

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

MICHELLE KING
Superintendent of Schools

THELMA MELÉNDEZ, PH.D.
Chief Executive Officer, Office of Educational Services

ROBERT LAUGHTON
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

CARLOS A. TORRES
Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION ORIGINAL FILED

FEB 26 2018

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:

Mendez High School Wellness Center Project

Project Location – Specific:

The Mendez High School Wellness Center Project (Project) will be located on the 2.6-acre Mendez High School campus, located at 1200 Plaza Del Sol East in the Boyle Heights community in the City of Los Angeles, CA. The campus is bound by Plaza Del Sol East to the north; Gabriel Garcia Marquez Street to the east; East 1st Street to the south, and North Mission Road to the west. The Project will occur in the southeastern portion of the campus along East 1st Street.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project entails construction of a new wellness center on the southeastern portion of the campus along East 1st Street. The approximately 6,000 square-foot (sq ft), one-story, permanent building will be located on a site currently occupied by existing outdoor basketball courts and a fire lane. The Project will also include reconfiguration and restriping of the basketball courts, construction of a parking lot, as well as landscape and hardscape improvements to complement the new wellness center. The fire lane would still be accessible across the reconfigured basketball courts.

The Project is designed to provide health care access for students, their families, and the community. Specifically, the Project will provide free and low-cost comprehensive medical, dental, and mental health services. Construction of the Project will be complete within approximately 18 months of design approval.

The Project will be constructed per Division of State Architect approved design specifications. The Project will be implemented per all applicable local and State regulations, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as all

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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.

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District Standards and Specifications; such as those provided in LAUSD's Program Environmental Impact Report for the School Upgrade Program (Program EIR),¹ which was completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Project will not cause an increase in student capacity or enrollment. The beneficiaries of this Project include the District's students and staff as well as families, school supporters and the community at large who may be served by the wellness center.

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 15314 – Minor Addition to Schools*
- 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 construction of a new wellness center. The approximately 6,000 square-foot (sq ft), one-story, permanent building will be located on a site currently occupied by existing outdoor basketball courts and a fire lane. The Project will also include reconfiguration and restriping of the basketball courts, construction of a parking lot, as well as landscape and hardscape improvements to complement the new wellness center. The Project will not require or result in the growth of enrollment or capacity of the student population or campus. The expansion of use resulting from the Project would be negligible in comparison to the services currently being provided onsite. The Project will be constructed completely within the boundaries of the existing campus and will not require or result in the expansion of use beyond the campus. The Project will be constructed in an underutilized area on the existing campus. The remaining campus will not be adversely impacted or altered as a result of the Project. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Section 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

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

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

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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.

As previously noted, the Project entails constructing one new 6,000 sq ft building, creation of a new parking lot, and new landscape and hardscape features. The new building will require installation and connection of new utilities to the existing facilities for the campus. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.

Section 15314 – Minor Addition 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 entails construction of a new 6,000 sq ft building and improvements to a portion of an existing campus. The Project is not designed to increase the student enrollment or capacity and does not include the addition of any new classrooms. 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 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-residential setting. The surrounding uses are primarily residential with single and multi-family homes, commercial uses, and some light industrial uses.³ The Metro Gold Line runs along the southern boundary of the campus. The campus and the surrounding area have not been designated as a biologically sensitive site or location and do not contain sensitive resources or habitat that will be impacted by the Project.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is designated as such for the Coastal California Gnatcatcher and is located 0.73 miles east of the campus.⁵ As such, the Project will not have the potential to impact any 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 is not expected to result in significant cumulative environmental impacts. There are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for the campus, aside from routine general maintenance. As it stands, the Project is not expected to result in significant impacts. Therefore, no cumulative impacts will result from the Project and successive projects of the same type occurring at the same place over time.

³ City of Los Angeles. ZIMAS. Available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>. Accessed June 2017.

⁴ US Fish and Wildlife Service. FWS Maps. Available at: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/location/index>. Accessed June 2017.

⁵ Ibid.



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 associated with the Project that will have a significant effect on the environment. The Project will require minor ground disturbance and soil excavation associated with construction of the new building, installation of utility lines, and replacing asphalt. Therefore, consideration must be given to the management of excavated soil. Construction or earthmoving activities that require import or export of soils and materials will require oversight by LAUSD's Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) to ensure that these activities are conducted in compliance with the requirements of District Specification 01 4524 and the applicable environmental agency rules and requirements.⁶ LAUSD will prepare a Preliminary Environmental Assessment-Equivalent (PEA-E) and complete soil sampling for chemicals of potential concern, including: lead, arsenic, and organochlorine pesticides (OCPs). If necessary, soil will be remediated.

LAUSD will ensure that all construction related activities comply with the applicable LAUSD Standard Conditions of Approval which include but are not limited to:⁷ SC-USS-1, which requires that any construction waste will be recycled to the maximum extent feasible.⁸ Furthermore, 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 seepage pits or stained/odoriferous soils.⁹ Therefore, no reasonable possibility exists that the Project will 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 a highway officially designated as a scenic highway;*

The Mendez HS campus is located more than 11.3 miles south of State Route 2 (SR 2), an officially designated State scenic highway.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ 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.*

⁶ LAUSD. District Specification 01 4524 Reference. Available at: http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=f

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

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

⁹ LAUSD. 2015. School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report, <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>. Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

¹⁰ California Department of Transportation. California Scenic Highway Mapping System. Available at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm. Accessed June 2017.

¹¹ California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/>. Accessed June 2017.

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Originally opened in 2009, Mendez HS does not meet the age criteria for evaluation as an historic resource pursuant to CEQA. Therefore, the Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource and no further study is required.


Prepared By:

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Signed by:

 for R. Laughton

Date:

6/29/17

Robert Laughton
CEQA Officer of the Los Angeles Unified School District

Dean C. Logan
Los Angeles County Registrar / Recorder
12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA
(800)201-8999

BUSINESS FILINGS REGISTRATION
NORWALK DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTER

Cashier: L. MCCOY



Monday, February 26, 2018 3:03 PM

<u>Item(s)</u>	<u>qty</u>	<u>Total</u>
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NOE - County Posting Fee	1	\$75.00
2018047645		
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NOE - County Posting Fee	1	\$75.00
2018047647		
NOE - County Posting Fee	1	\$75.00
2018047648		

Total \$300.00

Total Documents: 4

Customer payment(s):

Check \$300.00

Check List:

#53622	\$75.00
#53623	\$75.00
#53624	\$75.00
#53606	\$75.00