

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent of Schools

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Deputy Superintendent

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Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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:

Cheremoya Elementary School Shade Structure Project

Project Location – Specific:

The Cheremoya Elementary School Shade Structure Project (Project) will be located on the 2-acre Cheremoya Elementary School (ES) campus. Cheremoya ES is located at 6017 Franklin Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90028. The school is bounded by Beachwood Dr. to the west, Cheremoya Ave. to the east, residential to the north, and 2nd St. to the south. The surrounding area is generally comprised of residential uses. The Project will primarily occur on the play yard, which is located on the northwestern portion of the campus.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project will install a 20'x30' DSA pre-checked shade structure buildings. The scope also includes to remove and replace a chain-link fence at the perimeter entrance of the campus and provide truncated domes at the landing area. Minor asphalt work at the new gate landing area as well. 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 applicable State, federal, and local regulations and all applicable LAUSD specifications, standards, and/or guidelines, including those in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the updated Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects

Doc#

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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.*



as adopted by the Board of Education in February 2019 (SC).¹ LAUSD's SCs, design guidelines, and best management practices are designed to be incorporated into the Project design in order to avoid or limit potential adverse impacts associated with the District's projects.

The beneficiaries of this Project are the Cheremoya 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 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 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land*
- 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 will install a 20'x30' DSA pre-checked shade structure buildings. The scope also includes to remove and replace a chain-link fence at the perimeter entrance of the campus and provide truncated domes at the landing area. Minor asphalt work at the new gate landing area as well. 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 turf field or campus. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

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.

The Project will install a 20'x30' DSA pre-checked shade structure buildings. The scope also includes to remove and replace a chain-link fence at the perimeter entrance of the campus and provide truncated domes at the landing area.

¹ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on February 5, 2019.

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



Minor asphalt work at the new gate landing area as well. The Project will not remove healthy, mature, scenic trees. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15304.

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 residential. 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 1.69 miles northeast of the campus.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is designated as such for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and is located approximately 23.5 miles north of the 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. The Project will install a 20'x30' DSA pre-checked shade structure buildings. The scope also includes to remove and replace a chain-link fence at the perimeter entrance of the campus and provide truncated domes at the landing area. Minor asphalt work at the new gate landing area as well. The Project does not constitute an expansion of use. There will be minor ground-disturbing activities associated with the installation of the replacement synthetic turf. 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 South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1466, and other applicable environmental agency rules and requirements. Furthermore, as set forth in 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

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

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

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

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

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.



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 22.8 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.*

The Cheremoya Elementary School campus was

The Project will install a 20'x30' DSA pre-checked shade structure building. The scope also includes to remove and replace a chain-link fence at the perimeter entrance of the campus and provide truncated domes at the landing area. Minor asphalt work at the new gate landing area as well. While the Cheremoya Elementary School campus is not eligible as a historic district, the Main Building is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources. However, the Project will not impact historical resources because it will occur behind the eligible building and will not alter or obstruct any key views of the historical resources from the public right-of-way. The Project will occur in the recreational area, which has already been altered with new playground equipment and is visually obscured from the rear of the eligible building by landscaping and a parking lot.

Prepared By:

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Signed by:

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Date:

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

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