

Business Services

Date: November 21, 2024

To: La Mariposa Parents and Guardians

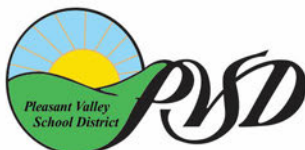
From: Chris Johnston, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Re: Shade shelter construction and solar panel installation

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to provide details about upcoming construction at La Mariposa School.

PVSD recently received state approval to move forward with a long-planned project for solar power installation at ten schools. At La Mariposa the solar panels will be installed atop two playground shade shelters.



Pleasant Valley School District

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PVSD prepares 21st century learners who are responsible members of our global society.

The green shaded area in the picture above shows the approximate footprint of the shade shelters. The shade shelters will be tall enough for students to play games underneath after construction is complete. To facilitate the continued use of this area as playground space we will be installing padding around the base of the support columns. Additionally, we will be re-stripping the playground to address the fact that one of the three basketball courts will be impacted. The photo below shows a similar project from another school district. In this particular district you can see that they also found the space useful for outdoor events.



Although it is common for school districts to conduct construction activities during the school year, in PVSD we have primarily limited construction to summertime and holiday breaks. With ten solar projects to complete, and a short summer work window, it is not possible to constrain the solar installation to summer only. So we are carefully moving forward with school year construction.

Because we are so careful with our construction scheduling I expect that some parents or guardians may be apprehensive about the prospect of construction during the school year. I want to assure you that student safety is at the forefront of our project planning. Your child's wellbeing is our highest priority. The contractor we are working with has completed dozens of school site solar projects across the state. They are familiar with the procedures necessary for safely working at schools. Additionally, our project inspector is a father of elementary-aged children, so fully understands what is necessary for student safety. We would not undertake construction during the school year if we were not confident that we could do this properly.

The construction will take place behind temporary construction fencing. Construction crews are required to arrive early in the morning, before students. This is so that they can move tools and materials and be situated behind the temporary fencing before students are on site. If construction workers need to exit the temporary construction fenced area during the school day they will be escorted by a District representative or the project foreman. On days when it is necessary to bring vehicles on site during school hours (such as for pouring concrete), playground access will be further limited, to ensure student safety. Construction deliveries are scheduled to avoid pickup and drop-off times, to avoid making difficult traffic even more challenging. Regarding the structure itself, the design was approved to meet the exacting standards of the Division of the State Architect. All aspects of the construction, including steel fabrication, are conducted under the eye of a state approved Inspector of Record and state-certified testing laboratory.

As of the writing of this letter temporary fencing installation is slated for the week of December 2. Installation should only take a few hours on one day. Actual construction is slated to begin the week of December 9. By starting construction on this timeframe a significant amount of the work will be completed during the Winter Break, minimizing the impacts to the school site.

In addition to creating more playground shade, this project will have positive financial impacts. Combined with the other solar projects in our district we expect to see at least a \$500,000 per year reduction in our electricity bills. As I have stated at several public meetings: I appreciate the hard work of the great people at Southern California Edison – but I do not like sending them money. Solar power provides an opportunity to keep more money in our district and use that money to support our students.

Thank you in advance for your patience during the construction work window.

Sincerely,

Chris Johnston
Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Pleasant Valley School District