

THE HOMER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S RESOLUTION ADOPTING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION PURSUANT TO THE NEWYORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT

WHEREAS, the Homer Central School District (the "District") acting through its Board of Education has proposed the 2013 District Wide Additions and Alterations Project (the "Project") which includes the following: (i) for the Homer Senior High School, renovate and enlarge existing gymnasium and install new roof structure, renovate existing locker rooms, add a weight room and provide new toilet rooms, as well as renovate existing art rooms, renovate certain classrooms into music rooms and add an instrumental music room, add storage rooms and a new mechanical room, renovate existing auditorium and provide fire rated enclosures where appropriate, as well as replace deteriorated metal roof decking and pursuant to the ADA (American with Disabilities Act) update existing toilet rooms, drinking fountains, signage and hand rails to make same ADA accessible, replace existing elevator and install new HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) and electrical systems, replace the hot water and storage tank as well as add emergency lights, strobes and smoke detectors, replace FACP, as well as install a District-wide phone system, install network data and security system upgrades, as well as install a new softball field, reconstruct the tennis courts, and reconfigure the bus loop adjacent to the music building addition, as well as replace damaged sidewalks and install new sidewalks; (ii) for the Homer Music Building/Bus Garage, renovate existing music rooms and the District offices as well as install new toilet rooms and kitchenette, replace roofing and damaged roof deck, reconstruct cracked walls, replace bay pit, install new HVAC and electrical systems in the renovated offices, replace outdated electrical panels and add emergency lights; (iii) for the Homer Intermediate-Junior High School, replace corridor doors, provide fire rated enclosures

where appropriate, as well as reconstruct cracked walls, and pursuant to ADA updating compliance, update existing toilet rooms, drinking fountains, signage, door hardware and stair handrails so as to meet ADA requirements, clean and paint rusted steel joists and metal decking, as well as add emergency lights, strobes and smoke detectors, replace FACP, undertake network data and security system upgrades, install new baseball field and replace damaged sidewalks; (iv) for the Homer Elementary School, replace aged and non-rated corridor doors for ADA accessibility purposes, update existing toilet rooms, as well as update drinking fountains and stair handrails, abate flooring containing regulated materials, replace deteriorated brick and steel lintels, add emergency lights, strobes and smoke detectors, replace FACP, undertake network data and security system upgrades, replace asphalt at north parking lot and alley; (v) for the Hartnett Elementary School, replace wire glazing and corridor doors, and abate flooring containing regulated materials, as well as install fire rated enclosures where appropriate and add emergency lights, strobes and smoke detectors, replace FACP as well as undertake network data system upgrade; and (vi) for the High School Press Box, replace outdated guard rail system, install ladder safety cage, add exit signs and smoke detectors and other similar upgrades and renovations to the structures and campuses referenced as well as install renovations consistent with the District's building condition survey and five year plan.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and associated regulations including 6 N.Y.C.R.R. 617.1 et seq. ("SEQRA") the District is required to undertake a review of potential environmental impacts associated with the Project;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the required SEQRA review to be undertaken for the Project, the District previously commissioned its staff and its consultants to assist the District in

preparation of the full Environmental Assessment Form (“the full EAF”) including parts 1 and 2 of that form, and on or about August 20, 2013 and thereafter, the District arranged for the service of part 1 of the full EAF on each of the involved agencies and other agencies and officials which such part 1 identified the features of the Project, and which provided notice of the District’s intent to act as lead agency under SEQRA for the Project;

WHEREAS, the District enacted a resolution concerning its intent to act as lead agency and to notify the agencies of its intention to act as lead and it did so as detailed above, the District hereby ratifies such previously enacted resolution including updating same to reflect that fact that the Project is a Type 1 Action under SEQRA;

WHEREAS, the District was installed as lead agency on or about September 20, 2013 as several involved agencies specifically consented to the District being installed as lead agency, and no involved agency objected to the District acting as lead agency;

WHEREAS, the District has considered the impact on the environment of the Project as set forth in more detail below by undertaking a thorough review of conditions and issues associated with construction and development of the Project, including by completing and reviewing the responses provided in the full Environmental Assessment Form including parts 1 and 2 (formerly referred to as “the EAF”) for the Project which responses analyzed among other impacts and potential impacts those to land, stormwater and ground water, community character, potential impacts to historic, archaeological and other resources, as well as other impacts;

WHEREAS, the District has specifically considered information from other involved agencies including the New York State Department of Education and it has considered any other comments and information provided by other agencies and the public (if any), as well as considering information provided by the District’s consultants including the District’s

engineering and architectural consultant, Hunt Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors, P.C. (“Hunt”), concerning the Project;

WHEREAS, the District resolves concerning the Project including based upon the information contained in the completed full EAF, as well as based on the other information and comments as detailed above and based upon the notice of negative declaration made herein, the District has determined that the Project will not result in any significant adverse impact to the environment for the following reasons which are set forth herein as follows:

Name of Action: **Homer Central School District’s 2013 District Wide Addition and Alterations Project**

Applicant: Direct Action by the Homer Central School District’s Board of Education

Type of Action: Type I

Description of Action:

The Project includes among actions those identified on page 1 of this resolution under the first “Whereas” clause.

Location of Action (Project Work):

The locations where the Project work will be undertaken are various and include the school campuses and other buildings associated with the Project including: (i) the Homer Central High School, 80 South West Road, Homer, New York 13077; (ii) the Homer Junior High School, 58 Clinton Street, Homer, New York 13077; (iii) the Homer Intermediate School, 58 Clinton Street, Homer, New York 13077; (iv) the Homer Elementary School, 99 Central Park Place, Homer, New York 13077; and (v) the Hartnett Elementary School, Academy Street, Truxton, New York 13158.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Upon a thorough review and due consideration by the District of the full Environmental Assessment Form including the completed answers to Parts 1 and 2 of such form and consideration of the other information as detailed above and herein, the District makes the following findings:

1. The District has considered the Project pursuant to the parameters and criteria set forth in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. §§ 617.2(b) and 617.3(g).

2. The District has classified its review and approval of the Project as a Type “I” action pursuant to 6 N.Y.C.R.R. § 617.4.

3. The District has carefully reviewed the full Environmental Assessment Form including the responses provided to parts 1 and 2 of same, as well as considering the other documents referenced previously, including, but not limited to information provided by other agencies, the public (if any) as well as provided by the District’s architect-engineer, as well as considering the criteria set forth in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. § 617.7(c). Based on the foregoing analyses and information, the District through its Board of Education has thoroughly reviewed the potential relevant areas of environmental concern and finds that the Project will not result in a potential significant adverse impact on the environment for the following reasons:

Impacts to Community Character and Land:

a) The Project will not have a significant adverse impact on land, since the locations associated with the Project including those locations where renovations of District buildings will occur are located at locations currently used for educational uses, and there will be

no change in use. Moreover, as indicated, each of the additions and alterations associated with the Project are proposed for existing school campus sites and there is no change in land use proposed, nor is any impact anticipated to the surrounding neighborhoods or setting because such buildings and campuses following implementation of the Project will continue to be operated as educational uses, including to be used for administrative purposes, traditional instructional purposes (including athletics) and support services associated with the District's operations. .

Groundwater/Storm water Impacts:

b) The Project will not have a significant potential adverse environmental impact on water, including surface (ground) water and stormwater. The Project will not affect any protected water body. Further, in undertaking the Project, the District and its contractors shall comply with applicable permit requirements set forth in New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit program as applicable to the Project sites at issue (SPDES) including as necessary the District obtaining and complying with any applicable permits for stormwater discharges from construction activities. Further, the Project will not have any impacts on federal or state wetlands. There will be no significant potential adverse impact to any non-protected water body. There will be no significant potential adverse impact to surface or groundwater quality and quantity. The Project involves the use of water from public utilities but there is no evidence demonstrating that such water usage will result in a potential significant adverse environmental impact to the existing water system. In addition, the Project will not alter drainage flow or patterns, or surface water runoff. All activities at the various sites associated with the Project shall be subject to applicable NYSDEC stormwater permitting requirements including those applicable to the Project under the SPDES program as referenced above. Appropriate erosion

measures shall be implemented as part of the SPDES program, as applicable, for construction activities.

Air Quality Impacts:

c) The Project will not result in any significant adverse impact to air quality from traffic and other operations associated with the Project including during construction of the Project, as the District finds that there will be no significant negative impacts to air quality from the Project including from construction activities.

Impacts to Plants and Animals:

d) The Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on plants or animals, based upon the Project review conducted by the District's architect-engineer including after it reviewed and analyzed pertinent information from among other sources, the Natural Heritage Foundation.

Impacts on Agricultural Resources:

e) The Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on agricultural resources, as available information reviewed by the District indicates that there are no established agricultural districts within or contiguous to any of the school campus locations associated with the Project.

Impacts of Aesthetic Resources:

f) The Project will not have a significant adverse impact on aesthetic resources. As proposed building additions and site work associated with the Project will be undertaken so as to be consistent with the current use of the property and buildings encompassed by the Project, it is not anticipated that the Project will have any adverse impact to aesthetic resources, including to the neighborhoods where Project work will be undertaken.

Impacts to Historic and Archeological Resources:

g) The Project will not result in a significant adverse impact to historic or archaeological resources. In accordance with the memorandum executed by the New York State Department of Education and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (“SHPO”) and the District through its architect-engineer, Hunt, has determined that the Project is not anticipated result in any significant negative impacts to any listed or eligible for listing historic resources, but in any event, the District will nonetheless consult with SHPO to confirm that any renovations and other work proposed that could potentially result in a significant adverse impact, and as appropriate, the District will incorporate into the Project measures that might be identified by SHPO to avoid such significant negative impacts. In addition, while the Project will be constructed adjacent to or in an area designated as a resource on the State and/or National Registry of Historic Places and in an area identified as archaeologically sensitive, Project development, construction and operating will be limited to existing structures and campuses that have been used for educational purposes for many years, and any additions (including athletic fields etc.) proposed under the Project are consistent with those previous uses, and the construction and renovations to be undertaken for the Project will be designed and implemented so as to be consistent with those previous and current uses.

Impacts on Open Space and Recreation:

h) The Project will not have a potential significant adverse impact on existing open space and recreation. For those District campus sites which will be modified or altered and continued to be used for District purposes under the Project, no potential significant

adverse impact is anticipated to open space and recreation as any which may be used by the community will still generally speaking continue to exist.

Impacts on Critical Environmental Areas:

i) The Project will not have a potential significant adverse impact on a Critical Environmental Area as designated pursuant to 6 N.Y.C.R.R. § 617.14(g) of the SEQRA regulations.

Impacts on Transportation (Traffic):

j) The Project will not have a significant adverse impact on transportation or to the existing traffic patterns and flow as any changes proposed by the Project to such patterns etc., are minimal and any such changes are designed to aid the flow of traffic including based on changes to the bus loop configuration as referenced herein.

Impacts Related to Noise and Odors:

k) The Project will not have a significant adverse impact from objectionable noise and odor. While during Project construction there will be some noise and potential odors from heavy equipment, same are not anticipated to be of any significant duration, and will be within the normal range of such noise and odor issues for construction projects of the size proposed under the Project. .

Impacts on Local Utilities:

l) For the reasons set forth in EAF Part 2, no adverse impact is expected on local utilities from the Project, including to such utilities after the Project becomes operational.

Thus, no such significant adverse impacts are anticipated based on water usage, or from sewer usage associated with the Project, including sanitary sewers and other public utilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Based on the foregoing, the District finds that the Project will not have a significant adverse environmental impact in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, Article 8 of the New York Environmental Conservation Law and, in particular, pursuant to the criteria set forth at 6 N.Y.C.R.R. § 617.7(b) of the SEQRA regulations. The District thus issues a Negative Declaration pursuant to SEQRA and directs the following be undertaken and/or makes the following additional findings.

1. A Notice of Negative Declaration shall be filed and/or published to the extent required by the SEQRA regulations, and as the District may deem advisable. The findings and conclusions relating to the determination of significance contained within the Notice of Negative Declaration are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference into this Resolution as applicable.
2. This Resolution has been prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the New York Environmental Conservation Act by the Homer Central School District Board of Education, with offices located at 80 South West Rd, Homer N.Y.13077
3. The Homer Central School District Superintendent is authorized to file the negative declaration in accordance with the applicable provisions of the law.
4. The requirements of SEQRA have been satisfied.

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Aye _____ Nay _____ Absent _____

Accepted

Dated: September ____, 2013
Homer, NY

For further information contact: Michael Falls, Director of Business and Finance, Homer Central School District at: PO Box 500 80 South West Road, Homer NY 13077; (607) 749-7241; mfalls@homercentral.org

A copy of this negative declaration resolution and notices, as well as the documents on which it is based will be kept on file with the Homer Central School District at its administrative offices located at 80 South West Road, Homer NY 13077