

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent of Schools

VIVIAN EKCHIAN
Deputy Superintendent

CARLOS A. TORRES
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:

Miguel Contreras Learning Complex Soil Mitigation and Turf Replacement Project

Project Location – Specific:

The Miguel Contreras Learning Complex Soil Mitigation and Turf Replacement Project (Project) will be located on the 19.1-acre Miguel Contreras Learning Complex (Contreras LC) campus. Contreras LC is located at 322 S. Lucas Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90017. The Project will occur in 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 as analyzed in this Notice of Exemption will entail replacing the existing synthetic turf field with new synthetic turf material and removing and replacing soil at Contreras LC. The Project will replace and install approximately 62,374 square feet of synthetic turf on the football field, 3,000 square feet of synthetic turf on the baseball field, and 67,000 square feet of synthetic rubberized track surface. The Project will also replace approximately 6,530 cubic yards of soil and upgrade the irrigation system to provide field cooling and maintenance for the new synthetic turf, upgrades to existing restrooms to improve accessibility and install ADA compliant fixtures. 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 Contreras LC students, faculty, staff, families, school supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the athletic field 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.

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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.



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*
- 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 consists of installing a new synthetic turf field and a new synthetic track on the existing Contreras LC campus. Specifically, the Project will include removing and replacing the existing synthetic turf and rubberized track on the athletic field with new synthetic turf and new rubberized track. The Project will also upgrade the irrigation system and make appropriate ADA compliance upgrades to the restroom. 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 athletic field 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 will entail removing and replacing the existing synthetic turf football field with 62,374 square feet of synthetic turf, and baseball field with 3,000 square feet of synthetic turf, as well as installing 67,000 square feet of new rubberized surface for the existing track on the Contreras LC athletic field. The Project will also upgrade the

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



irrigation system and ADA compliance upgrades to various restrooms. Following the Project, the athletic field will have the same purpose, function, capacity, and use as the current athletic field. 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 athletic 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.

The Project entails new landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with synthetic turf and a water efficient landscaping. 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 residential and 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 4.1 miles north of the Campus.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is designated as such for the coastal California gnatcatcher and is located approximately 9.3 miles southeast 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 entails removing and replacing the existing synthetic turf field with new synthetic turf, installing a new synthetic rubberized surface on the existing track, upgrading the irrigation system, and making appropriate ADA compliance upgrades to various restrooms. The Project does not constitute an expansion of use. There will be

³ City of Los Angeles. ZIMAS. Available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>. Accessed November 2018.
⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed November 2018.
⁵ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed November 2018.



minor ground-disturbing activities associated with: the removal of the existing synthetic turf and the installation of the replacement synthetic turf; removing and replacing approximately 6,530 cubic yard of soil; and irrigation improvements. The Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) will 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 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 12.2 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.*

Opened in 2006, Contreras LC does not meet the 45-year age criterion for consideration as a historic resource. Therefore, the Project does not have the potential to cause a substantial adverse change to a historic resource.

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.

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

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

PLACE
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Signed by:



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11/27/18