Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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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:
Lorena Elementary School Electronic Marquee Project

Project Location – Specific:
The Lorena Elementary School Electronic Marquee Project (Project) will be located on the Los Angeles Unified School District’s (LAUSD’s or District’s) Lorena Elementary School (Lorena ES) campus. Lorena ES is located at 1015 South Lorena Street, Los Angeles, California 90023.

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 the installation of a new free-standing electronic marquee. The cabinet of the marquee will be 4 feet in height and 8 feet wide and mounted on a pedestal that is 3 feet 6 inches in height and 2 feet 8 inches wide. 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 Lorena ES students, faculty, staff, families, school supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the school pursuant to the Civic Center Act (CA Ed. Code Sections 38130 - 38139).

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project:

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Doc# 673191
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 15268]:

☐ 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 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures
  - CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 – Accessory Structures

☐ Statutory Exemption:

Reasons why project is exempt:
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 in the exterior of the structure. The numbers of structures described in this section are the maximum allowable on any legal parcel.

The Project consists of installing a new freestanding electronic marquee on the existing Lorena ES campus. 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 campus. Therefore, the Project fulfills 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 consists of installing a new freestanding electronic marquee on the existing Lorena ES campus. The Project will place a minor structure accessory to an existing institutional facility. Therefore, the Project fulfills 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.

I. 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. The surrounding uses are residential and commercial. The campus has not been designated as a biologically sensitive site or location and

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


Doc# 673191
6. The project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.

Lorena ES is over 45 years old, meeting LAUSD's threshold for review as a potential historic resource and requiring evaluation for historic eligibility. LAUSD has identified Lorena ES as eligible for listing as a historic resource per Section 18955 of the California State Historical Building Code (CHBC).10

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(3), a project that conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Secretary's Standards) is generally considered to be a project that will not cause a significant adverse impact. (14 CCR Section 15126.4(b)(1)). If a project meets the Secretary's Standards, the project can, in most cases, be considered categorically exempt from CEQA (14 CCR Section 15331) and qualify for a Notice of Exemption.

Secretary's Standards conformance review was completed by OEHS's Historic Preservation Specialist for Lorena ES to ensure compliance with applicable guidelines (the Secretary's Standards and Los Angeles Unified School District Design Guidelines and Treatment Approaches for Historic Schools). The Project will conform to the Secretary's Standards at Lorena ES.11 As the work at the school shall conform with the Secretary's Standards and the LAUSD Design Guidelines, OEHS' Historical Preservation Specialist has determined that the Project meets the requirements specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(3) and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.

Should the scope of the Project activities be altered from the components that are described above, standard District procedure requires that OEHS must be notified immediately to ensure that these activities are conducted in compliance with the Secretary's Standards and would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Therefore, OEHS has determined that the Project will not be expected to materially impair the significance of the historic resource and therefore will not be expected to cause a substantial adverse historic impact.

Prepared By:

Christy Wong
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Signed by:  

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

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Date: 2/20/2019

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