Performing Arts Center at Pleasant Valley High School

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration



Prepared for: Chico Unified School District 1163 East Seventh Street Chico, CA 95928

Prepared by:

PMC 140 Independence Circle, Suite C Chico, CA 95973

July 2008

INITIAL STUDY/ MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR THE

Performing Arts Center at Pleasant Valley High School

Chico Unified School District

Prepared for:

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1163 East Seventh Street Chico, CA 95928

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July 2008

1.1 Introduction and Regulatory Guidance

This document is an initial study, which provides justification for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Performing Arts Center at Pleasant Valley Project. This MND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15000 et seq.

An initial study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, an EIR must be prepared if an initial study indicates that the proposed project under review may have a potentially significant impact on the environment. A Negative Declaration may be prepared instead, if the lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore, why it does not require the preparation of an EIR (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a Negative Declaration shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

- a) The initial study shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or
- b) The initial study identifies potentially significant effects, but:
 - (1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed negative declaration is released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and
 - (2) There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

If revisions are adopted into the proposed project in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15070(b), a mitigated negative declaration (MND) is prepared.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over a proposed project. Where two or more public agencies will be involved with a project, CEQA Guidelines Section 15051 provides criteria for identifying the lead agency. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than

an agency with a single or limited purpose." The Chico Unified School District (CUSD) has been determined to be the lead agency for this project. While CUSD is a single-purpose district, it has decision making authority over the project and would be providing funds for the project should it be approved.

1.3 Purpose and Document Organization

The purpose of this MND is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Performing Arts Center at Pleasant Valley High School project. Mitigation measures have also been provided to reduce or eliminate any identified potentially significant impacts.

This document is divided into the following sections:

- **1.0 Introduction** provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of this document;
- **2.0 Project Information** summarizes parties involved in the process, a brief project description, surrounding land uses, and necessary approvals;
- **3.0 Project Description -** provides a detailed description of the proposed project and the alternatives considered;
- 4.0 Environmental Analysis describes the potential impacts for each of the
 environmental subject areas, evaluates a range of impacts classified as "no
 impact", "less than significant", "potentially significant unless mitigation
 incorporated", or "potentially significant" in response to the environmental checklist,
 and provides mitigation measures, where appropriate, to mitigate potentially
 significant impacts to a less than significant level;
- 5.0 **Determination** provides the environmental determination for the project;
- **6.0 Report Preparation and References** identifies staff responsible for preparation of this document, and persons and agencies consulted; and identifies the references used in preparation of this MND.

2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title** Chico Unified School District Performing Arts Center at

Pleasant Valley High School

2. Lead Agency Chico Unified School District

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928

3. Lead Agency Contact Michael Weissenborn, Facilities Planner

2455 Carmichael Drive, Chico, CA 95928

4. **Project Location** The project is located at Pleasant Valley High School,

at 1475 East Avenue in northeastern Chico. Please

refer to Figure 2-1.

5. **Project Sponsor** Chico Unified School District

6. General Plan Designation PFS – Public Facilities and Services

7. **Zoning** PQ - Public/Quasi-Public

8. Description of Project Please refer to Section 3.0, Project Description.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

	Land Use	
North	Commercial / Office	
South	Single Family Residential	
East	Marigold Elementary School	
West	Single Family Residential	

10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval or Consultation May Be Required (e.g. permits, financing approval)

The following agency approvals or consultations may be required:

- School Facilities Planning Division, California Department of Education (construction plan approval, financing approval).
- Office of the State Architect (certification of school buildings).
- City of Chico (encroachment permit and utility connections).

Project Figures:

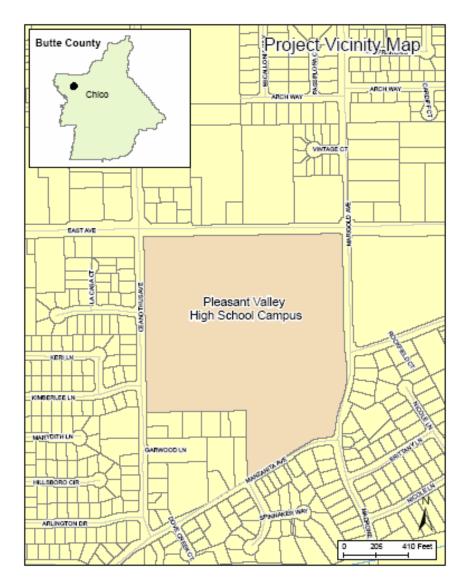


Figure 2-1; Vicinity Map

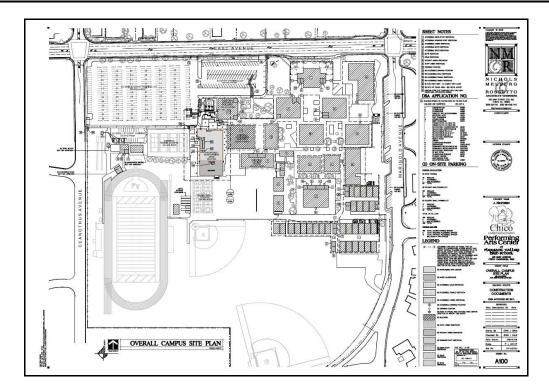


Figure 2-2; Overall Site Plan

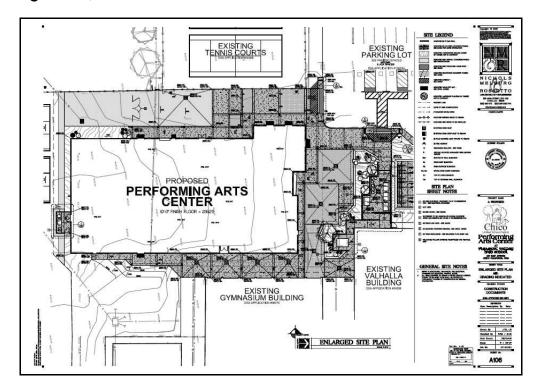


Figure 2-3; Enlarged Site Plan

11. Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

- 1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g. the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards.
- 2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4. "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact". The initial study must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
- 5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed in Section XVII at the end of the checklist.
- 6. Preparers are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g. general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. A source list should be attached and other sources used or individual contacts should be cited in the discussion.

12. Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is considered a "potentially significant impact" as indicated in Section 4.0, Environmental Evaluation.

Aesthetics	Land Use and Planning
Agricultural Resources	Mineral Resources
Air Quality	Noise
Biological Resources	Population and Housing
Cultural Resources	Public Services
Geology and Soils	Recreation
Hazards/Hazardous Materials	Transportation/Circulation
Hydrology/Water Quality	Utilities and Service Systems
	Mandatory Findings of Significance

3.1 PROJECT LOCATION

Pleasant Valley High School (PVHS), one of the two high schools within the CUSD system, is located on East Avenue between Ceanothus Avenue to the west and Marigold Avenue to the east in northeastern Chico. The school has an address of 1475 East Avenue and is designated with Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 015-490-001 (See **Figure 2-1**; Vicinity Map).

The project site is located entirely within the boundaries of the existing school campus. The closest non-school building is located approximately 375 feet to the north, across East Avenue. East Avenue is the main roadway in the area, connecting the project site with State Route 99 and the North Valley Plaza shopping center to the west, and Manzanita Avenue and Upper Bidwell Park to the east.

3.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In 2007, the School Board of the Chico Unified School District approved the construction of an approximately 25,400 square foot Performing Arts Center (PAC) on a primarily unimproved area on the Pleasant Valley High School campus (See Figures 2-2; Overall Site Plan and 2-3; Enlarged Site Plan). The majority of the proposed building site is an undeveloped dirt/grass area with a small portion of the site covered in asphalt paving and used as part of a grouping of outdoor basketball courts. As proposed, the PAC will be a multiple use facility with both instructional and performance space. In addition to use by the students and faculty of Pleasant Valley High School, the facility will be available for use by all students and schools within the district. It is also anticipated that occasional use by non-district affiliated organizations may occur. The building will be utilized primarily by students and staff during normal school hours with public use of the site occurring during non-school hours. The auditorium will be utilized for public performances primarily during non-school hours with educational-related use of the auditorium occurring school hours.

The overall objective of the project is to provide both performing and instructional spaces which can be utilized by all students and schools throughout the Chico Unified School District.

3.3 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The proposed Performing Arts Center will be a two-story structure with a maximum height of 34'-8", consistent with the height of the adjacent gymnasium building. The design of the facility will incorporate roof lines and colors consistent with the design of other campus facilities and buildings. The PAC building will be a modern performing arts facility incorporating three classroom spaces (choral, band, and stagecraft) and a performance auditorium, which will contain a stage, orchestra pit, and seating for approximately 500 people (491 fixed seats and 6 wheelchair spaces). The facility has been designed with the goals and objectives of the Collaborative for High Performing Schools (C.H.P.S.) standards and qualifies for PG&E's "Savings by Design" School District and Design Team rebates. The building will be fully-compliant with all Americans with

Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and will meet or exceed all standards of the California State Building Code.

The PAC will utilize the high school's three existing parking lots, which are all located in the northwestern portion of the high school campus, at the intersection of East Avenue and Ceanothus Avenue. The three lots contain a combined total of 465 parking spaces, which will be adequate to provide parking for the PAC during both school and non-school hours. Access to the PAC facility and existing parking lots will be provided by the three existing access drives (2 on East Avenue and 1 on Ceanothus Avenue).

Funding for the PAC construction comes from the 1998 School Facilities Bond (Measure A). While not part of the original Measure A project list, the Board approved the use of Measure A funds for this project on December 5, 2007.

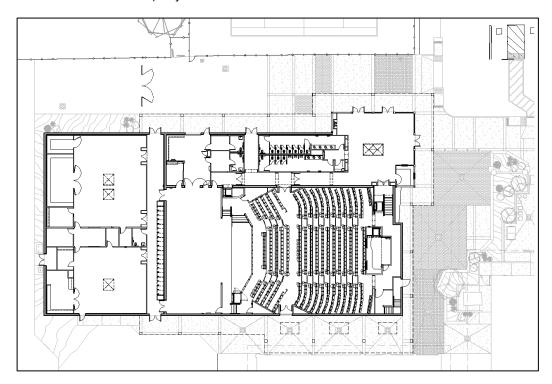


Figure 3-1: Building Interior



Figure 3-2: Building Exterior and Surrounding School Area

3.4 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND SAFETY

Construction of the proposed Performing Arts Center is scheduled to begin by mid-August 2008 and is anticipated to last through early October 2009. Because of this timeframe, the PAC will require construction during the regular school session, with many aspects of its construction occurring during regular school hours.

In order to ensure that safety is maintained throughout the construction process for students, school faculty and campus visitors, the project specifications (which are part of the construction and contracting documents) contain several sections dealing with site safety and the contractor's obligation to secure the project. Examples of mandatory site safety requirements include barricading/fencing of the construction site, weekly safety meetings, pre-screening and approval of on-site employees, maintenance of clear zones for fire and emergency vehicle access, etc.

Various individual tasks, such as utility trenching, will take place outside of the main fenced-in construction site. These tasks must fully completed or be completely secured at the end of each work day to provide for site safety. An important part of the construction project will involve the delivery and storage of the various materials which will be incorporated into the building. A separate staging area for materials storage will be identified and will also be fenced off.

The access route for the contractor's employees and the various deliveries will be separated as much as possible from student traffic. If deliveries must be through a student traffic area, they will be timed to occur before or after school when possible. If it is not possible for deliveries to occur during non-school hours, such deliveries will be timed to occur while class is in session.

Another safety related issue involves the fingerprint clearance of all contractor employees. Certain tasks will require workmen to work on the campus while school is in session. Agencies that contract with the District must certify that a criminal background check of their employees and/or subcontractors whom will have contact with students has been conducted. Further, the agency must certify that these employees do not have a pending criminal proceeding for a felony or have been convicted of a felony as defined in Education Code 45122.1. The Certification pursuant to Education Code 45125.1 must be filed with the District prior to the contracting agency beginning work.

The selected project contractor is also required to have weekly safety meetings which cover a variety of topics. Proof of the meetings and attendance is required to be available for District review.

3.5 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Chico Unified School District (CUSD) provides public school services to the City of Chico and surrounding unincorporated areas of Butte County, including the

communities of Nord and Cohasset. The District boundaries encompass approximately 322 square miles.

The CUSD operates 23 schools and serves approximately 13,000 students in grades K-12. Within the District, there are 13 K-6 elementary schools, one K-8 open structure classroom school, three 6-8 Junior High Schools, two 9-12 comprehensive high schools, one continuation high school, one community day school, one K-12 independent study school, and one special services school. Total enrollment within the District was 13,483 students, as of October 2007 (CUSD website, June 2008).

Pleasant Valley High School, which is one of the two comprehensive high schools located within the City of Chico, is located on East Avenue between Ceanothus Avenue to the west and Marigold Avenue to the east, provides education from 9th to 12th grades. Pleasant Valley High School serves students within the northeastern Chico area. It operates on a traditional school schedule, as opposed to a year-round schedule. As of the 2007-08 school year, enrollment at PVHS was 1,968 students. Pleasant Valley High School has 88 teachers, seven staff members and seven administrators, as of the 2007-08 school year (CUSD website).

East Avenue, which forms the northern boundary of PVHS, is the primary roadway in the vicinity. An east-west arterial, East Avenue runs from State Route 32 (Nord Avenue) to Manzanita Avenue, across northern Chico. From just west of the Esplanade, East Avenue is a four-lane roadway until it reaches Cactus Avenue approximately one quarter-mile east of PVHS. From Cactus Avenue, East Avenue gradually narrows until it becomes a two-lane roadway from Navarro Drive to its intersection with Manzanita Avenue.

Other roadways of note in the vicinity include Marigold Avenue, which forms the eastern boundary of PVHS. Marigold Avenue, located east of PVHS, is a north-south two-lane collector that primarily serves residential areas north of East Avenue, PVHS, and Marigold Elementary School. Ceanothus Aveune, located west of PVHS, is a north-south two-lane collector that primarily serves residential areas north and south of East Avenue. Manzanita Avenue, located south of Marigold School to the east of PVHS, is an east-west, two-lane collector that generally follows Lindo Channel along its north bank. Other streets and roadways primarily serve local residential areas.

The project area is vacant field located entirely within the PVHS campus. Land uses surrounding the project area beyond the school campus primarily include single-family residences to the west and south, with a combination of small commercial and office buildings and vacant land located across East Avenue to the north and Marigold School located to the east.

3.6 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Pursuant to the requirements of the California Government Code, educational facilities located on existing school sites are reviewed and approved by the Office of the State Architect and the State Fire Marshall's Office. Review of educational facilities by local

agencies (the City of Chico) is not required. While a review of such facilities is often undertaken by the local agency as on a voluntary or 'courtesy' basis, formal approval or permitting is not required.

At this time, the project has been approved by the School Board of the Chico Unified School District along with approval by all required State and local agencies.

3.7 PROJECT ASSUMPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

In analyzing the potential environmental impacts of the project, it is assumed that the project would be constructed in a manner as that described in Section 3.4, Project Characteristics. Any significant changes to the project as depicted within this document may significantly alter the conclusions of the analysis concerning environmental impacts, and may require further study of potential impacts. It is further assumed that the construction of the Performing Arts Center would substantially conform to the descriptions and drawings prepared for the project by the architect Nichols, Melburg and Rossetto in May 2008.

		4.0 EN	/IRONMENTA	L EVALUA	TION
		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.1	AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				\boxtimes
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				
Cı	HECKLIST DISCUSSION				
a)	No scenic vistas are currently visible from the and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mou campus facilities. The existing high school located between the proposed PAC and he school and block offsite views to the east. It structures on the site and the urban nature scenic resources. As a result, there would associated with the construction of the prop	ntain rang football f omes loca ne presend of site set ld be no	ge are block ield and ter ted to the was ted to the was ting, obstructing, obstruct	ted by exitants courts rest of the graph buildings at views to	sting are high and any
b)	The project site is located within a development of the project of the project. The scenic resources.	rces or his	toric building	gs exist or	the
c)	Grading and construction activities associately potential to cause temporary degradation motorists, residents living close to the scl	of local of	aesthetics fo	or East Ave	enue

d) No new light or glare sources visible beyond the project site would be introduced as a result of the project. All construction work will be performed during normal daylight construction hours, thereby eliminating any need for temporary light

impact is considered less than significant.

students. However, such activities are temporary, and would cease with the completion of these activities. Due to the temporary nature of this impact, this sources necessary for nighttime work. All lighting to be installed as part of the PAC will be shielded downward thereby eliminating potential off-site glare issues. Painted exterior materials will match the existing color scheme of the campus and the glass front entryway atrium surfaces will not be mirrored and will be shaded and screened by overhangs and other structural design elements thereby preventing the building from creating any nuisance glare or shine. The project would have **less than significant** impact as related to light and glare.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.2	AGRICULTURE RESOURCES. In determining wheth significant environmental effects, lead agencies made Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), pre Conservation as an optional model to use in assess	ay refer to t epared by	the California the Californi	ı Agricultur ia Departn	al Lanc nent o
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				\boxtimes
c)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?				
С	hecklist Discussion				
a)	The project is located in an urban area, and No farmland is located in the vicinity. To concerning farmland conversion.				•
b)	There is no agricultural zoning in the vicinit Act is a state law that allows agricultural lar certain time period, in exchange for a prop Since there are no agricultural lands in the lands. The project would have no impa Williamson Act lands.	nd to be ke perty tax as vicinity, th	ept in agricu sessment at ere are no '	ıltural use i a lower vo Williamson	for a alue. Act
c)	Refer to a) above. The project would have	no impact.			

Potentially

		Potentially Significant Impact	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.3	AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criter management or air pollution control district may				
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				
c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			\boxtimes	
e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				
С	HECKLIST DISCUSSION				
a)	Construction and use of the proposed PA amount of new vehicle trips as no new clas the campus is being created and it is not ar new performances or events non already of The project itself would not generate new ail have a less than significant impact on the appropriate transfer or	sroom sponticipated courring els	ice not alrect that the faci sewhere in the missions; ther	ady existinality will resonmune commune to the comm	g on ult in unity.
b)	Construction of a proposed PAC would not listed in federal or state ambient air quality no impact on local air quality.	-	•	•	
c)	Under the federal Clean Air Act, Butte Con attainment or unclassified for all national ar exception of the 8-hour ozone standard. But for the more stringent state ambient air particulate matter, PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} . The air Valley Air Basin (NSVAB) have jointly prepare attainment plan addressing ozone and PM ³	mbient air tte Count quality s ir districts ed and ad	quality stand y is a non-at standards fo of the Nortl opted a unif	dards, with tainment or ozone n Sacram form air qu	n the area and ento Jality

- not generate any emissions of ozone, PM10 or PM2.5, except for temporary dust emissions generated during construction activities (refer to (d) below). The project would have **no impact** cumulatively on air quality.
- d) The only potential air quality impacts associated with the project would be dust (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) emissions generated by construction activities. These emissions would be temporary, and would cease with completion of the work. However, since there are nearby single-family residences, these emissions could be a nuisance to their occupants.

The City of Chico and Butte County have similar Best Management Practices (BMP) to address construction-related activities that have the potential to produce fugitive dust emissions. Standards may include the following to reduce construction-related air quality emission levels during construction activities:

- Exposed soil surfaces shall be water regularly to reduce dust.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained according to the manufacturers' directions.
- Vegetative material shall not be burned. Alternative means of disposal shall be used, which may include chipping, mulching or conversion to biomass fuel.
- Land clearing, grading, earth moving or excavation activities shall be suspended when wind exceeds 20 miles per hour, as determined by an onsite anemometer and/or upon the directive of Butte County Air Quality Management District.
- Paved streets adjacent to the construction site shall be swept or washed at the end of each day, as necessary, to remove excessive accumulations of silt and/or mud resulting from construction activities.

Compliance with these standards will result in a less than significant level.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.4	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal wetlands, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?				
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?				
С	HECKLIST DISCUSSION				
a)	The project site is located in a developed developed urban roads and structures. approximately 15 acres in size and contains sports fields, parking lots and other support	The ex	xisting scho om and sup	ol campi port build	us is ings,

significantly developed (buildings) or improved (parking lots, ball fields, sport courts) and has been intensely utilized for an extended period of time. The PAC site is primarily undeveloped area of the campus located between the gymnasium building and the tennis courts / football field. A portion of the PAC building site is currently paved with asphalt for use as part of an outdoor basketball court area. A single tree exists on the PAC building site and the ground coverings a combination of compacted dirt and turf.

The Master Environmental Assessment (MEA) for the City of Chico General Plan indicates that no special status plant or animal species are located on the site or in the immediate surrounding area. Based upon a visual observation of the site, it location on a developed school campus and the lack of any habitat value, implementation of the project would have **no impact** on any animal or plant species.

- b) The MEA indicates that no sensitive habitats occur on the project site or within the immediate vicinity of the project site. A single isolated tree currently exists on the non-paved portion of the project site. The nearest identified sensitive habitat to the project site is Bidwell Park, the closest portion of which is approximately 0.5 miles east of the project site. The project would have **no impact** on sensitive habitats.
- The project would be located in an urbanized, developed area. No wetlands or other jurisdictional waters of the United States are located on the project site or within the vicinity of the project site. No surface water bodies or drainages occur on the project site. The project would have **no impact** on federally protected wetlands.
- d) The project site is located on a developed high school campus. The site is bounded on three-sides by improved hardscape areas (tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, parking lot) and does not provide nursery sites for wildlife nor is it conducive to or function as a corridor for migratory wildlife. No streams or waterways are located on or immediately adjacent to the project site. The project would have **no impact** on the movement of wildlife.
- e) The proposed project will include the removal of field turf and one tree which is currently located in the northwestern portion of the project site. New landscaping will be located at the front of the building and will include new trees and groundcover. No other natural features in the area would be affected. The project would have *no impact* on policies or ordinances that preserve biological resources.
- f) No Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other habitat plans are applicable to the project site. A Habitat Conservation Plan is currently being prepared by the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and is scheduled to be completed in 2009-2010. However, the site is a

4.0 ENVIRONMEN	NIAL EVALUATION
fully-developed urban site with no habitat value or identified constraints. The project would have no impact on such plans.	environmental

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.5	CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in				\boxtimes
	§15064.5?				
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				
c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?				
d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a-d) The project site is in an area of high archaeological sensitivity, as discussed in the City of Chico Master Environmental Assessment. The only potential effect on cultural resources would take place during construction activities associated with project implementation. Construction work would only affect previously disturbed areas within the project site. Additionally, California law has several provisions that pertain to the unexpected and inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains during constructions activities, which the construction of the proposed PAC would be required to abide by. **No impact** to cultural resources is anticipated.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.6	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death, involving:				
	i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				
	ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			\boxtimes	
	iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
	iv)Landslides?				\boxtimes
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			\boxtimes	
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				
C	hecklist Discussion				
					• • • •
a)	There are no known or active earthquake for the project site. The site is flat and there hazards. Seismic-related ground failures	e are no l	andslide or s	seismic-rel	ated
Cr	Chico Unified School District Performing Arts Center at Pleasant Valley High School				

settlement and liquefaction. Due to the level topography of the site, lateral spreading would not occur. Seismic settlement and liquefaction both involve the settling of unconsolidated soils into a tighter packing, the difference being that liquefaction involves the presence of water. The MEA states that liquefaction potential for the area east of State Route 99 is low, except along stream channels. There are no streams within the project site, as such, the liquefaction potential is low. Therefore, the project would have **no impact** associated with fault ruptures, seismic-related ground failure, or landslides.

Structures within the greater Chico area may be exposed to strong shaking from periodic earthquakes. Ground shaking could potentially affect the PAC. However, the building has been review by the office of the state architect and the design has met all required standards of the Education Code (Article 3 and Article 6) and Building Code. Compliance with these standards would ensure that potential ground shaking impacts would be *less than significant*.

- b) The MEA identifies the soils within the project area as Vina-Farwell, described as deep, well-drained and very productive soils which have developed on recently formed floodplains in fine-textured alluvium. According to the MEA, Vina-Farwell soils exhibit little or no erosion potential. In addition, the lack of any topography and the overall built nature of the campus limit the potential for erosion activity. Erosion impacts resulting from construction of this project would be considered less than significant.
- c) The project site is located in an area of low seismic and liquefaction hazard potential, as described in a) above. Subsidence is the sinking of the ground that occurs with the withdrawal of liquid substances underground (e.g., water, oil, natural gas). The MEA did not identify any subsidence areas in the project vicinity and no extraction of water or liquid substance occurs on the site. The project would have **no impact** on site or area subsidence issues.
- d) The MEA indicates that the project site is located in an area of moderate to highly expansive soils. For Vina-Farwell soils, the shrink-swell potential is identified as being moderate. In areas of high slope, areas subject to flooding or areas having high groundwater, this could potentially be a matter of concern. However, the site is not subject to flooding, does not have high groundwater and has no slope or topographical features. Additionally, the structure will meet all requirements of Article 3 and Article 6 of the Education Code, which set building regulations for classrooms. Therefore, expansive soil impacts are considered **less than significant**.
- e) The project site is served by the City of Chico sanitary sewer system. The project would not require the use of septic systems; therefore the disposal of wastewater would have **no impact** on site soils.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.7	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the pr	oject:			
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?				
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
g)	Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

a) Construction of the proposed Performing Arts Center is scheduled to begin by mid-August 2008 and is anticipated to last through early October 2009. Because of this timeframe, the PAC will require construction during the regular school session, with many aspects of its construction occurring during regular school hours.

In order to ensure the safety of students, staff and campus visitors is maintained throughout the construction process, various safety measures are required to be incorporated or utilized as part of the project. The construction specifications and requirements (which are part of the overall 'project') contain several sections which deal with site safety and the selected contractor's obligation to secure and manage the project site. The safety requirements include but are not limited to the barricading/fencing of the construction site to make sure that students, staff and campus visitors are not able to get into the construction site, vehicular access control, creation and use of materials storage and handling guidelines, weekly safety meetings and pre-construction safety instruction for onsite personnel, background checks for on-site workers, the identification of delivery routes and the identification and securing of on-site materials storage areas

Access routes, delivery access and parking areas for the contractor's employees will be separated to the extent possible from student traffic. If deliveries must be made in the same through a student traffic area they will be timed to occur before or after school when possible. During the school day, deliveries will be timed to occur while class is in session.

The contractor is also required to have weekly safety meetings which cover a variety of topics. Proof of the meetings and attendance is required to be available for District review. Through implementation of these and all other State, Federal, and school standards, there would be **less than significant** impact to safety on or around the project site.

b) Construction activities associated with project construction typically include refueling and minor maintenance of construction equipment onsite, which could lead to minor fuel and oil leakage. However, due to the small size of the site and the limited need for heavy equipment on the project, potential impacts resulting from these activity types would be anticipated to be minor. In addition, the handling, storage and transport of hazardous materials is controlled by Federal and State regulations with additional requirements imposed for school construction projects by the State Fire Marshall and State Architect via the Education Code. The project would be required to comply with the Healthy Schools Act and all other applicable federal, state, and local regulations throughout construction of the proposed PAC. Therefore, hazards related to the use of hazardous or controlled materials are considered to be **less than significant**.

- As discussed in a) above, construction of the proposed PAC would not directly lead to an increase in use of potentially hazardous materials. Compliance with applicable hazardous material laws and regulations, and manufacturers' recommendations, would reduce any potential impacts to a **less than significant** level.
- d) The most recent available version of the Cortese List, the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, does not include the project site. The project site is an existing school campus and there is no evidence of recognized environmental conditions for the subject property. Construction of the project would not create a hazard to the public or the environment and therefore would have **no impact**.
- e) There are no airports within a 2-mile radius of the project site. The Chico Municipal Airport is located approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the project site, and is located just outside the airport land use plan area defined in the Butte County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. The project would have **no impact** with regard to airport hazards or operations.
- f) There are no private airstrips in the vicinity of the project site; therefore, there would be **no impact**.
- g) The project would occur entirely on the Pleasant Valley High School grounds, and would not obstruct any roads and streets on the site or in the vicinity of the project. An existing fire / emergency access road currently exists between the tennis courts, to the west, and the project site. During construction of the proposed PAC, this access road would be required to be available for emergency use as part of the project. No student or employee evacuation staging areas or emergency escape routes will be blocked or changed as a result of the construction of the PAC building. As such, the project is anticipated to have **no impact** on emergency access or evacuation.
- h) The project is located within a developed urban area and is not located near a wildland fire hazard area. The site is served by the City of Chico Fire Department and hydrants and an urban water system on and adjacent to the campus. Therefore there would be **no impact** regarding wildland fire hazards as a result of the project.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.8	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project	:			
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				
b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				
d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?				
e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				
f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				\boxtimes
g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				
h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?				
i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam?				

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?				

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

- Wastewater from the Pleasant Valley High School campus is collected and a) treated by the City of Chico. The wastewater discharged by Pleasant Valley High School to the City of Chico sanitary sewer system includes both sewage and "graywater" (water used for cleaning and other activities). The project would not significantly change the amount of wastewater generated at peak flow periods as the classroom space within the PAC is intended to replace existing classroom space rather than add new space and large-scale the use of performance hall would generally occur during non-school hour periods. some additional discharge volume may be anticipated as a result of the project, the City of Chico Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) has the capacity to collect and treat the discharged wastewater and the WPCP meets all existing requirements of the RWQCB. Additionally, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Central Valley Region, has established standards in its Water Quality Control Plan concerning fertilizer and pesticide use that are utilized by the District currently. Based upon the information noted above, the project impacts to water quality and waste discharge impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.
- b) Potable water from the Pleasant Valley High School campus is provided by the California Water Service Company via the City-wide water service system. The primary water source for the potable water system is from off-site groundwater wells. The proposed project will not create a significant new potable water demand as the classroom facilities within the PAC are intended to replace existing on-site classrooms and it is not anticipated that the construction of the PAC facility will generate significant new performances for which the demand is currently being met in other locations.

The existing undeveloped portion of the site is not currently used for groundwater recharge purposes. No existing storm drain facilities or recharge facilities exist on the proposed project site. Recent street improvements to East Avenue have resulted in the expansion of capacity for both on- and off-site storm water systems for the campus. Underneath the student parking area, a series of subterranean stormwater detention vaults have been installed for the purpose of collecting and retaining on-campus stormwater discharge. The existing vault system under the parking area has been sized to accommodate additional

- construction on the campus site. The project would have **no impact** on the supply or recharge of groundwater.
- c) The proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area. No streams or rivers are located on or within the vicinity of the project site and the existing storm water collection system has been sized to accommodate additional on-campus flow. The project would have **no impact** on the site or project area relative to storm water drainage flow.
- d-e) As discussed in greater detail in item (b) above, on-campus storm water drainage patterns will not change as a result of the project. The existing on-site infrastructure has been sized to accommodate additional on-campus construction and no new facilities will be required as part of the project. As a result, there will be **no impact** associated with surface or storm water flows.
- f) Potential water quality issues associated with the project have been described above. No other water quality issues would occur. Therefore, the project would have **no impact** on water quality issues.
- g-h) The City of Chico MEA and a review of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), indicate that the project site is outside the 100-year flood hazard area. The project would have **no impact** related to flood hazards.
- i) The project is located outside of any dam inundation areas. There are no levees in the project vicinity. Consturction of the project would have **no impact** on flood hazard or flood related safety issues4.
- j) The project is not located near any bodies of water subject to seiche or tsunami. Since the project site is located within an developed urban area, on an existing flat school campus, it would not be subject to mudflows. The project would have **no impact** associated with seiche, tsunami or mudflows.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.9	LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a)	Physically divide an established community?				\boxtimes
b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				
c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				
a) The project is the construction of a Performing Arts Center on an existing developed high school campus. The project would not divide an established residential community as the project will occur entirely on the existing school campus. The project will have no impact on the division of an established community.					
b)	All activities associated with the project would occur on the Pleasant Valley High School grounds. The General Plan designation for PVHS is Public Facilities and Service, and construction of the proposed PAC is consistent with this land use designation. Additionally, the zoning for PVHS is Public/Quasi-Public, and this project is consistent with this zoning. Overall, the project would have <i>no impact</i> on applicable land use plans.				
C)	The proposed project would not conflict with any area conservation plans. A Habitat Conservation Plan is currently being prepared by the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and is scheduled to be completed in 2009-2010. However, while such a plan is in creation, the site is a fully-developed urban site with no habitat value or identified constraints currently existing. Therefore, the project would have no impact on the preparation of operation of a conservation plan.			ounty 2009- oped sting.	

4.0 Environmental Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.10	MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				
С	HECKLIST DISCUSSION				
a-	b) The proposed project would not use or extra and would not restrict access to known mi	•		•	

located within an area where there are little or no mineral resources. Therefore,

the project would have **no impact** on mineral resources.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact		
4.11	NOISE. Would the project result in:						
a)	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or of applicable standards of other agencies?			\boxtimes			
b)	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?						
c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?						
d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?						
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?						
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?						
Cı	hecklist Discussion						
a)	a) Construction of the proposed PAC would occur entirely on the existing school grounds and would not generate permanent or sustained noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinances. Noise impacts from the project are considered less than significant .						
b)	Construction of the proposed PAC has the construction-related groundbourne vibration areas, both to students/faculty during school However, because no residences are located the most significant impacts from construct faculty at the school during normal school 4.11.1 (below) would reduce impacts to a legister.	ons that roll sessions and within 50 ion noise volumes of sessions	may affect and to near 00 feet of the would be or . Implemer	noise-sentby resider e project of students ntation of	sitive nces. area, and		

- c) Although construction of a Performing Arts Center has the potential to permanently increase ambient noise levels within the project vicinity due to noise created by performances, the building has been designed to prevent interior sounds from escaping as well as to prevent exterior sounds from affecting the auditorium. Therefore, the project would not generate any noise levels above those that currently exist with Pleasant Valley High School. Impacts of this project on permanent noise levels are considered **less than significant**.
- d) Minor temporary noise impacts would be expected to occur as a result of construction activities on the project. Although they would be temporary in nature, construction activities would dominate the noise environment in the immediate area. Activities involved in construction typically generate noise levels ranging from 70 to 90 dB at a distance of 50 feet. Construction of the PAC therefore has the potential to generate noise that may affect noise-sensitive areas, both to students/faculty during school sessions and to nearby residences.

Implementation of **MM 4.11.1** (below) would reduce impacts on noise to a level that is *less than significant*.

- e) The project site is located outside the airport land use plan area of the Chico Municipal Airport. This project would not expose students or other users to excessive noise levels from the airport, therefore there is **no impact** related to public airport noise.
- f) There are no private airstrips in the vicinity of the project site. The project would have **no impact** related to private airstrip noise.

Mitigation Measure

- MM 4.11.1 To reduce construction-generated noise impacts on school operations and student learning, the following noise mitigation measures shall be implemented throughout all phases of construction:
 - 1. During normal school hours, sustained noise-levels resulting from construction activities shall not exceed Eighty-Five (85) dBA at a distance of Two Hundred Feet (200') from the noise generating source.
 - 2. During instructional school days, any sustained construction activities which result in groundbourne vibrations or noise levels exceeding Ninety (90) dBA must be limited to non-school (classroom) hours;
 - 3. All standards and regulations of the Chico Noise Ordinance must be adhered to at all times:

- 4. Best available noise suppression devices must be utilized at all times.
- 5. The project shall meet all noise standards for internal classroom noise established in Section 12.6 of the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) for internal classroom noise. Such standards are as follows:
 - a) For core learing spaces with an internal volume of 20,000 cubic feet or less, one-hour steady-state background noise levels shall not exceed 35 dBA.
 - b) For core learing spaces with an internal volume of 20,000 cubic feet or more, one-hour steady-state background noise levels shall not exceed 40 dBA.
- 5. The project contractor shall coordinate with the Districts construction manager to coordinate schedules such that construction activities which result in sustained groundbourne vibrations or noise levels above Eighty-Five (85) dBA do not occur during periods of on-site standardized testing.

Timing/Implementation: Throughout construction process. Enforcement/Monitoring: Chico Unified School District.

4.0 Environmental Evaluation

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	
4.12	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:					
a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?					
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?					
c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?					
CHECKLIST DISCUSSION						
a-	a-c) The project is for construction of a Performing Arts Center on a high school campus. The project would not alter projected population growth in the area, would not displace any existing housing or people, and is anticipated to have no					

impact on population growth or decline within the area.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	
4.13	PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in substate with the provision of new or physically altered governal altered governmental facilities, the construction of wimpacts, in order to maintain acceptable service results.	mental fac hich could	ilities, need fo cause signific	r new or ph ant enviror	nysically nmental	
a)	Fire protection?	П	П		\boxtimes	
b)	Police protection?					
c)	Schools?				\boxtimes	
d)	Parks?				\boxtimes	
e)	Other public facilities?				\boxtimes	
C a)	The project is proposed on an existing developed high school site which is currently protected by an in-place fire suppression system consisting of fire hydrants, fire alarms and fire sprinklers. An existing hydrant is currently located approximately 80 feet in front of the new facility and will remain in place at that location. In addition, the new PAC building will be fully sprinkled and will comply with all State and local Fire Codes. An existing emergency access road onto the campus is located to the west of the building and will be unimpeded as a result of the proposed project. The City of Chico Fire Station #5 is located on East Avenue approximately one mile to the east of the project site. Construction of the project will have no impact to fire protection services.					
υ _j	The proposed project is not anticipated services. The PAC facility will have an acceptation lighting to provide improved visibility project will result in no impact to police protests.	ctive alarr ty and sec	n system ar curity to the	nd will inc	lude	
C-	The project would not lead to an increase in demand for public services over that which currently exists for Pleasant Valley High School. Demand is affected more by changes in school population, and the construction of a district-wide Performing Arts Center would not affect school population. Overall, the project would have no impact on parks or other public services.					

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.14	RECREATION.				
a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				
b)	Does the project include recreational facilities, or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				
C	hecklist Discussion				
	 a) Construction of a Performing Arts Center would not affect neighborhood and regio have no impact. 				

b) The project does not include recreational facilities, nor does it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The project would have **no**

impact.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporate d	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	
4.15	TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:					
a)	Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?					
b)	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?					
c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?					
d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?					
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?					
f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?					
g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?					
С	HECKLIST DISCUSSION					
a-	a-b) The construction of a Performing Arts Center may increase after-school traffic during evening performances. The PAC is sized to accommodate approximately 500 people, which is less than 25 percent of the approximately 2,000 students which utilize the high school on an average school day (CUSD website, June 2008). Therefore, East Avenue and other roads within the project area are fully capable of handling the traffic load and capacity that would be added during non-school hours when the PAC is in use for non-school hour activities. The					

proposed project would not cause roads in the area to exceed, either individually or cumulatively, level of service standards which have been established. The project would have a *less than significant* impact on traffic volumes or flow on local roadways.

- c) The project would not affect air traffic volumes. The project is located outside the airport land use area of the Chico Municipal Airport; therefore, it would not affect flight patterns or interfere with airport operations. The project would have **no impact** on air traffic operations.
- d) The project would not introduce any features that would affect roadways. The project will utilize the existing parking area, which has been designed properly for circulation. The existing parking lot facility at the school site has three existing driveway access points and no new access points will be necessary. Additionally, both of the intersections adjacent to the High School campus (East Avenue and Ceanothus and East Avenue and Marigold Avenue) are signalized and have dedicated left-turn pockets. The project would have **no impact** on roadway or intersection safety.
- e) The project would not affect emergency access. The project will utilize the existing parking area, which has been designed properly for emergency access. In addition, the emergency access plan for the project denotes multiple opportunities for access onto the site by emergency vehicles, as well as the turnaround radiuses on the site for emergency apparatuses. The project would have **no impact** on emergency access.
- The project would not lead to the loss of any existing parking spaces at Pleasant Valley High School. The PAC will utilize the high school's existing three parking lots on East Avenue, which are all located in the northwestern portion of the high school campus, at the intersection of East Avenue and Ceanothus Avenue. The three lots contain a combined total of 465 parking spaces. According to the City of Chico Municipal Code, one (1) parking space is required for each four (4) fixed seats within this type of building (theaters). Based upon these standards, the proposed PAC would be required to provide 123 parking spaces (491 fixed seats / 4 seats per parking space). The 465 parking spaces currently provided on high school grounds are certainly adequate to meet City standards during non-school hours.

During the construction phases of the project, an important component will involve the delivery and storage of the various materials which will be incorporated into the building. A separate staging area will be identified and will also be fenced off. The access route for the contractor's employees and the various deliveries will be separated as much as possible from student traffic. If deliveries must be made in the same through a student traffic area they will be timed to occur before or after school when possible. During the school day, deliveries will be timed to occur while class is in session and not during the

- breaks. The project would have **less than significant** impact on site circulation and parking.
- g) The proposed PAC would not conflict with programs that encourage alternative transportation. A bus stop is located on East Avenue adjacent to the high school, which provides multiple trips to and from this area every day. The project would have **no impact** on alternative transportation routes or policies.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact			
4.16	UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:							
a)	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?							
b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?							
c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?							
d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?							
e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?							
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?							
g)	Comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?							
С	Checklist Discussion							
a) The project would be connected to the City of Chico's existing wastewater treatment system and plant. The plant is currently in compliance with all wastewater standards and has additional capacity to support the project. Additionally, construction of a Performing Arts Center on an existing high school campus would not generate a significant increase in wastewater from what is currently generated by normal school operations. The project would have no impact on wastewater collection or treatment services.					h all bject. Shool nat is			

- b) The project by itself would not require the construction of new water or wastewater facilities. An existing PVC sewer collection pipe is currently located under the project site which serves as the primary waste disposal line for the entire campus. As part of the project construction, the PVC pipe will be excavated and will be replaced with a steel pipe encased under the foundation of the building. New sewer accesses and cleanouts will be installed on either side of the PAC facility to provide access. The project would have **no impact** on water or wastewater facilities.
- c) As discussed in Section 4.8, the project would not result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Recent street improvements to East Avenue have resulted in the expansion of capacity for both on- and off-site storm water systems for the campus and surrounding area. Underneath the parking area, a series of subterranean stormwater detention vaults have been installed for the purpose of collecting and retaining on-campus stormwater discharge. The existing vault under the parking area has been sized to accommodate additional construction on the campus site. The project would have **no impact** on storm water drainage.
- d) Water for the project site would be provided by the California Water Service Company, which serves Pleasant Valley High School. According to the MEA, the supply system for the water company has not experienced any deficiencies in its Chico district. The EIR for the Chico General Plan states that, with implementation of General Plan policies related to water supply, impacts would be less than significant. Impacts on water supplies are therefore considered less than significant.
- e) Refer to a) above. The project would have **no impact** on wastewater services.
- f) Although the proposed PAC would generate increased amounts of solid waste on performance nights, the additional waste is not anticipated to be substantially more than that currently generated on the school site during an average day. The Butte County Landfill has adequate capacity at current disposal rate until the year 2018, and is currently seeking approval from the State for an expansion of the landfill that would accommodate solid waste disposals to the year 2034. The project would have **no impact** on landfill capacity.
- g) The project would comply with applicable statutes regarding solid waste; therefore, it would have **no impact**.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significa nt Impact	No Impact
4.17	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
a)	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plants or animals, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				
b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.				
c)	Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				
С	hecklist Discussion				
a)	As described in Section 4.4, Biological Res Resources, the project would have no impa			n 4.5, Cu	Itural
b)	The most significant impacts of the project construction. These impacts would cease of Project operations would have very little improject would have no impact .	nce constr	ruction work	is comple	eted.
c)	No adverse impacts on human beings were no impact.	e identified	. The projec	t would	have

5.1 **PROJECT DETERMINATION** On the basis of this initial evaluation: I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. \boxtimes I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared (Attached mitigation measures are in Section 5.2). I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required. I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but one or more of such significant effects 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project. Nothing further is required. Signature _____ Date: _____ Printed name:

5.2 MITIGATION MEASURES FOR PROJECT

Noise (Section 4.11)

Mitigation Measure

- **MM 4.11.1** To reduce construction-generated noise impacts on school operations and student learning, the following noise mitigation measures shall be implemented throughout all phases of construction:
 - 1. During normal school hours, sustained noise-levels resulting from construction activities shall not exceed Eighty-Five (85) dBA at a distance of Two Hundred Feet (200') from the noise generating source.
 - 2. During instructional school days, any sustained construction activities which result in groundbourne vibrations or noise levels exceeding Ninety (90) dBA must be limited to non-school (classroom) hours;
 - 3. All standards and regulations of the Chico Noise Ordinance must be adhered to at all times;
 - 4. Best available noise suppression devices must be utilized at all times.
 - 5. The project shall meet all noise standards for internal classroom noise established in Section 12.6 of the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) for internal classroom noise. Such standards are as follows:
 - a) For core learing spaces with an internal volume of 20,000 cubic feet or less, one-hour steady-state background noise levels shall not exceed 35 dBA.
 - b) For core learing spaces with an internal volume of 20,000 cubic feet or more, one-hour steady-state background noise levels shall not exceed 40 dBA.
 - 5. The project contractor shall coordinate with the Districts construction manager to coordinate schedules such that construction activities which result in sustained groundbourne vibrations or noise levels above Eighty-Five (85) dBA do not occur during periods of on-site standardized testing.

Timing/Implementation: Throughout construction process. Enforcement/Monitoring: Chico Unified School District.

6.1 REPORT PREPARATION

CHICO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - LEAD AGENCY

Michael Weissenborn Facilities Manager

PACIFIC MUNICIPAL CONSULTANTS – ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Scott Friend Project Manager

Nathan Anderson Associate Planner

6.2 Persons and Agencies Consulted

Michael Weissenborn; Chico Unified School District

Benjamin Matray; Nichols, Melburg, & Rossetto (Project Architect)

6.3 REFERENCES

Chico Unified School District. File entitled Chico Unified School District Performing Arts Center at Pleasant Valley High School – documentation, drawings, and correspondence related to the proposed project.

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