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

WHEREAS, the Homer Central School District (the “District”) is considering the impact on the environment in accordance with New York State Environmental Quality Review Act Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and associated regulations including and its implementing regulations 6 N.Y.C.R.R. 617.1 et. seq. (“SEQRA”) of a proposed capital improvement project, including a lease known as the Hartnett Elementary School Renovation and Expansion (hereinafter the “Project”), which is set forth in more detail in the proposal documentation located at the District administrative offices (the “Project Plan”) with the Project to be undertaken at the Hartnett Elementary School building located on Academy Street in Truxton, New York 13158 (the “Project Site”), and to include light, medium and heavy renovations, including replacement of existing surface parking and concrete courtyard area, the addition of a small green space adjacent to the re-surfaced concrete area, and the construction of a new 50 space parking lot to the north of the school building that connects with the existing parking area. The Project also includes the lease of the Hartnett Elementary School as renovated per the above to the Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the Sole Supervisory District of Onondaga, Cortland and Madison Counties (hereinafter referred to as “BOCES”) for the operation of a regional high school; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SEQRA, the District is required to undertake a review of potential environmental impacts associated with the Project;

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WHEREAS, pursuant to the required SEQRA review undertaken for the Project, the District previously enacted a resolution directing its staff and its consultants to assist the District in preparation of Part 1 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form (the “EAF”) which Part 1 identified the nature of the Project and directed them to send such Part 1, along with other information, to other involved and interested agencies in order to notify such agencies of the District’s intent to act as lead agency for the SEQRA review of the Project; and on or about August 27, 2014 and thereafter, the District arranged for the service of Part 1 of the EAF on each of the involved agencies and other agencies, and which provided notice of the District’s intent to review the Project under SEQRA and to act as the SEQRA lead agency for the Project;

WHEREAS, none of the involved agencies for the Project have objected to the District being installed as lead agency, and as the time has expired for any involved agencies to object to the District acting as lead agency, the District has now been installed as lead agency in accordance with SEQRA regulations;

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 EAF for the Project, as well as reviewing the supplemental documentation prepared for the Project, including analyses completed by the District’s engineering and architectural consultant, Hunt Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors, PC (“Hunt”) with such EAF and supplemental documentation analyzing among other impacts and potential impacts those to land, stormwater and groundwater, community character, impacts to historic, archaeological and other resources, impacts to traffic, as well as other impacts;

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WHEREAS, the District has specifically considered information from other agencies concerning potential impacts from the Project and it has considered any other comments and information provided by others including interested agencies, including comments from the Town of Truxton Town Board, as well as considering information provided by the District's consultants, including the District's engineering and architectural consultant Hunt concerning the Project;

WHEREAS, based upon the information contained in the completed EAF, the supplemental documentation and analyses prepared by Hunt, 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 hereby determines that the Project will not result in any significant adverse impact to the environment for the reasons which are set forth herein as follows:

Name of Action: **The Homer Central School District's Hartnett Elementary School Renovation and Expansion and Lease to BOCES for Operation of a High School**

Applicant: Homer Central School District

Type of Action: Unlisted

Description of Action:

The Project includes the renovation of the existing Hartnett Elementary School building as well as site work for the building and school campus located on the Project Site, including light, medium and heavy renovations, along with replacement of existing surface parking and concrete courtyard area, the addition of a small green space adjacent to the re-surfaced concrete area, and the construction of a new 50 space parking lot to the north of the school building that connects with the existing parking area. Further, the District is planning to close the elementary

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school but continue the facility's educational use through a lease agreement with BOCES for the operation of a regional high school.

Location of Action (Project Work):

The location where the Project work will be undertaken is 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 Short Environmental Assessment Form including the completed answers thereto, the consideration of various reports, and analyses prepared for the District in further support of the EAF prepared by the District's consultant, Hunt, and upon consideration of the other information as detailed above, including comments from other agencies, the District makes the following findings:

1. The District has considered the Project pursuant to the parameters and criteria set forth in applicable provisions found under 6 N.Y.C.R.R. §§ 617.2 and 617.3.
2. The District has classified its review and approval of the Project as an Unlisted Action pursuant to applicable regulations and criteria, including under SEQRA.
3. The District has carefully reviewed the EAF including the responses provided, 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 the supplemental information and analyses 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 has thoroughly reviewed the potential relevant areas of environmental concern and finds that the Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment for the following reasons:

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Impacts to Community Character and to Land:

a) The Project will not have a significant adverse impact on land, since the Project work, including renovations of Hartnett Elementary School buildings and other work at the Project Site will occur on a site that is currently used for educational uses, and there will be no change in use under the Project. Moreover, as indicated, the alterations and site work associated with the Project is proposed for the Project Site, and there is no change in land use proposed, nor is any impact anticipated to the areas surrounding the Project because such buildings and the campus following implementation of the Project will continue to be operated as educational uses, including to be used for instructional purposes and support services associated with BOCES' operation of a regional high school. Further, while the nature of the instruction and curriculum will change from that associated with providing such services for students ranging from kindergarten through Grade 6 to students ranging from Grades 9 through Grade 12, those changes will not impact the general use of the Project Site from its current use which is for education and instruction.

Groundwater/Stormwater Impacts:

b) The Project will not have a potential significant 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, contractors on behalf of the District 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 Site ("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 significant impacts

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on federal or state wetlands as it will not encroach on any such wetlands located on or in proximity to the Project Site. There will be no significant potential adverse impact to any non-protected water body. There will be no potential significant 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 impact to the existing water system. In addition, the Project will not substantially alter drainage flow or patterns, or surface water runoff. Further, the Project will use current on-site wastewater system, and no changes to such system or to any stormwater discharge conveyances on the Project Site will be needed based on the educational activities associated with the operation of the regional high school by BOCES. Further, no impacts are anticipated from any of the site work proposed, including the additional parking area to be added. Additional impervious surfaces will be added (along with an additional green space), but such additions are not anticipated to result in any significant adverse impact to site drainage, or stormwater collection or wastewater issues at the Project Site based on the current capacity of applicable structures on the Project Site and the anticipated impact from operation of the regional high school by BOCES, including based on the number of students, faculty and staff which will be located on site. Further, activities at the Project Site that relate to Project construction shall, as appropriate, be subject to applicable NYSDEC stormwater 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:

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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 detailed in the responses to the EAF and the supplemental information and analyses provided by Hunt, no significant adverse impact from any increase in traffic is anticipated which would be the primary cause of any air quality impacts at the Project Site. The operation of a regional high school by BOCES as proposed on the Project Site is expected to result in an increase in the number of students on site and in addition, given that a high school will be operated, it is anticipated there will be more vehicle trips and traffic due to some students which may drive to school. Hunt specifically analyzed the issues associated with increased student population which is anticipated from the Project and undertook an assessment of the effects of the increased number of students on site and potential additional vehicle trips associated with student drivers, and the impact of such additional trips on the level of service for roads and nearby intersections based on applicable standards and criteria. Based on Hunt's assessment, the anticipated increase in traffic (vehicle trips) associated with the operation of the high school, including from the increase in student population being served at the site and the increase associated with student drivers, such changes will not have significant adverse impacts to the level of service associated with nearby roadways and intersections which the Hunt assessment determined can well accommodate any such increases associated with the Project. Further, construction activities associated with the Project, including equipment used during construction, are not anticipated to result in any significant negative impacts to air quality.

Impacts to Plants and Animals:

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d) The Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on plants or animals, including those which may be identified as endangered or threatened based upon the Project review conducted by the District’s architect-engineer including its review and analysis of pertinent information.

Impacts on Agricultural Resources:

e) The Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on agricultural resources based upon pertinent criteria.

Impacts of Aesthetic Resources:

f) The Project will not have a significant adverse impact on aesthetic resources. Proposed building renovations and site work associated with the Project will be undertaken so as to be consistent with the current use of the Project Site and buildings encompassed by the Project and any renovations to the outside of the building will be undertaken in a manner which is consistent with the architecture of it as feasible. Further, it is not anticipated that the Project will have any adverse impact to aesthetic resources, including to the surrounding area 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. Any proposed additions and alterations completed on existing school buildings older than 50 years shall be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”) for review and approval per New York State Education Department (“NYSED”) requirements prior to construction. Construction will be undertaken so as to adhere to any such applicable regulations. Further, site additions and renovations to the building will be designed and constructed to relate to the scale and architectural character of the existing building and its

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surrounding neighborhood and setting. All proposed construction is planned to take place on an existing site and in an existing building already used by the District for educational purposes. There will not be any building additions as part of the proposed project. In addition, while the Project will be constructed in an area designated as archaeologically sensitive, the District, through its architect-engineer, will continue to consult with representatives of the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (“OPRHP”) and SHPO (which agencies review any such potential impacts and may impose conditions on the Project if they find that archeologically sensitive or historic resources will be impacted). The District shall comply with any reasonable conditions which may be formulated by SHPO or by OPRHP concerning the Project Site, including phasing the construction in order to accommodate any studies that might be deemed necessary or shifting the location of Project Site features, including parking facilities and others in the unlikely event such resources are identified and SHPO or OPRHP imposes reasonable conditions associated with same that require such measures.

Impacts on Open Space and Recreation:

h) The Project will not have a significant adverse impact on existing open space and recreation. The Project Site on which the Project work will be conducted will continue to be used for educational purposes under the Project. No potential significant adverse impact is anticipated to open space and recreation as any such open space which may be used by the community will, generally speaking, continue to exist after the Project is completed, though there will be some impervious surface area added for additional parking and green space is also proposed to be added to the Project Site. Any loss of impervious surface compared to current conditions is not expected to be significant as relates to open space in the community.

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Impacts on Critical Environmental Areas and on Public Health:

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 as no such area within the Project Site has been identified. The proposed renovations and site additions under the Project shall be completed on a site where the school facility is already located. The site has been used for educational/athletic purposes and no adverse health effects have been documented from current uses or from previous projects. No information has been identified that the Project Site is located on or in proximity to any waste sites or the subject of any previous remediation activities. As a result, the Project will not result in any adverse impact to public health.

Impacts on Transportation (Traffic):

j) The Project will not have a significant adverse impact on transportation from anticipated increases in vehicle trips. As discussed more fully in the Section on Air Impacts, which is incorporated herein by reference, the District specifically directed its consultant, Hunt, to review and analyze potential impacts from any increases in vehicle trips and traffic associated with the Project, including with the use associated with the operation of a regional high school. Hunt determined that any increases to traffic associated with the operation of the high school as proposed by the Project would not result in any significant adverse impact to transportation or traffic in the area as the Project Site (after construction) and surrounding roadways shall be able to accommodate any increases to traffic and those operations would still operate at more than an acceptable level of service. In addition, there are no curb cuts or changes to road way access needed to accommodate the Project, nor are such proposed changes contemplated by the Project plan.

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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 for construction projects of the size proposed under the Project.

Impacts on Local Utilities:

l) For the reasons set forth in the EAF, no adverse impact is expected on local utilities from the Project, including such utilities after the Project becomes operational, as among other things, current utilities on the Project Site and which serve it, including the existing well, have adequate capacity to serve the Project. Thus, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated to such utilities, including but not limited to water usage or sewer usage associated with the Project.

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

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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.

3. The Homer Central School District's Director of Business and Finance is authorized to file the Negative Declaration in accordance with the applicable provisions of the law.

4. The requirements of SEQRA have been satisfied.

HOMER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Aye _____ Nay _____ Absent _____

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Accepted

Dated: October ____, 2014
Homer, New York

For further information contact: Mr. Michael Falls, Homer Central School District Director of Business and Finance Phone: (607)749-1206 - email: mfalls@homercentral.org

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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 Offices at 80 South West Road, Homer, New York 13077; Mailing Address: PO Box 500, 80 South West Road, Homer, New York 13077