

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent of Schools

CARLOS A. TORRES
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

JENNIFER FLORES
Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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OCT 10 2019

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

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To: County Clerk and Registrar-Recorder
County of Los Angeles
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: LAUSD OEHS
333 South Beaudry Avenue
21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Project Title:

Canyon Charter Elementary School Portable Removal and Replacement Project

Project Location – Specific:

The Canyon Charter Elementary School Project (Project) will occur on the 6.8-acre Canyon Charter Elementary School campus (Canyon ES or Campus). The Campus is located at 421 Entrada Drive in the City of Santa Monica. The Campus is situated in an urban area and is surrounded by single-family residential homes.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The scope of the Project includes the removal and replacement of a temporary portable building. Specifically, the Project will remove one portable building containing two classrooms at Canyon ES. The portable building was formerly used by the US Department of Housing and Community Development (DOH) and is required to be removed due to non-compliance with current State requirements.¹ The DOH portable building will be replaced with a new portable classroom building containing two classrooms, as well as a new portable student sanitary (restroom) facility.

The Project will also include infrastructure upgrades to support the new facilities, including expanded parking at Canyon ES; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)² compliance improvements to provide access to the new facilities; and restoration of landscape, hardscape, and playground areas where the DOH portable building will be removed. The ADA compliance improvements are legal requirements mandated by the California Building Code Standard via the Division of State Architect (DSA) and include path of travel and accessibility upgrades.

¹ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 17292.

² United States Department of Justice. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Revised Regulations Implementing Title II and Title III.
https://www.ada.gov/2010_regs.htm

Doc# 719848

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*Our Mission: To ensure a safe and healthy environment for students to learn, teachers to teach, and employees to work.
Our Vision: To eliminate all environmental health and safety risks at schools.*

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The Project will be implemented per all applicable local and State regulations, as well as all District Standards and Specifications and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). LAUSD's standard conditions, guidelines, and practices are all incorporated into the Project design in order to avoid or limit potential adverse impacts associated with implementation. The beneficiaries of the Project include Canyon ES students, faculty, staff, families, school supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the Campus facilities and grounds pursuant to the Civic Center Act (CA Ed. Code Sections 38130 – 38139).

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project:

Los Angeles Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Los Angeles Unified School District

Exempt Status: (check one below)

- Ministerial [Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines Section 15268³]:
- Declared Emergency [PRC Section 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a)]:
- Emergency Project [PRC Section 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(b)(c)]:
- Categorical Exemption (PRC Section 21084; CEQA Guidelines Sections 15300 -15333):
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 – Existing Facilities*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 – Replacement or Reconstruction*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 – Accessory Structures*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15314 – Minor Additions to Schools*
- Statutory Exemption:

Reasons why project is exempt:

Section 15301 – Existing Facilities

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

The Project includes campus-wide infrastructure upgrades, ADA compliance improvements, and restoration of landscape, hardscape, and playground areas at existing campuses. Specifically, ADA improvements include accessible path of travel associated with the upgrades, and will result in a negligible physical expansion of school facilities and will not significantly increase the intensity of use or student or staff capacity. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction

Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

The Project will replace existing classrooms in a DOH portable building with new classrooms in a portable building. The new portable building will be located in generally the same site and have the same purpose and capacity as the DOH portable building being replaced. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

³ CEQA Guidelines can be found at California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 – Section 15387.

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Section 15311 Accessory Structures

Class 11 consists of construction or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities, including, but not limited to, on premise signs and small parking lots.

The campus-wide ADA compliance components of the Project include the construction or replacement of minor structures accessory to existing school facilities, as well as path of travel and accessibility upgrades. These components of the Project qualify as construction or replacement of minor structures accessory to existing school facilities. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15311.

Section 15314 Minor Additions to Schools

Class 14 consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, whichever is less. The addition of portable classrooms is included in this exemption.

The Project will replace classrooms in a DOH portable building with classrooms in a new portable building and will not increase student capacity or result in a net increase in the number of classrooms by more than 25% or ten classrooms. The new portable building will be a like-for-like replacement. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15314.

Section 15300.2 - Exceptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, Exceptions, provides conditions under which categorical exemptions are inapplicable. Review of the Project indicates that it will not violate any of the exceptions described below.

1. *The project would occur in certain specified sensitive environments or locations;*

The Project will be located on a fully developed campus. The Campus has not been designated as a sensitive or biological site and no sensitive or biological resources have been identified on the Campus that will be impacted by the Project.⁴ The Project will consist of in-kind construction to previously disturbed areas on an existing campus that is not on or within the immediate proximity of any sensitive environment. The nearest significant ecological area (SEA) consist of critical habitat designated for the Western snowy plover, located approximately 0.46 miles south of the Project site.⁵ These improvements will not require alterations, removal, destruction or any other form of impact to any sensitive or biological resources. Therefore, the Project will not have the potential to adversely impact sensitive or biological resources.

2. *Cumulative impacts would be considerable because successive projects of the same type would occur at the same place over time;*

Currently, there are no other successive projects of the same type planned at the Campus during the same construction period. There is one other known successive projects of the same type being contemplated for the Campus, which would entail the removal of seven (7) classrooms in portable buildings and two (2) kindergarten classrooms in one permanent building, and the construction of a new two-story, nine (9) classroom building. While this project is currently being contemplated, it has not yet been adopted as a project by the Board of Education per the District's Strategic Execution Plan and there is no anticipated timeline for implementation.⁶

⁴ City of Los Angeles. ZIMAS. Available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org>. Accessed August 2019.

⁵ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed August 2019.

⁶ LAUSD Facilities Services Division. 2019 Strategic Execution Plan. <https://www.laschools.org/new-site/sep/>. Accessed September 2019.

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Additionally, neither this Project nor the one being contemplated would increase the student enrollment capacity of the Campus. Therefore, no cumulative impacts will result from the Project and successive projects of the same type occurring at the same place over time.

3. *There is a reasonable possibility that the activity would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstance;*

There are no known unusual circumstances that would have a significant effect on the environment. The Project may include minor ground-disturbing activities. These activities are not considered unusual circumstances for the classes of projects under which this exemption is claimed. Nevertheless, consideration must be given to the management of pavement removal and excavated soils associated with earthwork activities for the Project. The Project involves the removal of pavement, which requires soil sampling and testing for characterization prior to removal. Excavated soils will only be reused onsite if they are placed beneath paved areas. OEHS must be notified to provide oversight of any import or export of soils and materials to ensure that these activities are conducted in compliance with the requirements of District Specification 01 4524, relevant provisions of South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1466, and other applicable environmental agency rules and requirements.⁷ Furthermore, as set forth in standard conditions (SC) SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11 of the Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects as adopted by the Board of Education in February 2019,⁸ construction activities must be stopped immediately and OEHS notified upon discovery of subsurface features, such as buried resources (i.e., paleontological resources, archaeological resources, tribal cultural resources), tanks or seepage pits, or stained/odoriferous soils.⁹ Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1.¹⁰ Therefore, the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

4. *The project may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources within a highway officially designated as a scenic highway;*

The closest designated scenic highway to the Project is the State Route 2, located approximately 22 miles northeast of Canyon ES.¹¹ This is a sufficient distance from this resource to be outside of the view shed, so the Project will not degrade the characteristics that contribute to its scenic eligibility. Therefore, the Project would not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

5. *The project is located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; or*

The Campus associated with the Project is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.¹² Therefore, the Project will not be expected to result in impacts related to being located on a hazardous waste site.

⁷ LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t

⁸ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on February 5, 2019.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm. October 9, 2009

¹² California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/index.cfm>. Accessed August 2019.

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6. *The project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.*

Canyon ES has been evaluated for eligibility under criteria for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The surveys indicated that the Campus was found ineligible for national, state, or local designation. There is an "Old Schoolhouse" building on-site that was identified as individually eligible for the NRHP and the CRHR.¹³

The Project consists of the removal and replacement of portable buildings and associated site improvements. No alterations to the "Old Schoolhouse" are a part of this Project. As such, the Project does not have the potential to cause a substantial adverse change to a historic resource.

Prepared By:

Edward Paek
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Signed by:



Carlos A. Torres,
CEQA Officer of the Los Angeles Unified School District

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Date:

9/12/19

¹³ LAUSD OEHS, 2019, "Preliminary Historical Resources Evaluation for Canyon Elementary School."

Dean C. Logan
Los Angeles County Registrar / Recorder
12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA
(800)201-8999

BUSINESS FILINGS REGISTRATION
NORWALK DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTER

Cashier: T. IBARRA



Thursday, October 10, 2019 2:14 PM

<u>Item(s)</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fee		
NoE - County Posting Fee 2019271627	1	\$75.00
Total		\$75.00
Total Documents:		1
Customer payment(s):		
Check		\$75.00
<u>Check List:</u> #54432		\$75.00