

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent of Schools

VIVIAN EKCHIAN
Deputy Superintendent

CARLOS A. TORRES
Interim Director, Environmental Health and Safety

ORIGINAL FILED

OCT 19 2018

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PLACE
"FILED"
STICKER
HERE

PLACE
"POSTED"
STICKER
HERE

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:

Castelar Elementary School Seismic Retrofit of Underground Parking

Project Location – Specific:

The Castelar Elementary School Seismic Retrofit of Underground Parking Project (Project) will be located on the Castelar Elementary School (ES) campus. The 2.58 acre site is located at 840 Yale Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. The Project will occur on the existing campus.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project entails strengthening the structural framing of the underground parking structure and replacing the corroded metal ledger to avoid failure. This Project also includes the replacement of approximately 25,000 square feet of the playground area asphalt and the required waterproofing of the garage roof deck. No increases in student enrollment, capacity, or intensity of use are proposed as part of this Project.

The Project will be implemented pursuant to all District Standards and Specifications,¹ as well as all applicable State, federal, and local regulations. The beneficiaries of the Project include Castelar ES students, faculty, staff, families, school supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the campus pursuant to the Civic Center Act (CA Ed. Code Sections 38130 - 38139).

¹ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 21st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017 • Telephone (213) 241-3199 • Fax (213) 241-6816

*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.*

PLACE
"FILED"
STICKER
HERE

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 15268²]:
- 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*
- 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 entails strengthening the structural framing of the underground parking structure and replacing the corroded metal ledger to avoid failure. This Project also includes the replacement of approximately 25,000 square feet of playground area asphalt and required waterproofing of the garage roof deck. The Project will not generate growth or require the addition or construction of new or expanded facilities. The Project will not present a new or expanded use of the parking or campus. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Section 15302 - Replacement or Reconstruction

Class 2 consists of replacing or reconstructing 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.

As previously noted, the Project entails strengthening the structural framing of the underground parking structure and replacing the corroded metal ledger to avoid failure. This Project also includes the replacement of approximately 25,000 square feet of playground area asphalt and the required waterproofing of the garage roof deck. Following the Project, the new underground parking structure and playground area will have the same purpose, function, capacity, and use as the current parking and playground. The Project is not designed to and will not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing field or campus. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land

Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

² CEQA Guidelines can be found at California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 - Section 15387.

PLACE
"FILED"
STICKER
HERE

The Project includes the replacement of approximately 25,000 square feet of asphalt in the playground area. The ground disturbance associated with this Project would be limited to the parking structure and would not involve or require the removal of any of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15304.

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 Project includes the replacement of approximately 25,000 square feet of asphalt in the playground area and the strengthening of the structural framing of the underground parking. The underground parking and playground qualify as accessory structures. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15311.

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, as described in the following section.

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

The Project will occur on an existing campus that is located within an urban setting.³ The surrounding uses are primarily commercial. The campus has not been designated as a biologically sensitive site or location and does not contain sensitive resources or habitat that will be impacted by the Project. The nearest significant ecological area (SEA) is Griffith Park which is located approximately 4.6 miles northwest of the campus.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is designated for the California gnatcatcher and is located approximately 8.25 miles southeast of the Project site.⁵ As such, the Project will not impact sensitive environments or locations.

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

The Project will not be expected to result in significant cumulative environmental impacts. As an active school campus, it is anticipated that projects such as maintenance activities or upgrades will occur on the campus in the future. However, there are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for the campus. As it stands, the Project will not result in potentially significant impacts. Therefore, no cumulative impacts will result from the Project and successive projects of the same type and at the same place over time.

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

There are no known unusual circumstances that would have a significant effect on the environment. There will be minor ground-disturbing activities associated with the required seismic upgrades and strengthening of the underground parking structure. If construction activities require import or export of soils and materials, the Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) must be notified to provide oversight to ensure that these activities are conducted in compliance with the requirements of District Specification 01 4524,⁶ relevant provisions of

³ City of Los Angeles. ZIMAS. Available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>. Accessed September 2018.

⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed September 2018.

⁵ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed September 2018.

⁶ http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t

PLACE
"FILED"
STICKER
HERE

South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1466, and other applicable environmental agency rules and requirements. Furthermore, as set forth in LAUSD's School Upgrade Program Environmental Impact Report Standard Conditions (SC) of Approval SC-CUL-13, SC-CUL-15, SC-CUL-18, and SC-TCR-1, construction activities must be stopped immediately and OEHS notified upon discovery of subsurface features, such as buried resources (i.e., paleontological, archaeological, and tribal cultural resources), tanks or seepage pits or stained/odoriferous soils.⁷

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 Project site is located approximately 12 miles southwest of State Route 2 (SR 2), the nearest officially designated State scenic highway.⁸ The Project will not be visible from SR 2. Therefore, the Project will not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway that is officially designated as a 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 Project will occur on an existing school campus which is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.⁹ Therefore, the Project will not have an impact related to being located on a hazardous waste site.

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

Castelar ES is not eligible for federal, state, or local listing under any of the applicable criteria and is therefore not considered to be a historical resource pursuant to CEQA. Therefore, the Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.

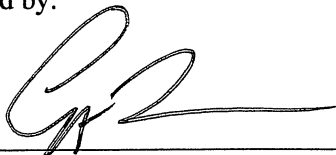
Prepared By:

Christy Wong,
Assistant CEQA Project Manager/Contract Professional

Phone and Email:

(213) 241-3394
cp-christy.wong@LAUSD.net

Signed by:



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

Date:

10/10/18

⁷ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015 and Standard Conditions of Approval.

⁸ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed September 2018.

⁹ California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/>. Accessed September 2018.