Significant Hazard. Southern California Edison (SCE) provides electrical service to the project area and was contacted to determine the existence and location of power lines and power-line easements within the immediate vicinity of the project site. SCE determined there is a 66 kV single circuit on the north side of W. Teapot Dome Avenue across the street from the school property, and approximately 50 feet from the project site. The CDE recommended setback distance for an overhead 50-133 kV line is 100 feet.

As the setback zone encroaches onto the existing site, an electromagnetic field (EMF) technical memorandum was prepared to determine if the proposed project would exacerbate existing safety conditions (PlaceWorks 2024b). The results of the EMF technical memorandum determined the new gymnasium/classroom building will be outside of the setback zone with implementation of the project. Therefore, safety hazards related to the high voltage transmission line would not be exacerbated by the proposed project.

3.3.5 Does the project site contain a current or former hazardous waste disposal site or solid waste disposal site and, if so, have the wastes been removed?

No Significant Hazard. Based on a review of GeoTracker, EnviroStor, EnviroMapper and Solid Waste Information System (SWIS) databases, the site is not located on a current or former hazardous waste disposal site or solid waste disposal site (DTSC 2024; SWRCB 2023; USEPA 2024; CalRecycle 2024).

3.3.6 Is the project site a hazardous substance release site identified by the state Department of Health Services in a current list adopted pursuant to § 25356 for removal or remedial action pursuant to Chapter 6.8 of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code?

No Significant Hazard. The subject property is not listed by DTSC on the hazardous waste and substances list (Cortese List).

3.3.7 If prepared, has the risk assessment been performed with a focus on children's health posed by a hazardous materials release or threatened release, or the presence of naturally occurring hazardous materials on the school site?

No Significant Hazard. As stated in Section 3.3.3, a PEA has been conducted under DTSC oversight to address former agricultural uses and potential exposure to chemicals of concern . All soil samples analyzed for OCPs, arsenic, lead, total petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, and semi-volatile compounds were either

below detection limits or below DTSC risk thresholds, Therefore, the project site has not been adversely impacted by historic or current land use activities and no further action is recommended (Padre 2024).

3.3.8 If a response action is necessary and proposed as part of this project, has it been developed to be protective of children's health, with an ample margin of safety?

No Significant Hazard. A PEA has been conducted for the project site under DTSC oversight. No health risks were identified and no further action is recommended (Padre 2024).

3.3.9 Is the proposed school site situated within 2,000 feet of a significant disposal of hazardous waste?

No Significant Hazard. Based on a 2024 review of the EnviroStor and GeoTracker databases, the project site is not within 2,000 feet of an off-site significant disposal of hazardous waste (DTSC 2024; SWRCB 2024).

3.3.10 Is the site within 300 feet of an active oil or natural gas well?

No Significant Hazard. Based on a review of the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM)'s Well Finder website, the site is not within 300 feet of any active oil or natural gas well (CalGEM 2024).

3.4 HYDROLOGY AND FLOODING

3.4.1 Is the project site subject to flooding or tank/dam inundation or street flooding?

No Significant Hazard. As stated in Section 3.3.2, one existing aboveground water storage tank was identified within 1,500 feet of the site. However, based on surface topography, any released water from a rupture of the tank would flow toward the southwest onto the playfield area and away from the project site to the east (Google Earth 2024). Additionally, the Geotechnical Report for the project site confirmed that the site is not located within either a 100-year flood zone or within the dam inundation zone for the Shaefer Dam (Lake Success) (Krazan 2024). Therefore, the project site would not be subject to a significant hazard from tank/dam inundation or street flooding.

3.5 LAND USE AND PLANNING

3.5.1 Would the proposed school conflict with any existing or proposed land uses, such that a potential health or safety risk to students would be created?

No Significant Hazard. The project site is a current school site surrounded by rural, undeveloped, and rural residential development. Therefore, land uses as prescribed by the City of Porterville do not preclude the development of the site with the proposed school use.

3.5.2 Are there easements on or adjacent to the site that would restrict access or building placement?

No Significant Hazard. Based on a review of the City of Porterville Parcel Viewer website (2024), no easements that would restrict access or building placement are located on or adjacent to the site. Therefore, there is no significant hazard to the project.

3.5.3 Is the school site proportionate in its length to width ratio to accommodate the building layout, parking and playfields that can be safely supervised and does not exceed the allowed passing time to classes for the district?

No Significant Hazard. The school will be developed with footprint proportionality and ease of student access in mind. Therefore, there is no significant hazard to the project.

3.5.4 Has the district considered environmental factors of light, wind, noise, aesthetics, and air pollution in its site selection process?

Light and Wind

No Significant Hazard. The project site would be exposed to standard climate conditions experienced by Porterville, which is generally characterized by Mediterranean conditions (Western Regional Climate Center [WRCC] 2024). Based on a review of a wind data table for Porterville, the predominant wind direction is from the northwest (WRCC 2024). As applicable, the operation of the proposed project would consider these environmental conditions. Therefore, project implementation would not expose site occupants to adverse light or wind conditions.

Aesthetics

No Significant Hazard. Project development would not degrade the existing visual character of the site. The project site is in an area with residential and agricultural uses. The proposed project would be consistent with the surrounding land uses. The character and quality of the site would not be incompatible with the nearby structures.

Air Pollution

No Significant Hazard.

As stated in Section 3.1.2, Valley Air identified only one permitted facility (Hope ES, emergency generator) within a quarter mile of the project site, and the correspondence is included in Appendix A. The operation of the generator for maintenance and testing is restricted by permit requirements to times when school is not in session. Therefore, no permitted facilities would create an air quality hazard at the school site. Additionally, there are no rail yards or non-permitted sources nearby, and the site is not within a quarter mile of a freeway or busy traffic corridor (see 3.1.2).

The site, however, is surrounded by agricultural uses (i.e., citrus orchards) to the east and south. In 2018, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) adopted Rule 16-004, *Pesticide Use Near Schoolsites,* which

prohibits pesticide application within a quarter mile of a public K-12 school during school hours (DPR 2024). Therefore, the existing orchards would not create an air quality hazard at the school site.

3.5.5 Is the site within a designated Farmland Security Zone?

No Significant Hazard. The project site is not within an agricultural preserve or 100 acres in size. A review of the California Important Farmland Finder maintained by the Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP 2023) showed that the site is not mapped as being located within a Farmland Security Zone. The surrounding land uses does contain Unique farmland, and rural residential. No agricultural uses exist on the site.

3.6 NOISE

3.6.1 Is the proposed school site located adjacent to or near a major arterial roadway or freeway whose noise generation may adversely affect the educational program?

No Significant Hazard. The project site is surrounded by rural residential streets. No significant hazard from noise is expected for the project.

3.7 PUBLIC SERVICES

3.7.1 Does the site promote joint use of parks, libraries, museums, and other public services?

No Significant Hazard. The site could be made available for public use as the scheduling of scholastic purposes allows, following school policies, and the Civic Center Act. No impacts to nearby public facilities and services would occur as a result of the proposed project. No significant impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project.

3.7.2 Is the site conveniently located for public services, including but not limited to fire protection, police protection, public transit and trash disposal wherever feasible?

No Significant Hazard. The project site is in a rural area. The project site will have scheduled trash collection. Porterville Fire Station #73 is located about 1.8 miles north of the site. The Porterville Police Department is located about 3.5 miles north of the site.

3.8 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

3.8.1 Are traffic and pedestrian hazards mitigated per Caltrans' School Area Pedestrian Safety manual?

No Significant Hazard. Based on existing conditions, the future project is not expected to have any significant traffic hazards to overcome. Furthermore, the School Area Pedestrian Safety Manual will be used as a guide, and decisions related to particular traffic control devices at particular locations shall be made on the basis of an engineering and traffic survey. The school district governing board may request the appropriate city, county, or state agency to consider the installation of traffic control devices if the

engineering and traffic survey determines the request to be justified. Traffic control devices include (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 1996):

1. Warning signs and markings.
2. Variable speed limits.
3. Intersection stop signs.
4. Flashing yellow beacons.
5. Traffic signals.
6. Remove visibility obstructions.
7. School Safety Patrol.
8. Adult Crossing Guard.
9. Pedestrian separation structures.
10. Pedestrian walkways along the roadway.
11. Pedestrian walkways separated from the roadway.
12. Parking controls and curb-use zones.

3.8.2 Based on the traffic volumes mentioned in Section 3.1.1 and the existing sidewalks and crosswalks in the site vicinity, the project would not have any significantly adverse traffic or pedestrian hazards to overcome. Is the site easily accessible from arterials and is the minimum peripheral visibility maintained for driveways per Caltrans' Highway Design Manual?

No Significant Hazard. Based on existing conditions, the future project is not expected to have any significant traffic hazards to overcome. The site is in a rural area with a main two-lane road adjacent its northern boundary and in an area not expected to receive a large volume of traffic. The adjacent street is a straight and relatively flat for open viewing of oncoming traffic. Driveways would be designed to meet the requirements of the Caltrans Highway Design Manual. Future transportation facilities are subject to review and approval by the City of Porterville.

3.8.3 Is the site easily accessible from arterials and is the minimum peripheral visibility maintained for driveways per Caltrans' Highway Design Manual?

No Significant Hazard. The site is accessible from W. Teapot Dome Avenue/Avenue 128, State Route 65 to the west and S. Main Street/Road 238 to the east. Given the relatively straight roads surrounding the project site, future driveways can be designed to meet the required peripheral visibility designated in the Caltrans Highway Design Manual.

Additional planning and documentation for pedestrian routes to school would be necessary for the site. Traffic and pedestrian hazards will be mitigated accordingly and in conformance with Caltrans' School Area Pedestrian Safety Manual.

3.8.4 Is the proposed school site within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement?

No Significant Hazard. Based on a review of Google Earth Pro (2024), the project site is not within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement. Project implementation would not expose people to adverse risks associated with railroad safety.

3.8.5 Is the proposed school site within two nautical miles, measured by air line, of that point on an airport runway or potential runway included in an airport master plan that is nearest to the site? (Does not apply to school sites acquired prior to January 1, 1966.)

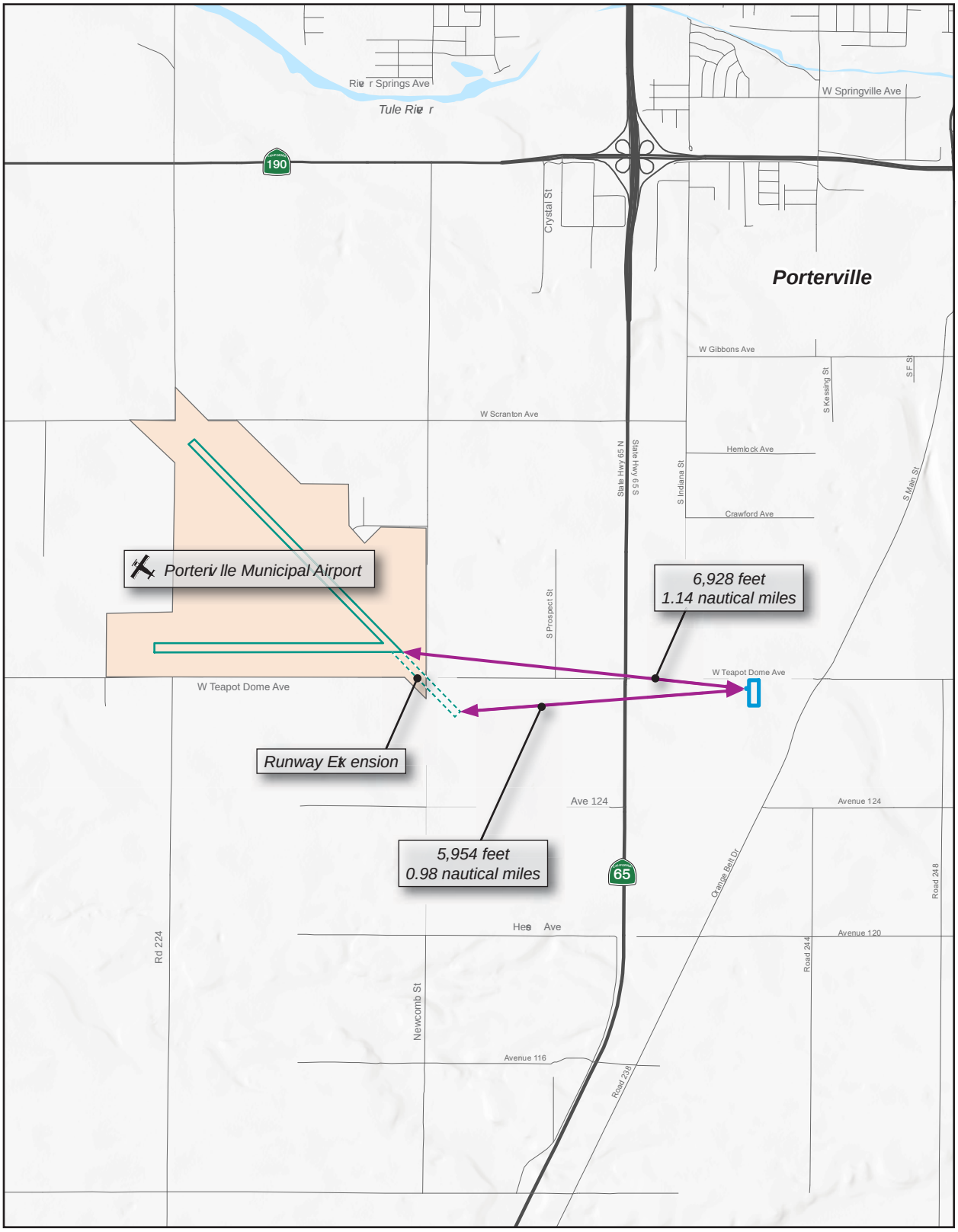
Potentially Significant Hazard. Based on a review of aerial maps (Google Earth Pro 2024), the project site is within two nautical miles of an existing airport or proposed airport runway. The Porterville Municipal is approximately 1.1-nautical miles west from the project site. Figure 4, *Aeronautics Assessment*, depicts the distance from the project site to both the nearest existing runway (1.1 nautical miles) and the planned runway extension (1.0 nautical miles). The California Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics is currently in the process of conducting an aeronautical review of the project site. If findings from the aeronautical review suggest a hazard to the project site, an addendum to this GEHA will be prepared.

3.9 EXEMPTIONS TO SITING STANDARDS

3.9.1 Is the district seeking any exemptions to the standards found in CCR, Title 5, § 14010(c-i), (l), (m), (q), (c), (t)?

No Significant Hazard. The District is not seeking any exemptions to the standards found in CCR, Title 5 § 14010(c) through (t).

Figure 4 - Aeronautics Assessment



Project Site

Note: Unincorporated county areas are shown in light grey.
Source: Generated using ArcMap 2024.

0 3,000
Scale (Feet)

PlaceWorks

3. Environmental Analysis

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4. References

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4. References

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5. List of Preparers

5.1 LEAD AGENCY

Hope Elementary School District
613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue
Porterville, California 93257

5.2 PLACEWORKS

PlaceWorks
2850 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite B
Ontario, CA 91764
Tel: 909.989.4449
Fax: 909.989.4447

Steve Bush, PE
Senior Engineer

Isabel Vega
Assistant Scientist

5. List of Preparers

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Appendix A. Agency Information

Appendix

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April 12, 2024

Isabel Vega
Placeworks, Inc.
2850 Inland Empire Blvd Suite B,
Ontario, CA, 91764

Re: Public Record Request Release for Hope Elementary School District, Public Records Request Number: 24-305

Dear Ms. Vega:

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) has received a public records request to identify any facilities and/or traffic corridors within a ¼ mile of the proposed Hope Elementary School District School Site (Project) that are expected to emit hazardous emissions, as required per public resources code 21151.8. The Project is located at 613 W Teapot Dome Ave in Porterville, California.

The District offers the following comments regarding the Project:

1) Facilities Subject to District Permitting Requirements

There is one facility subject to District permit requirements that is located within ¼ miles of the Project, identified in the table below. Enclosed is the facility's permit to operate.

Facility ID	Facility Name	Facility Description	Facility Address	Latitude, Longitude
S-8351	HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	SCHOOL	613 W TEAPOT DOME AVENUE	36.021742, -119.03169

Note: The facility referenced above is part of the proposed Project, and has a diesel fired emergency engine.

2) Freeway, High Volume Roadways, & Railways

The District recommends the project proponent contact Caltrans and/or other local transportation agencies to identify freeways and busy traffic corridors as defined in the Health and Safety Code.

Samir Sheikh
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

Northern Region
4800 Enterprise Way
Modesto, CA 95356-8718
Tel: (209) 557-6400 FAX: (209) 557-6475

Central Region (Main Office)
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726-0244
Tel: (559) 230-6000 FAX: (559) 230-6061

Southern Region
34946 Flyover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9725
Tel: (661) 392-5500 FAX: (661) 392-5585

www.valleyair.org www.healthyairliving.com

3) Other Non-Permitted Facilities

There is agriculture land located adjacent to the Project to the north, south, east, and west. These sources are known to emit or handle hazardous compounds from the operation of internal combustion engines driving irrigation pumps, gasoline dispensing tanks, application of pesticides, or other agricultural-related operations.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Patrick Chimienti by e-mail at patrick.chimienti@valleyair.org or by phone at (559) 230-6139.

Sincerely,

Seth Lane
Program Manager - Technical Services Department

San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

HEALTHY AIR LIVING™

Facility # S-8351
HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
613 W TEAPOT DOME AVE
PORTERVILLE, CA 93257

Notice of Permit Issuance

The enclosed permit unit requirements authorize the operation of the equipment as described. These permit unit requirements supersede any and all previous permits for the specified equipment.* Please insert these documents into the Facility Permit to Operate, and post copies on or near the equipment as required by District Rule 2010.

Please contact any of our Small Business Assistance (SBA) staff at the numbers below if you have any questions:

Modesto:	(209) 557-6446
Fresno:	(559) 230-5888
Bakersfield:	(661) 392-5665

*Failure to comply with the permit unit requirements may result in enforcement action.

Samir Sheikh
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

Northern Region
4800 Enterprise Way
Modesto, CA 95356-8718
Tel: (209) 557-6400 FAX: (209) 557-6475

Central Region (Main Office)
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Southern Region
34946 Flyover Court
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Tel: (661) 392-5500 FAX: (661) 392-5585

www.valleyair.org www.healthyairliving.com

San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

HEALTHY AIR LIVING™

Permit to Operate

FACILITY: S-8351 **EXPIRATION DATE:** 10/31/2028

LEGAL OWNER OR OPERATOR: HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MAILING ADDRESS: 613 W TEAPOT DOME AVE
PORTERVILLE, CA 93257

FACILITY LOCATION: 613 W TEAPOT DOME AVE
PORTERVILLE, CA 93257

FACILITY DESCRIPTION: FIRE PROTECTION

The Facility's Permit to Operate may include Facility-wide Requirements as well as requirements that apply to specific permit units.

This Permit to Operate remains valid through the permit expiration date listed above, subject to payment of annual permit fees and compliance with permit conditions and all applicable local, state, and federal regulations. This permit is valid only at the location specified above, and becomes void upon any transfer of ownership or location. Any modification of the equipment or operation, as defined in District Rule 2201, will require prior District approval. This permit shall be posted as prescribed in District Rule 2010.

Samir Sheikh
Executive Director / APCO

Brian Clements
Director of Permit Services

Oct 11 2023 9:28AM -- AGUAYOJ

Southern Regional Office • 34946 Flyover Court • Bakersfield, CA 93308 • (661) 392-5500 • Fax (661) 392-5585

PERMIT UNIT: S-8351-1-0 **EXPIRATION DATE:** 10/31/2028

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION:
86 BHP JOHN DEER MODEL 4045HF280 TIER 3 CERTIFIED DIESEL-FIRED EMERGENCY IC ENGINE POWERING A FIREWATER PUMP

PERMIT UNIT REQUIREMENTS

1. No air contaminant shall be released into the atmosphere which causes a public nuisance. [District Rule 4102]
2. Particulate matter emissions shall not exceed 0.1 grains/dscf in concentration. [District Rule 4201]
3. No air contaminant shall be discharged into the atmosphere for a period or periods aggregating more than three minutes in any one hour which is as dark as, or darker than, Ringelmann 1 or 20% opacity. [District Rule 4101]
4. Only CARB certified diesel fuel containing not more than 0.0015% sulfur by weight is to be used. [District Rules 2201 and 4801 and 17 CCR 93115]
5. This engine shall be equipped with a non-resettable hour meter with a minimum display capability of 9,999 hours, unless the District determines that a non-resettable hour meter with a different minimum display capability is appropriate in consideration of the historical use of the engine and the owner or operator's compliance history. [District Rule 4702 and 17 CCR 93115]
6. An emergency situation is an unscheduled electrical power outage caused by sudden and reasonably unforeseen natural disasters or sudden and reasonably unforeseen events beyond the control of the permittee. [District Rule 4702 and 17 CCR 93115]
7. This engine shall not be operated for maintenance and testing purposes between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on days when school is in session. [17 CCR 93115]
8. This engine shall not be operated for maintenance and testing purposes whenever there is a school sponsored activity. [17 CCR 93115]
9. The permittee shall maintain monthly records of emergency and non-emergency operation. Records shall include the number of hours of emergency operation, the date and number of hours of all testing and maintenance operations, and the purpose of the operation (for example: load testing, weekly testing, rolling blackout, general area power outage, etc.). For units with automated testing systems, the operator may, as an alternative to keeping records of actual operation for testing purposes, maintain a readily accessible written record of the automated testing schedule. [District Rule 4702 and 17 CCR 93115]
10. This engine shall be operated only for testing and maintenance of the engine, required regulatory purposes, and during emergency situations. For testing purposes, the engine shall only be operated the number of hours necessary to comply with the testing requirements of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 25 - "Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems". [District Rules 4102, 4702 and 17 CCR 93115]
11. Emissions from this IC engine shall not exceed any of the following limits: 3.1 g-NOx/bhp-hr, 0.6 g-CO/bhp-hr, or 0.2 g-VOC/bhp-hr. [District Rule 2201 and 13 CCR 2423 and 17 CCR 93115]
12. Emissions from this IC engine shall not exceed 0.17 g-PM10/bhp-hr based on USEPA certification using ISO 8178 test procedure. [District Rules 2201 and 4102 and 13 CCR 2423 and 17 CCR 93115]

PERMIT UNIT REQUIREMENTS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

13. All records shall be maintained and retained on-site for a minimum of five (5) years, and shall be made available for District inspection upon request. [District Rule 4702 and 17 CCR 93115]

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
An EDISON INTERNATIONAL℠ Company

Phil Hung, P.E.
EMF Program Manager
Fullerton Service Center
1851 W Valencia Dr
Fullerton CA 92833
Phone: (626) 633-3415
E-mail: phil.hung@sce.com

SCE Voltage Identification Report of Proposed or Existing School Site

Request Received: **03/12/2024** Received By: **Phil Hung**

Requesting Entity: __ School ___District __X__Consultant ___ School Representative:

Isabel Vega
ivega@placeworks.com
The Planning Center
2850 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite B
Ontario, California 91764
(909) 989-4449 ext. 22

Nature of Request: Voltage ID ___X___ Msmt. Req. _____ Information _____

Other: _____

Site Name:	**Hope Junior High School Expansion**
Site Address:	**613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue**
City:	**Porterville, CA 93257**
County:	**Tulare**
Cross Streets:	**S. Indiana Street**

Client: **Hope Elementary School District**
613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

Photo(s):

Aerial View

Street Views

Looking South on W. Teapot Dome Avenue

Looking East on W. Teapot Dome Avenue

Date of Site Visit: **03/27/2024 (Google Maps)**
Support Action(s) Taken: **SCE system database lookup**

SCE Facilities Identified Within California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 5 Prescribed Distances:

- **There is a 66 kV single circuit on the north side of W. Teapot Dome Avenue across the street from the school property, and approximately 50 feet from the closest occupied building on the east side of the property.**

Date(s) responded to Requestor:
03/12/2024: Acknowledged, (E-mail)
03/27/2024: Supplied Information (E-mail)

Transmission Technical
Services Department

9400 Oakdale Ave
Chatsworth, CA 91311
SC9314

March 11, 2024

Isabel Vega
Placeworks
ivega@placeworks.com

Subject: **Title 5 Request for Gas Pipelines (Hope JHS)**

DCF: **0425-24NC**

The Transmission Department of SoCalGas does not operate any facilities within your proposed improvement. However, the Distribution Department of SoCalGas may maintain and operate facilities within your project scope.

To assure no conflict with the Distribution's pipeline system, please e-mail them at:

NorthwestDistributionUtilityRequest@semprautilities.com

Best Regards,
Nerses Papazyan
SoCalGas Transmission Technical Services
SoCalGasTransmissionUtilityRequest@semprautilities.com

From: Tyler Scott Mendes
To: Isabel Vega
Subject: Re: Title 5 Request for waterlines (HOPE School)
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:10:29 AM

> You don't often get email from tmendes@ltrid.org. Learn why this is important

Max flow rate for that pipe is 32 cfs, at the moment we are running 25cfs.

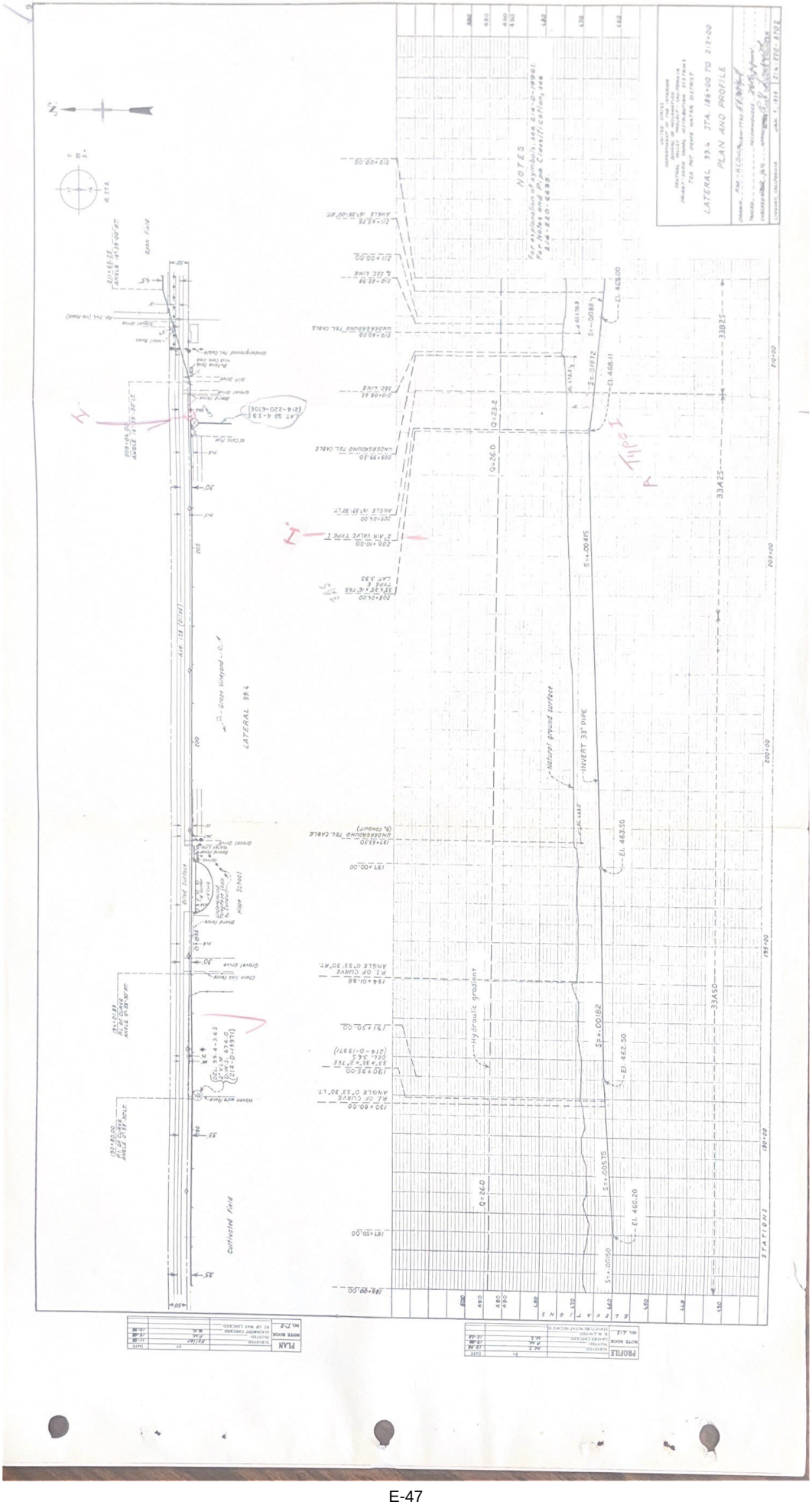
The pipe was put in during the 60's. I will have to scavenge through some files and old plans to see if I can find an engineering drawing.

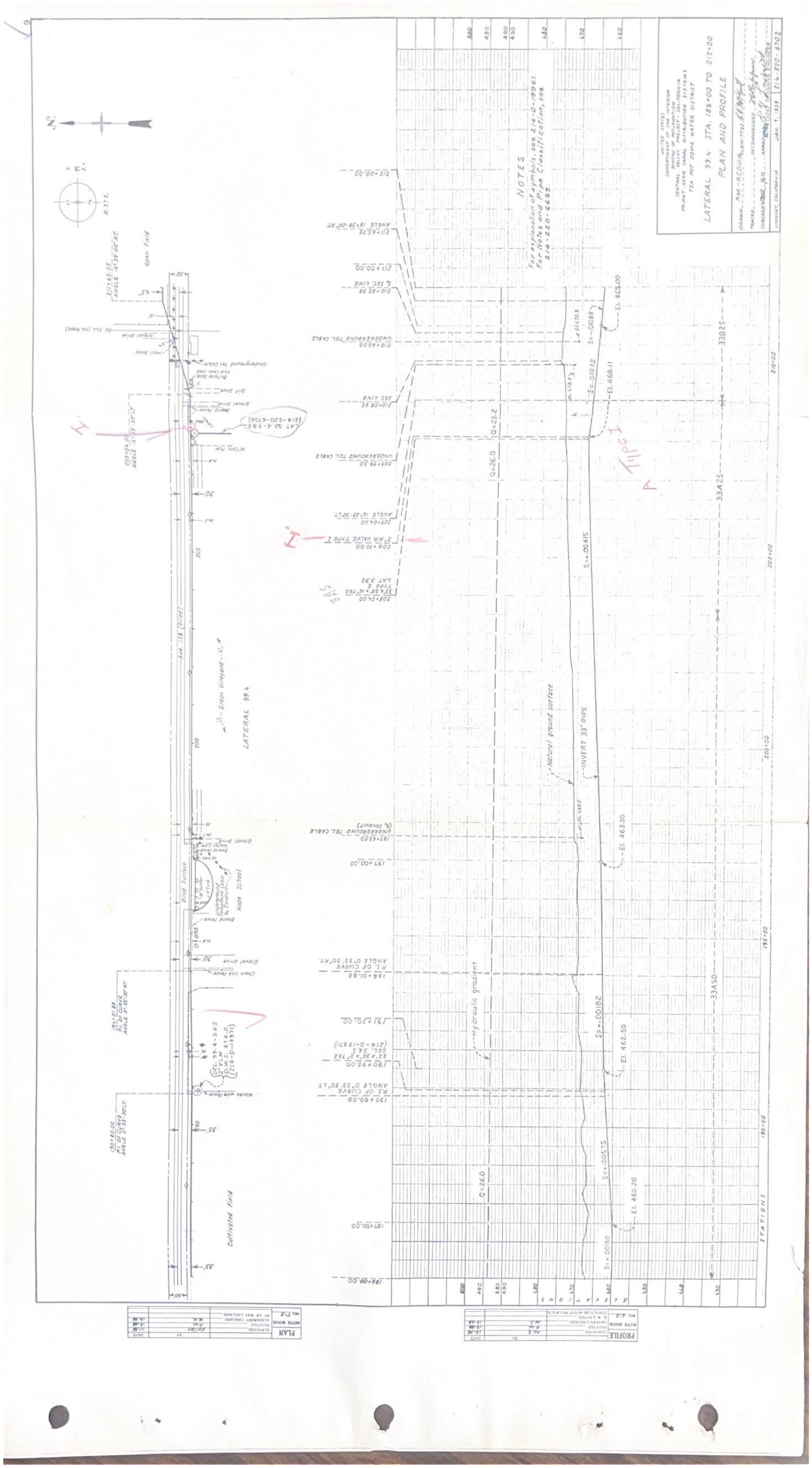
On Mon, Feb 26, 2024 at 8:04 AM Isabel Vega <ivega@placeworks.com> wrote:

> Good Morning Tyler,
> Thank you for the quick reply to our inquiry. There are a few items I would like to ask about pertaining to this line.
>
> Since the pipeline is potentially on school property, can you provide a construction or engineering drawing that better shows the location of the line? Also, if available, can you please provide the pipeline's flow rate.
>
> Best,
>
> **ISABEL VEGA**
>
> **Assistant Scientist**
>
> 909.989.4449 ext. 2204
>
> ***PlaceWorks is now 100% employee-owned!***
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Tyler Scott Mendes <tmendes@ltrid.org>
> **Sent:** February 22, 2024 2:00 PM
> **To:** Isabel Vega <ivega@placeworks.com>
> **Subject:** Title 5 Request for waterlines (HOPE School)
>
> > You don't often get email from tmendes@ltrid.org. Learn why this is important
>
> We have a 33" water line that is north of Hope School and south of rd 128. The line is 30' feet south from the centerline of rd 128. There is approximately 4' of ground cover over our line.
>
> I have attached a picture with a very rough estimation of where our line runs.

--

Tyler Scott Mendes | **661-476-2005**
Lower Tule River ID | **Pixley ID** | **Pioneer WC** | **Tea Pot Dome WD** | **Vandalia WD**
357 E Olive Ave | Tipton, CA 93272
(559) 686-4716 office | (559) 686-0151 fax | *www.ltrid.org*


LATERAL 99.4 STA. 186+00 TO 213+00
PLAN AND PROFILE
NOTES
LATERAL 99.4
Natural ground surface
INVERT 33" PIPE
Hydraulic gradient
Q=26.0
Q=23.2
S=-.00888
S=-.01072
S=-.00415
SF=.00182
S=-.00535
S=-.00550
EL. 463.00
EL. 468.11
EL. 463.50
EL. 462.50
EL. 460.20
33A25
33A50
STATIONS
PROFILE
PLAN



LATERAL 99.4 STA. 186+00 TO 212+00
PLAN AND PROFILE
NOTES
For explanation of symbols, see 214-D-19961.
For Notes and Pipe Classification, see 214-220-6695.
LATERAL 99.4
Cultivated Field
Grape Vineyard
Open Field
Hydraulic gradient
Natural ground surface
INVERT 33" PIPE
STATIONS
PLAN
PROFILE

PLACEWORKS

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

DATE July 11, 2024

TO Melanie Matta, Superintendent/Principal
Hope Elementary School District
613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue
Porterville, California 93257

FROM Steve Bush, P.E., Senior Engineer

SUBJECT Electromagnetic Field Technical Memorandum
HOPE-01.0

1. Introduction

The Hope Elementary School District (District) is proposing to develop a new gymnasium/classroom building at the existing Hope Elementary School. According to information provided by Southern California Edison (SCE), there is one 66 kilovolt (kV) single-circuit overhead transmission line north of the existing school across W. Teapot Dome Avenue.[1] This technical memorandum presents an electromagnetic field (EMF) evaluation prepared for the District to comply with the California Department of Education's (CDE's) Power Line Setback Exemption Guidance Policy for existing school sites.[2]

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

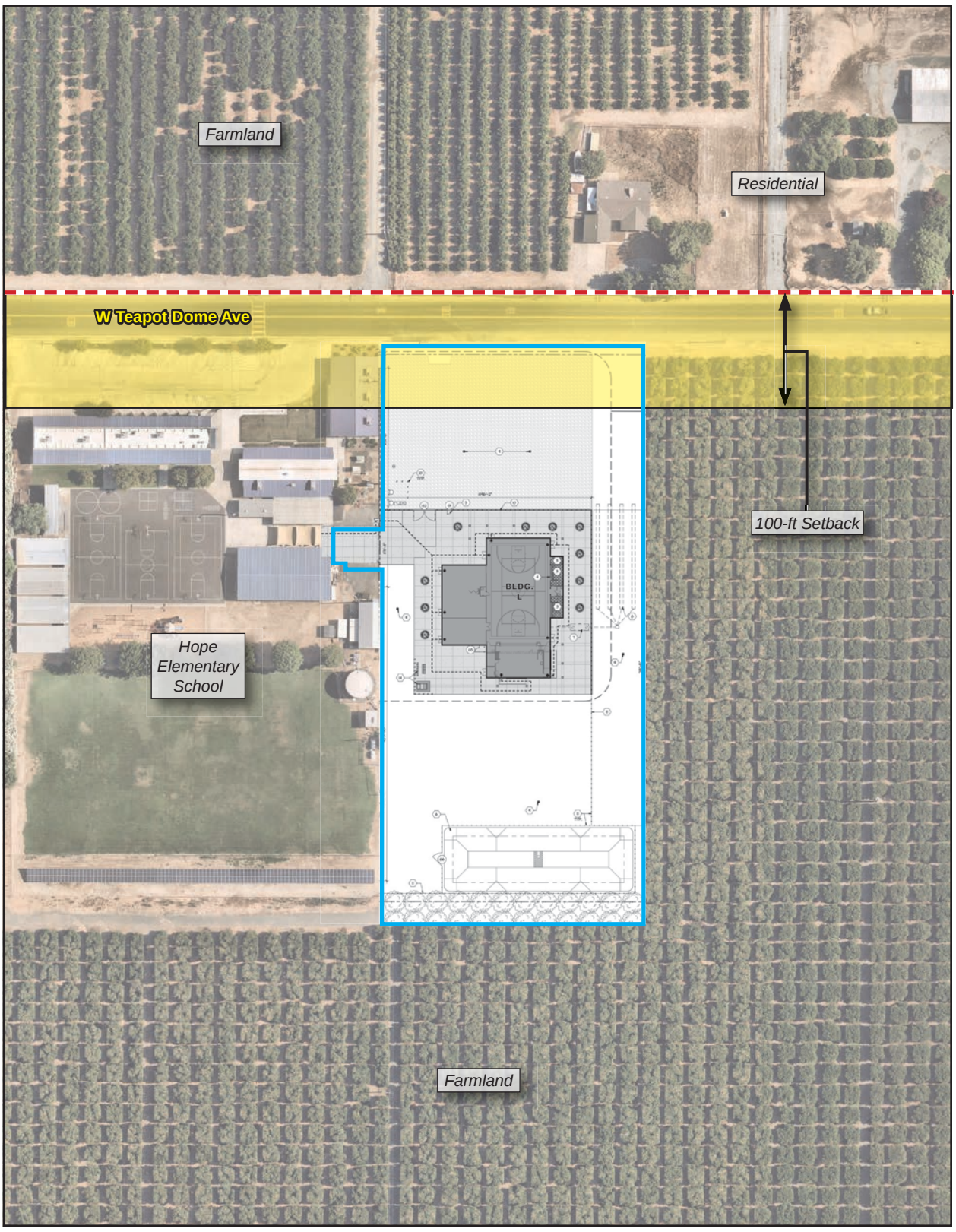
The project site encompasses approximately 2.2 acres of the eastern portion of the existing school campus, located at 613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue, Porterville, Tulare County, CA. The Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) associated with this site is 303-060-041. The project site includes approximately 0.03 acres of existing campus, an existing 0.6-acre decomposed granite parking pad and 1.6-acres of agricultural citrus trees.

Figure 1 shows the project site, the proposed site plan and the location of the high voltage transmission line. The 100-foot setback distance from the centerline of the nearest high-voltage transmission line is also shown on Figure 1. Current school uses within the setback distance includes a school building, parking and drop-off areas, and a landscaped sidewalk.

[1] Southern California Edison (SCE), 2024. Correspondence between Phil Hung, PE, Principal EMF Program Manager for SCE and Isabel Vega, Assistant Scientist for PlaceWorks on March 27, 2024.

[2] California Department of Education (CDE), 2006. Power Line Setback Exemption Guidance. Prepared by School Facilities Planning Division, CDE.

Figure 1 - Proposed Site Plan and Setback Area



Source: Nearmap, 2024; Mangini 2024.

PlaceWorks

1.2 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The existing California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 5, Section 14010(c) specifies a distance setback requirement of 100 feet from 50-133 kV overhead power lines for proposed school sites as follows:

> *The property line of the site even if it is a joint use agreement as described in subsection (o) of this section shall be at least the following distance from the edge of respective power line easements:*
>
> - 100 feet for 50-133 kV line (interpreted by CDE up to <200 kV)
> - 150 feet for 220-230 kV line
> - 350 feet for 500-550 kV line.

Figure 1 shows the northern portions of the existing school site and the project site that are within the 100-ft setback area from the 66 kV power line. The setback area extends approximately 60 feet onto the school site.

For projects on existing school sites within power transmission line setbacks, the CDE Power Line Setback Exemption Guidance Policy states:

> *As part of the SFPD 4.07 application for new construction and SFPD 4.08 for modernization, LEAs may, as part of their certification of not creating nor significantly exacerbating an existing safety hazard related to transmission lines, utilize the above Guidance and submit documentation if requested by CDE, with the exception that the LEA would not be requesting a Title 5 exemption request.*

For new construction or modernization projects at existing school sites, the District must certify that the proposed project would not result in the creation or exacerbation of an existing safety hazard related to transmission lines, using the procedures specified in the CDE *Power Line Setback Exemption Guidance Policy*, and submit documentation to that effect. The District is not required to submit a Title 5 exemption request to CDE.[3]

2. Project Description

The District would develop the 11,642 square foot gymnasium/classroom building on District-owned property immediately east of the existing school campus. The new gymnasium/classroom building would be setback approximately 170 feet south of W. Teapot Dome Avenue, with a new parking lot planned for the northern area of the project site, fronting the street.

Figure 1 shows the proposed site plan and the portion of the future school area within the 100-ft setback zone. The proposed gymnasium/classroom building would be constructed outside of the 100-ft setback zone.

[3] California Department of Education (CDE). 2006, May. Power Line Setback Exemption Guidance. Prepared by School Facilities Planning Division, CDE.

The identified high voltage (> 50 kV) transmission line is located along the north side of W. Teapot Dome Avenue. The high voltage power line is approximately 50 feet from the closest existing classroom building. As shown in Figure 1, the 100-foot setback zone encroaches a distance of 60 feet onto the northern portion of the project site, which would include a new parking lot. The CDE Power Line Setback Exemption Guidance Policy considers parking lots, landscaping or open spaces not used as play or activity fields 'limited activity uses'.[4]

3. EMF Evaluation

3.1 INTRODUCTION TO EMF

Electric and magnetic fields occur both naturally and as a result of human activity. Naturally occurring electric and magnetic fields are caused by the weather and the earth's geomagnetic field. Fields caused by human activity include areas that surround electrical devices, such as power lines, electrical wiring, and appliances.

Electric power flows across transmission systems from generating sources to serve electrical loads within the community. The power flowing through a transmission line is determined by the line's voltage and current. The higher the voltage level, the lower the amount of current needed to deliver the same amount of power. For example, a 115 kV transmission line will transmit 40,000 kilowatts (kW) with 200 amperes (amps) of current, whereas a 230 kV transmission line requires only 100 amps to deliver the same amount of power.

Magnetic fields from power lines are created whenever alternating current flows through power lines at any voltage. The strength of the field is directly dependent on the current in the line. Magnetic field strength is typically measured in milliGauss (mG). Similar to electric fields, magnetic field strength attenuates rapidly with distance from the source. However, unlike electrical fields, magnetic fields are not easily shielded by objects or materials.

Public exposure to EMF is widespread and encompasses a wide range of electronic appliances or equipment, including computers, copy machines, fluorescent lights, hair dryers, televisions, ceiling fans, microwave ovens, refrigerators, digital clocks, washing machines, and dryers. Within urban areas of development, EMF also occurs from ground currents in water pipes and the electric distribution circuits that serve residences or businesses. Power line fields are typically at the front of residential lots where overhead or underground distribution lines are routed.

Direct current (DC) transmission lines do not produce EMF like alternating current (AC) transmission lines but they do create static electricity. Since DC electricity does not vary over time and is static, the fields from DC lines do not induce currents and voltages. The static electric fields measured directly

[4] California Department of Education (CDE). 2006, May. Power Line Setback Exemption Guidance. Prepared by School Facilities Planning Division, CDE.

under DC lines fall in the range of the levels produced by common sources, such as the earth, static electricity or static cling on clothing, or charges built up in thunderstorm clouds or blowing dust.[5]

3.2 POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF EMF EXPOSURE

Despite extensive research over the past 40 years, the health risk caused by EMF exposure remains undetermined. Two national research organizations (the National Research Council and the National Institute of Health) have reviewed numerous health risk-related studies and have concluded that there is no strong conclusive evidence that EMF exposure poses a human health risk. However, the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) reached a different conclusion after a comprehensive review of existing studies related to EMF. The CDHS scientists concluded that EMFs *could* cause some degree of increased risk of childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou Gehrig's Disease, and miscarriage.[6] As a result, the CDE has decided to employ the precautionary principle and limit exposure to EMF for students and staff at California schools.[7] The precautionary principle states that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or the environment in the absence of scientific consensus, there is a social responsibility to protect the public from exposure to harm. These protections can be relaxed if further scientific findings emerge that provide sound evidence that no harm will result.

3.3 SITE DISCUSSION

For new construction on new school sites, the CDE policy will grant a setback exemption if limited activity uses (i.e., landscaping, parking lots, maintenance areas, driveways) are proposed within the 100-foot setback zone for power lines between 50 and 133 kV. Modernization projects or new construction at existing school sites do not trigger Title 5 EMF setback requirements, but the District must certify that they are not creating or significantly exacerbating an existing safety hazard related to transmission lines.

As discussed in Section 2, the District is proposing to expand and construct a new gymnasium/classroom building at the existing school and no new unrestricted uses (e.g., classroom buildings, playfields) are proposed with the 100-ft setback zone. The proposed new classroom building would be approximately 210 feet from the 66 kV power line. This unrestricted-activity land use (i.e., new gymnasium/classroom building) is outside the 100-ft setback zone.

Proposed school uses within the 100-ft setback zone include a parking lot. No new unrestricted uses are proposed with the 100-ft setback zone for the school site and the proposed land uses will be a new

[5] Clean Line Energy Partners, 2011. Understanding Electric and Magnetic Fields in Association with HVDC Transmission Lines.

[6] California Department of Health Services (CDHS). 2002, June. *An Evaluation of the Possible Risks from Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) From Power Lines, Internal Wiring, Electrical Occupations, and Appliances.*

[7] California Department of Education (CDE). 2006, May. Power Line Setback Exemption Guidance. Prepared by School Facilities Planning Division, CDE.

parking lot (i.e., a limited activity use). Therefore, safety hazards related to the high voltage transmission line would not be exacerbated by the proposed project.

4. Conclusions

The District is proposing to expand and construct a new gymnasium/classroom building on the existing school site. The new gymnasium/classroom building will be outside of the setback zone with implementation of the project. A new parking lot (i.e., limited activity use) within the setback zone will be the same as those under existing conditions (i.e., parking lot/drop-off area). Therefore, safety hazards related to the high voltage transmission line would not be exacerbated by the proposed project.

Modernization projects or redevelopment of existing school sites do not trigger Title 5 EMF setback requirements as long as the District certifies that they are not exacerbating an existing safety hazard related to transmission lines.

Respectfully submitted,

PlaceWorks

Steve Bush, PE
Senior Engineer

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
An *EDISON INTERNATIONAL*℠ Company

Phil Hung, P.E.
EMF Program Manager
Fullerton Service Center
1851 W Valencia Dr
Fullerton CA 92833
Phone: (626) 633-3415
E-mail: phil.hung@sce.com

SCE Voltage Identification Report of Proposed or Existing School Site

Request Received: **03/12/2024** Received By: **Phil Hung**

Requesting Entity: __ School ___District __X__Consultant ___ School Representative:

Isabel Vega
ivega@placeworks.com
The Planning Center
2850 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite B
Ontario, California 91764
(909) 989-4449 ext. 22

Nature of Request: Voltage ID ___X___ Msmt. Req. _____ Information _____

Other: _____

Site Name:	**Hope Junior High School Expansion**
Site Address:	**613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue**
City:	**Porterville, CA 93257**
County:	**Tulare**
Cross Streets:	**S. Indiana Street**

Client: **Hope Elementary School District**
613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257

Photo(s):

Aerial View

Street Views

Looking South on W. Teapot Dome Avenue

Looking East on W. Teapot Dome Avenue

Date of Site Visit: **03/27/2024 (Google Maps)**
Support Action(s) Taken: **SCE system database lookup**

SCE Facilities Identified Within California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 5 Prescribed Distances:

- **There is a 66 kV single circuit on the north side of W. Teapot Dome Avenue across the street from the school property, and approximately 50 feet from the closest occupied building on the east side of the property.**

Date(s) responded to Requestor:
03/12/2024: Acknowledged, (E-mail)
03/27/2024: Supplied Information (E-mail)

PLACEWORKS

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

DATE July 11, 2024

TO Melanie Matta, Superintendent/Principal
Hope Elementary School District
613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue
Porterville, California 93257

FROM Steve Bush, P.E., Senior Engineer

SUBJECT New Gymnasium/Classroom Building Project
Water Pipeline Safety Hazard Assessment
HOPE-01.0

1. Introduction

PlaceWorks was retained by the Hope Elementary School District (District) to conduct a Water Pipeline Safety Hazard Assessment (WPSHA) for the proposed new gymnasium/classroom building at the existing Elementary School in Porterville, Tulare County, California. One large volume (12-inch diameter and larger) water pipeline was identified within 1,500 feet of the school site.[1] The pipeline is aligned along the northern boundary of the project site, beneath the sidewalk and gravel parking area immediately south of W. Teapot Dome Road/Road 128. The WPSHA evaluates potential flooding impacts to the project site and was conducted as required by California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 5, Section 14010(h).

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The project site encompasses approximately 2.2 acres of the eastern portion of the existing school campus, located at 613 W. Teapot Dome Avenue, Porterville, CA. The Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) associated with this site is 303-060-041 and is owned by the District. The project site includes approximately 0.03 acres of existing campus, an existing 0.6-acre decomposed granite parking pad and 1.6-acres of agricultural citrus trees. The project site boundary and existing surrounding area are shown in Figure 1.

[1] PlaceWorks, 2024. *Draft Geologic and Environmental Hazards Assessment for Hope Elementary School gr/Classroom Building Project*.

2. Water Pipeline Safety Hazard Assessment

2.1 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Under Education Code Section 17251, the California Department of Education (CDE) has authority to approve the acquisition of proposed school sites. The school district must obtain CDE approval for sites to receive state funds under the state's School Facilities Program administered by the State Allocation Board. CDE standards and regulations for this process are presented in CCR, Title 5, Sections 14010, 14011, and 14012. Information on assessing safety hazard related to pipelines is discussed in Section 14010 (h):

> *The site shall not be located near an above-ground water or fuel storage tank or within 1,500 feet of the easement of an above-ground or underground pipeline that can pose a safety hazard as determined by a risk analysis study, conducted by a competent professional, which may include certification from a local public utility commission.*

However, for districts that are undergoing a modernization project on an existing school site, the CDE requirement is that the project would not create any new significant health and safety hazards or exacerbate any existing health and safety hazards. To be conservative, this report has been prepared to address all potential risks from the water pipelines for the entire school site and has been prepared in accordance with CDE requirements as if it were a new school site.

No high-pressure natural gas pipelines or hazardous liquid pipelines were identified within 1,500 feet of the project site.[2] The CDE School Site Selection and Approval Guide also contains provisions for evaluating high-pressure water pipelines:[3]

> *To ensure the protection of students, faculty, and school property if the proposed school site is within 1,500 feet of the easement of an aboveground or underground pipeline that can pose a safety hazard, the school district should obtain the following information from the pipeline owner and operator:*
>
> - *Pipeline alignment, size, type of pipe, depth of cover,*
> - *Operating water pressures in pipelines near the proposed school site,*
> - *Estimated volume of water that might be released from the pipeline should a rupture occur on the site, and*
> - *Owner's assessment of the structural condition of the pipeline.*

[2] PlaceWorks, 2024. *Draft Geologic and Environmental Hazards Assessment for Hope Elementary School Gymnasium/Classroom Building Project*.

[3] California Department of Education (CDE), 2024. School Site Selection and Approval Guide. Prepared by School Facilities and Transportation Services Division, CDE, Sacramento, CA. Available at https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/schoolsiteguide.asp.

2.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

To meet the requirements of CCR Title 5 Sections 14010 (d) and (h) and CDE's policy on pipelines, this WPSHA is designed to meet the following objectives:

» Identify all high pressure/high volume water pipelines within 1,500 feet of the proposed school site and evaluate the potential for flooding, and
» Where appropriate, identify and develop mitigation measures to reduce flooding impacts to acceptable levels.

The CDE has developed risk analysis procedures for evaluating flooding associated with releases from large diameter water pipelines, as described in CDE's Guidance Protocol for School Site Pipeline Risk Analysis.[4] Also, releases from underground water pipelines can cause subterranean erosion of saturated soil, leading to subsidence or formation of a sinkhole. Causes of pipeline failures in water pipelines include age, external and internal loads exerted by soil pressure and traffic loading, pressure fluctuations, temperature, and corrosion in metallic pipes. A large magnitude earthquake and associated strong ground shaking can also cause a catastrophic failure of a large diameter water pipeline.

Although no specific criteria have been established by the CDE as a threshold of significance for flooding at a project site, a previous version of the CDE methodology assumes a water depth of 12 inches or greater could be potentially hazardous if flowing swiftly.

2.3 PIPELINE LOCATION AND OPERATIONAL DATA

Based on the response from the Tea Pot Dome Water District, there is one 33-inch diameter water main along the northern boundary of the project site, beneath the sidewalk and gravel parking area immediately south of W. Teapot Dome Road/Road 128, as summarized in Table 1. The 33-inch water main is shown on Figure 1.

Table 1 Water Pipelines

Pipeline Diameter	Pipeline Location	Owner
33-inch	Sidewalk, south of W. Teapot Dome Road/Road 128	Tea Pot Dome Water District

[4] California Department of Education (CDE), 2007. *Guidance Protocol for School Site Pipeline Risk Analysis*, Prepared by URS Corporation. Dated February 2007.

2.4 WATER PIPELINE FLOODING ANALYSIS

A pipeline flooding analysis was conducted for the identified pipeline to determine the depth and direction of water flow in the event of a pipeline leak or rupture. In general, water will seek the path of least resistance and flow from high to low pressure. With a buried pipeline laid in a granular trench, the horizontal permeability is much greater than the vertical permeability, and the water will tend to flow horizontally along the trench until it reaches a preferential flow path (vertical shrinkage crack or area of soil with higher permeability), at which point it can flow upward or downward. Therefore, only a small portion of the released water would eventually reach the surface. In addition, it is highly unlikely that the 33-inch water main would catastrophically fail. Concrete cylinder pipe like the 33-inch water main typically exhibits signs of failure (i.e., concrete spalling) and leakage for an average of 10 years prior to water reaching the surface.[5]

Nevertheless, a worst-case analysis was conducted conservatively assuming that all the water flowing through the pipeline at its maximum capacity of 32 cubic feet per second (cfs or ft^3/s) would reach the surface.[6] An evaluation of the surface topography was considered for the 33-inch water main to the north of the project site. The terrain surrounding the project site is relatively flat, with gentle slopes to the west. Based on the elevation cross section (provided in Appendix A), any released water that reaches the surface would spread out and generally flow to the west and toward the street. However, a portion of the released water would also spread onto the project site area to the south.

The potential flow path near the school site was estimated based on the existing topography of the area surrounding the pipeline. A cross section for a potential pipeline break at the project site was derived from elevation data from Google Earth Pro, and the potential depth of flow and flow velocity at the school site was determined. Based on surface topography, a calculated water depth of 0.36 feet or 4.3 inches and velocity of 2.5 feet/second could potentially occur on the school site, given the unlikely event that the concrete pipeline completely ruptured and all of the water in the pipeline was released.

Safety can be compromised when a person is exposed to water flows that exceed their ability to remain standing. The Bureau of Reclamation developed graphs that show depth-velocity relationships to identify potential hazards.[7] At the calculated flow velocity of 2.5 feet/second and a water depth of 4.3 inches, this is considered to be a low danger zone and would not result in any potential hazards. In addition, a site-specific evaluation was conducted using the methodology developed by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to determine the potential for risks to students and staff as a result of flood waters at the project site.[8] The LAUSD methodology calculates the product of the water speed and water depth and compares the product to LAUSD's flood hazard threshold of 4 square feet per

[5] America Water Works Association (AWWA), 2008. *Failure of Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe*.

[6] Information provided by Tyler Scott Mendes, Tea Pot Dome Water District to Isabel Vega, Assistant Scientist, PlaceWorks on March 1, 2024.

[7] US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 1988. Downstream Hazard Classification Guidelines. ACER Technical Memorandum No. 11.

[8] Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), 2009. User Manual: Pipeline Safety Hazard Assessment. Dated March 2005, Revised September 2009.

second (ft^2/s), which is used to define high hazard to students.[9] The instability product number was determined to be 0.9 ft^2/sec, which is much less than the 4 ft^2/sec criterion, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Flooding Evaluation

Pipeline Diameter	Pipeline Location	Release Velocity (ft/s)	Depth of Flow at Site	Product Number (ft^2/s)	Exceeds LAUSD Hazard Threshold – 4 ft^2/s
33-inch	Sidewalk Area	2.5	4.3 in (0.36 ft)	0.9	No

It should be noted that the flooding evaluation provided in Table 2 is for the worst-case scenario where the pipeline operating at maximum capacity ruptures and all released water reaches the surface. Therefore, released water from the 33-inch water main would not pose a significant risk to occupants at the school site in the unlikely event of a water pipeline break.

3. Conclusions

In summary, a potential break in the 33-inch water main located along the sidewalk area at the northern boundary of the school site would not result in significant flooding at the school.

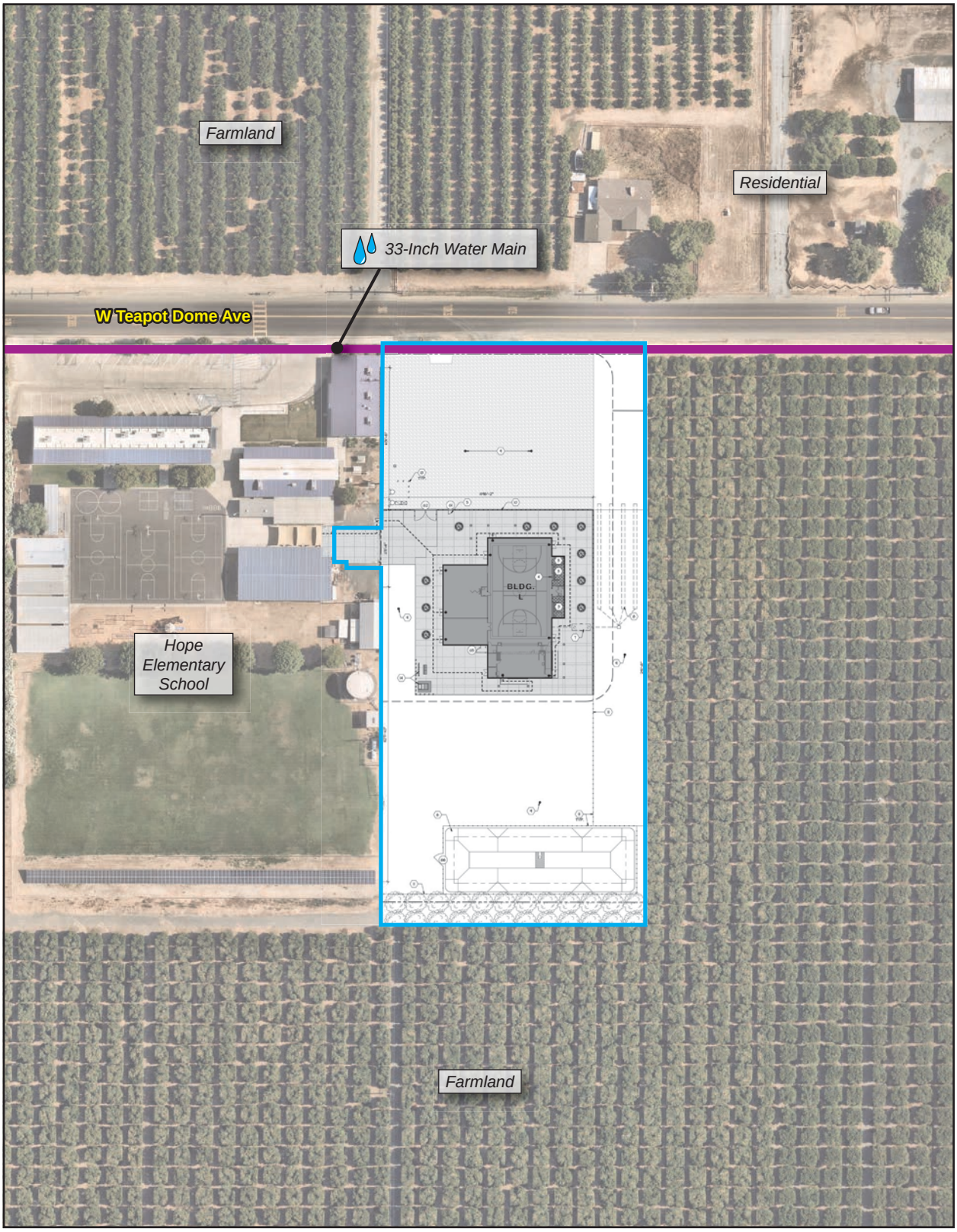
Respectfully submitted,

PlaceWorks

Steve Bush, PE
Senior Engineer

[9] Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), 2009. User Manual: Pipeline Safety Hazard Assessment. Dated March 2005, Revised September 2009.

Figure 1 - Site Location and Pipeline Map



Source: Nearmap, 2024; Mangini 2024.

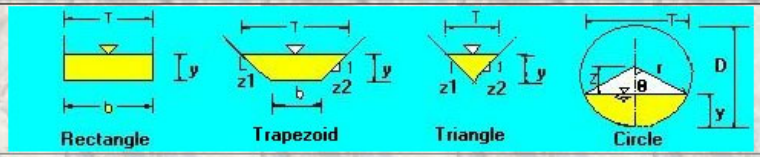
PlaceWorks

Appendix A – Water Analysis

eng.auburn.edu/~xzf0001/Handbook/Channels.html

The open channel flow calculator

Select Channel Type: Trapezoid



Depth from Q

Select unit system: Feet(ft)

Channel slope: 0.005 ft/ft	Water depth(y): 0.36 ft	Bottom width(b) 20 ft
Flow velocity 2.478369 ft/s	LeftSlope (Z1): 45 to 1 (H:V)	RightSlope (Z2): 45 to 1 (H:V)
Flow discharge 32 ft^3/s	Input n value 0.0165 or select n	
Calculate!	Status: Calculation finished	Reset
Wetted perimeter 52.2 ft	Flow area 12.91 ft^2	Top width(T) 52.19 ft
Specific energy 0.45 ft	Froude number 0.88	Flow status Subcritical flow
Critical depth 0.34 ft	Critical slope 0.0061 ft/ft	Velocity head 0.1 ft


Flow Direction
473 ft
204 ft
0.0%
Image © 2024 Airbus
Google Earth
1985
Imagery Date: 2/24/2024 36° 1.329' N 119° 1.840' W elev 473 ft eye alt 938 ft
Graph: Min, Avg, Max Elevation: 470, 471, 474 ft
Range Totals: Distance: 238 ft Elev Gain/Loss: 4.14 ft, -0.29 ft Max Slope: -, - Avg Slope: -, -
474 ft
470 ft
473 ft
0.0%
204 ft
25 ft
50 ft
75 ft
100 ft
125 ft
150 ft
175 ft
225 ft
238 ft
Surface topography slopes toward the west

Appendix B – Agency Correspondence

From: Isabel Vega
To: Steve Bush
Subject: Fw: Title 5 Request for waterlines (HOPE School)
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 11:54:34 AM

Steve,

Please see the email below.

ISABEL VEGA
Assistant Scientist
909.989.4449 ext. 2204

PlaceWorks is now 100% employee-owned!

From: Tyler Scott Mendes <tmendes@ltrid.org>
Sent: March 1, 2024 11:09 AM
To: Isabel Vega <ivega@placeworks.com>
Subject: Re: Title 5 Request for waterlines (HOPE School)

> You don't often get email from tmendes@ltrid.org. Learn why this is important

Max flow rate for that pipe is 32 cfs, at the moment we are running 25cfs.

The pipe was put in during the 60's. I will have to scavenge through some files and old plans to see if I can find an engineering drawing.

On Mon, Feb 26, 2024 at 8:04 AM Isabel Vega <ivega@placeworks.com> wrote:

> Good Morning Tyler,
> Thank you for the quick reply to our inquiry. There are a few items I would like to ask about pertaining to this line.
>
> Since the pipeline is potentially on school property, can you provide a construction or engineering drawing that better shows the location of the line? Also, if available, can you please provide the pipeline's flow rate.
>
> Best,
>
> **ISABEL VEGA**
> **Assistant Scientist**
> 909.989.4449 ext. 2204
>
> ***PlaceWorks is now 100% employee-owned!***
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Tyler Scott Mendes <tmendes@ltrid.org>
> **Sent:** February 22, 2024 2:00 PM
> **To:** Isabel Vega <ivega@placeworks.com>

Subject: Title 5 Request for waterlines (HOPE School)

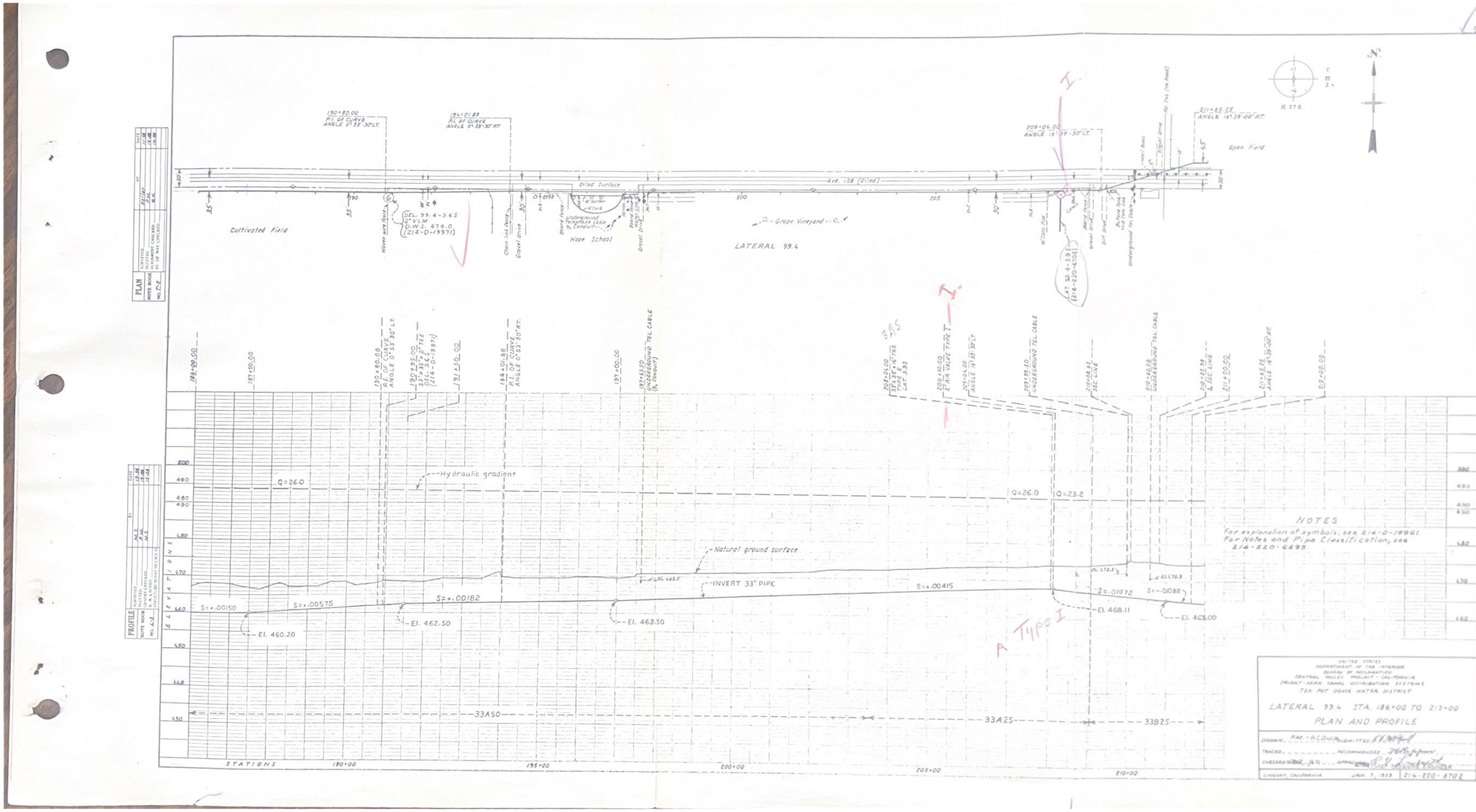
> You don't often get email from tmendes@ltrid.org. Learn why this is important

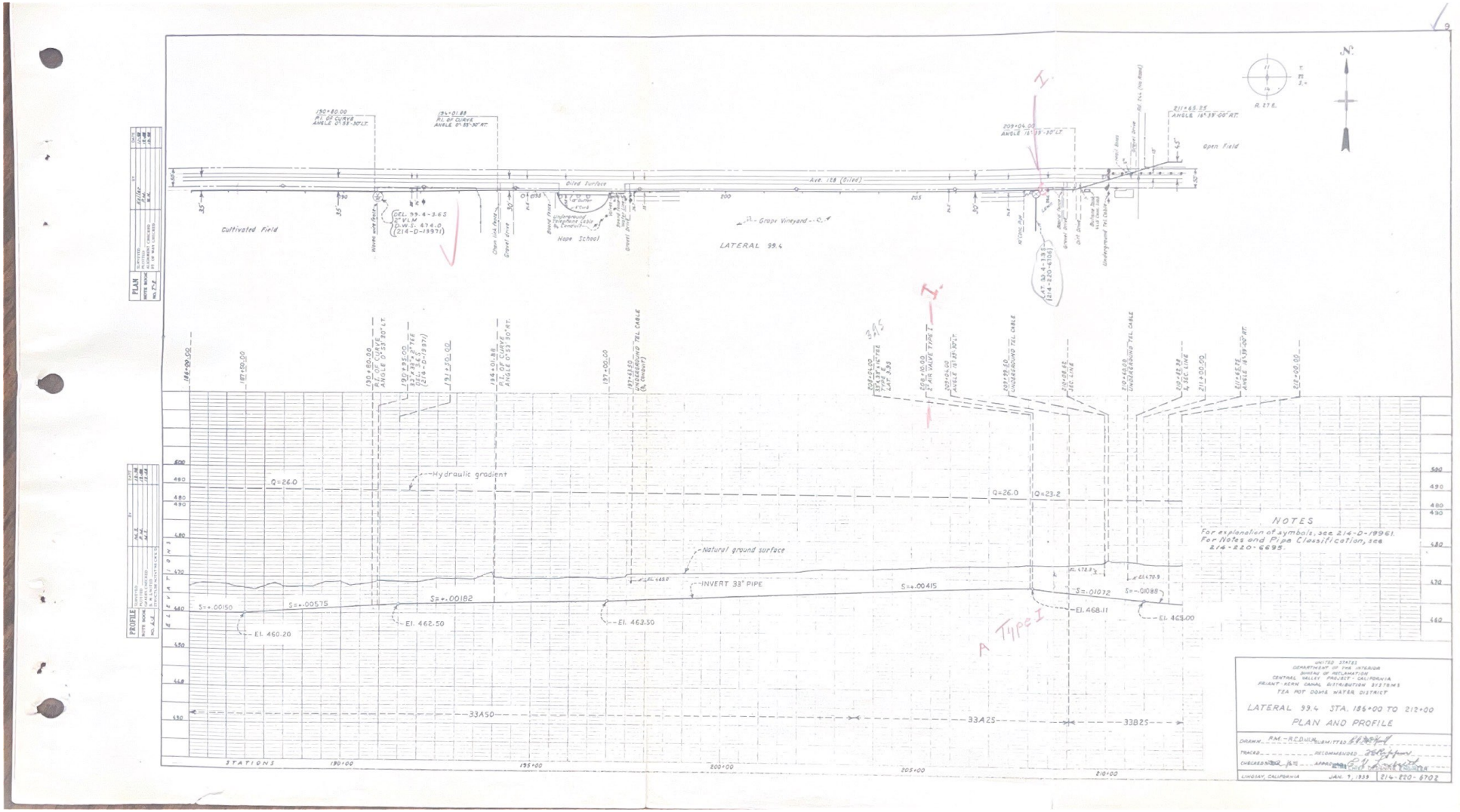
We have a 33" water line that is north of Hope School and south of rd 128. The line is 30' feet south from the centerline of rd 128. There is approximately 4' of ground cover over our line.

I have attached a picture with a very rough estimation of where our line runs.

--

Tyler Scott Mendes | 661-476-2005
Lower Tule River ID | Pixley ID | Pioneer WC | Tea Pot Dome WD | Vandalia WD
357 E Olive Ave | Tipton, CA 93272
(559) 686-4716 office | (559) 686-0151 fax | www.ltrid.org


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT - CALIFORNIA
FRIANT-KERN CANAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS
TEA POT DOME WATER DISTRICT
LATERAL 99.4 STA. 186+00 TO 212+00
PLAN AND PROFILE
LINDSAY, CALIFORNIA
JAN. 7, 1959
214-220-6702
NOTES
For explanation of symbols, see 214-D-19961.
For Notes and Pipe Classification, see 214-220-6695.
Cultivated Field
Grape Vineyard
LATERAL 99.4
Hope School
Ave. 128 (Oiled)
Open Field
Hydraulic gradient
Natural ground surface
INVERT 33" PIPE
Q=26.0
Q=23.2
S=+.00150
S=+.00575
S=+.00182
S=+.00415
S=-.01072
S=-.01088
El. 460.20
El. 462.50
El. 463.50
El. 468.11
El. 465.00
33A50
33A25
33B25
STATIONS
190+00
195+00
200+00
205+00
210+00
PLAN
PROFILE
A Type I


Cultivated Field
Hope School
LATERAL 99.4
Open Field
Natural ground surface
INVERT 33" PIPE
Hydraulic gradient
Q=26.0
Q=23.2
El. 460.20
El. 462.50
El. 463.30
El. 468.11
El. 463.00
33A50
33A25
33B25
STATIONS
NOTES
For explanation of symbols, see 214-D-1996 l.
For Notes and Pipe Classification, see 214-220-6695
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT - CALIFORNIA
FRIANT-KERN CANAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS
TEA POT DOME WATER DISTRICT
LATERAL 99.4 STA. 186+00 TO 212+00
PLAN AND PROFILE
LINDSAY, CALIFORNIA
JAN. 7, 1959
214-220-6702