

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent of Schools

VIVIAN EKCHIAN
Deputy Superintendent

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Interim Director, Environmental Health and Safety

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OCT 19 2018

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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To:

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

From:

LAUSD OEHS
333 S. Beaudry Avenue
21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Project Title:

ADA Compliance, New Building, and Site Maintenance at Arroyo Seco Museum Science Magnet

Project Location – Specific:

Arroyo Seco Museum Science Magnet – 4805 Sycamore Terrace, Los Angeles, CA 90042

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The scope of the Arroyo Seco Museum Science Magnet Project (Project) includes the installation of a new portable sanitary building; construction of a new approximately 200 linear feet long and 4 feet wide accessible site ramp; installation of accessible portable ramps at three (3) existing relocatable buildings; reconfiguring of the site sewer, water, gas, power and fire alarm lines for the new facilities; and the installation of new fire alarm conduit at and/or above the ceiling at three (3) existing relocatable buildings.

The primary purpose of the Project is to provide an additional sanitary building to the Arroyo Seco Museum Science Magnet (Campus) and to provide facility improvements. The Project will be implemented per all applicable local and State regulations, as well as all District Standards and Specifications; such as those provided in LAUSD's Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) for the School Upgrade Program.¹ Additionally, the Project will be constructed per the Division of State Architect approved plans. The Project would have no impacts on the increase in student capacity and would not result in an increase in the intensity of use at the campus. The beneficiaries of the Project would include students and staffs at Arroyo Seco Museum Science Magnet and the community at large who may request access to the facilities and grounds of the school site 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

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety is dedicated to providing a safe and healthy environment for the students and employees of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

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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 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 – Accessory Structures*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15314 – Minor Additions to Schools*
- Statutory Exemption:

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

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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 the installation of accessible portable ramps at three (3) existing relocatable buildings; the reconfiguring of the site sewer, water, gas, power and fire alarm lines for the new facilities; and the installation of new fire alarm conduit at and/or above ceiling at three (3) existing relocatable buildings. The Project will not generate growth on or off campus. These minor alterations and maintenance activities to existing buildings on the campus fits within the scope and satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 154301.

Section 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made to the structure.

The Project includes the installation of a new portable sanitary building; the construction of a new accessible site ramp; installation of accessible portable ramps at three (3) relocatable buildings; reconfiguring of the site sewer, water, gas, power and fire alarm lines for the new facilities; and the installation of new fire alarm conduit at/above ceiling at three (3) existing relocatable buildings. **The Project is composed of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures with installation of small new equipment and facilities.** Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.

Section 15311 Accessory Structures

Class 11 consists of construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities.

The Project includes the installation of a new portable sanitary building; construction of a new accessible site ramp; installation of accessible portable ramps at three (3) existing relocatable buildings; reconfiguring of the site sewer, water, gas, power and fire alarm lines for the new facilities; and the installation of new fire alarm conduit at/above ceiling at three (3) existing relocatable buildings. The Project consists of the construction and placement of minor structures and accessories to existing 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 includes the addition of a new modular sanitary building to the Campus, along with other accessory additions for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and safety improvements. ~~There will be no student capacity increase or classroom additions associated with this Project.~~ Therefore, the Project satisfies 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 they would not violate any of the exceptions, as described below.

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

The Project site is a developed school site within an urbanized community.³ 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 4.2 miles northwest of the campus.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is designated for the Coastal California Gnatcatcher and is located approximately 7.8 miles southeast of the Project site. As such, the Project will not impact sensitive environments or locations.

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

As the Project is located on an active school site, there will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor projects onsite to keep the school operational. There are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for the Campus. As the Project would be considered a benefit to the local student body and the construction impacts would not result in any lasting effects once construction of the Project is complete, the Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts when considered with expected successive projects.

3. *There is a reasonable possibility that the activity would 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. No tree removal is expected for this Project. LAUSD's Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure requires anyone removing a tree on the LAUSD premise to follow the LAUSD OEHS Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure published on the LAUSD CEQA website.⁵ LAUSD policy requires the consultation with an arborist to determine if the trees are a protected native species and written approval from the school principal before any trees can be removed. If tree removal is scheduled to occur between February 1 and August 31, a nesting bird survey would be performed prior to removal activities, per standard condition (SC) of approval SC-BIO-3 of the Program EIR.⁶

The Project will include minor ground-disturbing activities. These activities are not considered unusual circumstances for the classes of projects under which an exemption is claimed. Nevertheless, consideration must be given to the management of pavement removal and excavated soils associated with earthwork activities for the Project. As the Project involves more than 50 cubic yards of excavated or graded soil, soil sampling and testing is required prior to construction activities to assess potential contamination in soil that will be exposed and disturbed during construction.

If construction or earthmoving activities require import or export of soils and materials, OEHS must be notified to provide oversight 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 As set forth in SC-CUL-13, SC-CUL-15, SC-CUL-18, and SC-CUL-19 of the Program EIR, construction activities must be stopped immediately and OEHS notified upon discovery of subsurface features, such as buried resources (i.e., paleontological resources, archaeological resources), tanks or

³ City of Los Angeles Planning Department, Zoning and Information Management System, <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, accessed September 2018.

⁴ Los Angeles County. "Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) – Existing/Adopted." Los Angeles County GIS Data Portal. November 19, 2015. Accessed September 19, 2018. <https://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2015/11/19/significant-ecological-areas-sea/>.

⁵ LAUSD CEQA, LAUSD OEHS Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure,

https://achieve.lausd.net/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/135/LAUSD_Tree_Protection.pdf, Accessed September 2018.

⁶ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

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

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seepage pits or stained/odoriferous soils.⁸ Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1 of the Program EIR.⁹ Therefore, the Project would 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 an officially designated state scenic highway;*

The Project site is not on, adjacent to, or visible from any scenic resources.¹⁰ The nearest designated state scenic highway is the Angeles Crest Highway approximately 8.5 miles north of the Project. In addition, the Project would not result in the removal of historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or other scenic resources. Therefore, the Project would not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway 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 is not located on any sites that are included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.¹¹ Therefore, the Project would have no impacts 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.*

LAUSD's historic preservation specialist determined the Arroyo Seco Museum Science Magnet campus is ineligible as a historic resource. The campus consists of multiple functional buildings with no architectural features associated with a particular style. The arrangement of the buildings appear to be dictated by the limited space of the campus and its topography, and is not based on a specific approach to educational facility planning. When it was opened in the late 1970s, the campus was part of the alternative school movement at the time. However, research did not reveal any significant association between the Campus and the development of alternative educational approaches or any other historical events or personages significant to national, state, or local history. Therefore, the Project would have no impact to a historic resource.

Prepared By:

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⁸ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Caltrans, California Scenic Highway Mapping System, http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm. Accessed September, 2018.

¹¹ http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm, accessed September 2018.

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Signed by:



Date:

10/3/18

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



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CEQA Document Sign Off Form



DOCUMENT: Notice of Exemption (NOE)
 PROJECT: Arroyo Seco Museum Magnet New Sanitary Building NOE
 ACTION: For review and approval

PREPARED BY:

Christine Lan
Assistant CEQA Project Manager / CEQA Project Manager

10/3/2018
Date

APPROVED BY:

[Signature]
CEQA Project Manager / CEQA Advisor

10/3/18
Date

[Signature]
Office of General Counsel

10-3-2018
Date

Site Assessment Manager Review SM Initial

[Signature]
Program Administrator / Environmental Health Manager

10/3/18
Date

(SUBMIT TO DIRECTOR FOR SIGNATURE)