

**FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR CALWA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, the Fresno Unified School District Board (Board) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed Calwa Elementary School Reconstruction Project (Project). The Draft EIR analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the Project and is being circulated for public review and comment.

Project Title: Calwa Elementary School Reconstruction

SCH Number: 2026030919

Project Location: Calwa Elementary School at 4303 East Jensen Avenue, Fresno, CA 93725

Project Description:

The Fresno Unified School District proposes to implement the Calwa Elementary School Reconstruction Project using Measure H bond funds. The project would involve the selective demolition and reconstruction of existing campus facilities, interior renovation of seven existing buildings, construction of a new Multipurpose Room, Administration Office, and Early Learning Building, and associated site improvements including new parking areas, student and bus drop-off facilities, and redeveloped play areas. Construction would occur in two phases while school operations remain in session. The project would not increase student enrollment or campus capacity and would modernize the campus to meet current educational, accessibility, safety, and energy-efficiency standards.

Environmental Review and Public Comment:

The Draft EIR is being circulated for public review and comment. Interested persons can review the Draft EIR at the following location:

**Fresno Unified School District
4600 North Brawley Avenue
Fresno, CA 93722**

You may obtain the document and the supporting technical studies in electronic format on the Fresno Unified School District's website at <https://www.fresnounified.org/departments/facilities> or on the CEQANet website at <https://ceqanet.lci.ca.gov/2026030919>

The 45-day public review period begins on September 2, 2026, and closes on October 17, 2026. A public hearing on the Draft EIR will be held on October 7, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. at Calwa Elementary School, located at 4303 East Jensen Avenue, Fresno, California 93725. The hearing will be held in the red brick Multipurpose Room (MPR) located along Cedar Avenue.

Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on October 17, 2026, and may be submitted to:

Heidi Heltne, Project Manager
Fresno Unified School District
4600 North Brawley Avenue
Fresno, CA 93722

Email: Heidi.Heltne@fresnounified.org

Telephone: (559) 457-3066



Alex Belanger

Chief Executive, Operational Services

Date: 8/31/2026

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2026030919**Project Title:** Calwa Elementary School Reconstruction

Lead Agency: Fresno Unified School District

Contact Person: Heidi Heltn

Mailing Address: 4600 N. Brawley Avenue

Phone: (559) 457-3066

City: Fresno

Zip: 93722

County: Fresno

Project Location: County: Fresno

City/Nearest Community: Fresno

Cross Streets: Cedar Avenue and Jensen Avenue

Zip Code: 93725

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 36 ° 42 ' 29.0334 " N / -119 ° 45 ' 13.2228 " W Total Acres: 7.89

Assessor's Parcel No.: 480-351-27T

Section: 13

Twp.: 14S

Range: 20E

Base: MDPM

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 99, 41

Waterways: Central Canal, Braley Canal

Airports:

Railways: BNSF, SJVR

Schools: Aynsworth, Balderas, Terronez, Herrera, Sequoia

Document Type:CEQA: ☐ NOP☒ Draft EIRNEPA: ☐ NOIOther: ☐ Joint Document☐ Early Cons☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR☐ EA☐ Final Document☐ Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.)

☐ Draft EIS☐ Other:☐ Mit Neg Dec

Other:

☐ FONSI**Local Action Type:**☐ General Plan Update☐ Specific Plan☐ Rezone☐ Annexation☐ General Plan Amendment☐ Master Plan☐ Prezone☒ Redevelopment☐ General Plan Element☐ Planned Unit Development☐ Use Permit☐ Coastal Permit☐ Community Plan☒ Site Plan☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)☐ Other:**Development Type:**☐ Residential: Units

Acres

☐ Office: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Transportation: Type☐ Commercial: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Mining: Mineral☐ Industrial: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Power: Type

MW

☒ Educational: 31,555 sq. ft. buildings, 10 acres☐ Waste Treatment: Type

MGD

☐ Recreational:☐ Hazardous Waste: Type☐ Water Facilities: Type

MGD

☐ Other:**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**☒ Aesthetic/Visual☒ Fiscal☒ Recreation/Parks☒ Vegetation☒ Agricultural Land☒ Flood Plain/Flooding☒ Schools/Universities☒ Water Quality☒ Air Quality☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard☐ Septic Systems☒ Water Supply/Groundwater☒ Archeological/Historical☒ Geologic/Seismic☒ Sewer Capacity☒ Wetland/Riparian☒ Biological Resources☒ Minerals☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading☒ Growth Inducement☐ Coastal Zone☒ Noise☒ Solid Waste☒ Land Use☒ Drainage/Absorption☒ Population/Housing Balance☒ Toxic/Hazardous☒ Cumulative Effects☐ Economic/Jobs☒ Public Services/Facilities☒ Traffic/Circulation☐ Other:**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Public and Institutional

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The District proposes to implement the Calwa Elementary School Reconstruction Project (the "project") using Measure H bond funds. The existing campus buildings, constructed between 1945 and 1970, are among the oldest in the District and no longer meet current District standards or adequately serve student needs. The project would involve selective demolition and reconstruction of certain campus buildings, while other buildings would undergo interior renovation. Construction would occur in two overlapping phases while instruction remains in session. The project's purpose is to replace and renovate facilities that no longer meet current building, accessibility, and educational standards.

The proposed campus reconstruction would include a new Multipurpose Room (MPR), Administration Office, and Early Learning Building, as well as interior renovations to seven existing buildings. Site improvements would include a new parking lot with a student drop-off loop in the northwest portion of the campus, a staff parking lot in the southeast, a bus drop-off loop in the south, and redeveloped play areas in the north and northeast.

The project would not increase student enrollment or overall campus capacity. Instead, it would provide students and staff with equitable access to modern, energy-efficient, accessible, and safe facilities that are consistent with other recently modernized District campuses. Construction is anticipated to begin in June 2028 and end in August 2030.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

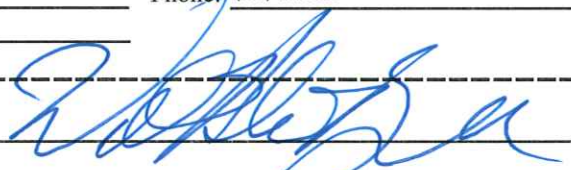
☐ Air Resources Board	☐ Office of Historic Preservation
☐ Boating & Waterways, Department of	☐ Office of Public School Construction
☐ California Emergency Management Agency	☐ Parks & Recreation, Department of
☐ California Highway Patrol	☐ Pesticide Regulation, Department of
☐ Caltrans District # _____	☐ Public Utilities Commission
☐ Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	☐ Regional WQCB # _____
☐ Caltrans Planning	☐ Resources Agency
☐ Central Valley Flood Protection Board	☐ Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
☐ Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	☐ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
☐ Coastal Commission	☐ San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Colorado River Board	☐ San Joaquin River Conservancy
☐ Conservation, Department of	☐ Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Corrections, Department of	☐ State Lands Commission
☐ Delta Protection Commission	☐ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
☐ Education, Department of	☐ SWRCB: Water Quality
☐ Energy Commission	☐ SWRCB: Water Rights
☒ Fish & Game Region # 4 _____	☐ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
☐ Food & Agriculture, Department of	☒ Toxic Substances Control, Department of
☐ Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	☐ Water Resources, Department of
☐ General Services, Department of	
☐ Health Services, Department of	☐ Other: _____
☐ Housing & Community Development	☐ Other: _____
☐ Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date September 2, 2026 Ending Date October 17, 2026

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Blair, Church & Flynn Consulting Engineers, Inc.</u>	Applicant: <u>Fresno Unified School District</u>
Address: <u>451 Clovis Avenue Suite #200</u>	Address: <u>4600 N. Brawley Avenue</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Clovis, CA 93612</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Fresno, CA 93722</u>
Contact: <u>Michael Gennaro</u>	Phone: <u>(559) 457-3066</u>
Phone: <u>(559) 326-1400</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 8/3/26

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2026030919

Project Title: Calwa Elementary School Reconstruction

Lead Agency: Fresno Unified School District

Contact Name: Heidi Heltne

Email: Heidi.Heltne@fresnounified.org Phone Number: (559) 457-3066

Project Location: City of Fresno, County of Fresno
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The District proposes to implement the Calwa Elementary School Reconstruction Project (the "project") using Measure H bond funds. The existing campus buildings, constructed between 1945 and 1970, are among the oldest in the District and no longer meet current District standards or adequately serve student needs. The project would involve selective demolition and reconstruction of certain campus buildings, while other buildings would undergo interior renovation. Construction would occur in two overlapping phases while instruction remains in session. The project's purpose is to replace and renovate facilities that no longer meet current building, accessibility, and educational standards. The proposed campus reconstruction would include a new Multipurpose Room (MPR), Administration Office, and Early Learning Building, as well as interior renovations to seven existing buildings. Site improvements would include a new parking lot with a student drop-off loop in the northwest portion of the campus, a staff parking lot in the southeast, a bus drop-off loop in the south, and redeveloped play areas in the north and northeast. The project would not increase student enrollment or overall campus capacity. Instead, it would provide students and staff with equitable access to modern, energy-efficient, accessible, and safe facilities that are consistent with other recently modernized District campuses. Construction is anticipated to begin in June 2028 and end in August 2030.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Draft EIR identifies potentially significant impacts related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, paleontological resources, historical resources, noise and vibration, and transportation safety. Mitigation measures are proposed to reduce impacts associated with aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, paleontological resources, noise and vibration, and transportation safety to a less than significant level.

However, despite implementation of mitigation measures, impacts associated with demolition of the historic red brick Multipurpose Room (MPR) building along Cedar Avenue would remain significant and unavoidable. Mitigation measures would include documentation of the building prior to demolition, salvage of character-defining historic features, and development of a commemorative display; however, these measures would not avoid the loss of the historical resource. Three additional historic buildings would be renovated as part of the project, and potential impacts to these resources would be reduced to a less than significant level through project design features that preserve their historic integrity, implementation of building protection measures during construction, and worker training.

Other mitigation measures identified in the Draft EIR include pre-construction nesting bird surveys, procedures for the treatment of inadvertent discoveries of cultural, tribal cultural, and paleontological resources and human remains, air quality and visual impact reduction measures, construction noise and vibration controls, and transportation safety improvements.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Transportation safety with the City of Fresno and the County of Fresno.
Potential presence of soil contamination from hazardous materials from past land use.
The presence of hazardous building materials in existing buildings (asbestos, lead based paint)
The presence of historically significant buildings which are proposed for demolition and remodeling.
Potential impacts to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions from construction and operation of the project.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

City of Fresno
County of Fresno
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)
Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD)
Division of the State Architect (DSA)