

# Los Angeles Unified School District

## Office of Environmental Health and Safety

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### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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ORIGINAL FILED

APR 12 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 S. Beaudry Avenue  
21st Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

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#### Project Title:

Shade Structure Installations at 24<sup>th</sup> Street Early Education Center, Fair Avenue Early Education Center, Telfair Avenue Early Education Center, and Chase Early Education Center

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#### Project Location – Specific:

24<sup>th</sup> Street Early Education Center – 2101 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018  
Fair Avenue Early Education Center – 11300 Kittridge Street, North Hollywood, CA 91606  
Telfair Avenue Early Education Center – 10905 Telfair Avenue, Pacoima, CA 91331  
Chase Early Education Center – 8635 Colbath Avenue, Panorama City, CA 91402

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#### Project Location – City:

Various (see above)

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#### Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

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#### Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project (Project) entails the installation of new shade structures at 24<sup>th</sup> Street Early Education Center (EEC), Fair Avenue EEC, Telfair Avenue EEC, and Chase EEC (Campuses). The shade structures would be located on portions of the existing Campuses to provide shade for students in playground and/or lunch areas.

No increases in enrollment, capacity, or intensity of use are proposed as part of this Project. 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 for the School Upgrade Program (Program EIR).<sup>1</sup> The Project will be constructed per Division of the State Architect (DSA) approved plans. The beneficiaries of the Project

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<sup>1</sup> 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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include students and staff at the schools and the community at large who may request access to the school 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 15268<sup>2</sup>]:
- 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 installation of new shade structures constitute minor alterations of existing facilities at the Campuses. The Project involves no expansion in the use of these facilities at this time. Therefore, the Project constitutes minor exterior alterations to existing school sites that result in no expansion of use and fulfills the requirements for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption.

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 exterior of the structure.

The installation of the new shade structures at the Campuses constitute the construction of new, small structures. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements for a Class 3 Categorical Exemption.

Section 15314 – Minor Addition to Schools

Class 14 consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the additions 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.

<sup>2</sup> CEQA Guidelines can be found at California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 – Section 15387

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The Project entails installation of new shade structures at the Campuses. The Project is not designed to increase student enrollment or capacity and does not include the addition of any new classrooms. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements for a Class 14 Categorical Exemption.

**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.

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

The Project will be located on existing school sites. The existing schools are all fully developed and are situated within urbanized communities.<sup>3</sup> The Project sites have not been designated as biologically sensitive sites or locations. The tables below show the distances of the Project sites to the nearest sensitive environments and critical habitats. The nearest Significant Ecological Area (SEA) to the Campuses is the Tujunga Valley/Hansen Dam SEA, located 1.5 miles East of Telfair Avenue EEC.<sup>4</sup> The nearest critical habitat is for the Southwestern willow flycatcher, located 2.2 miles East of Telfair Avenue EEC.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, the Project would not result in the development on or removal of any biologically sensitive uses.

**Distance of Each School to the Nearest Sensitive Environment<sup>6</sup>**

School	Distance to the Nearest Sensitive Environment	Description of Sensitive Environment
Telfair Avenue EEC	1.5 miles	Tujunga Valley/Hansen Dam SEA
Fair Avenue EEC	2.5 miles	Verdugo Mountains SEA
Chase EEC	4.6 miles	Verdugo Mountains SEA
24 <sup>th</sup> Street EEC	5.2 miles	Griffith Park SEA

**Distance of Each School to the Nearest Critical Habitat<sup>7</sup>**

School	Distance to the Nearest Critical Habitat	Description of Critical Habitat
Telfair Avenue EEC	2.2 miles	Southwestern willow flycatcher
Fair Avenue EEC	4.8 miles	Southwestern willow flycatcher
Chase EEC	3.8 miles	Southwestern willow flycatcher
24 <sup>th</sup> Street EEC	11.5 miles	Western snowy plover

<sup>3</sup> City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, <http://zimas.lacity.org>, accessed March 2018.  
<sup>4</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, [http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3\\_Public/Viewer.html](http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html), accessed March 2018.  
<sup>5</sup> United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1>, accessed March 2018.  
<sup>6</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, [http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3\\_Public/Viewer.html](http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html), accessed March 2018.  
<sup>7</sup> United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?useExisting=1>, accessed March 2018.



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

Currently, there are no other planned construction projects of the same type or nature for any of the Campuses included herein. Therefore, no cumulative impacts would occur as a result of the Project.

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; however, there will be minor ground-disturbing activities associated with digging footings for the columns for the shade structures. 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 the removal of pavement, soil sampling and testing for characterization is required prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. Excavated soils will only be reused onsite if they are placed beneath paved areas. If construction or earthmoving 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, relevant provisions of South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1466, and other applicable environmental agency rules and requirements.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, as set forth in standard conditions of approval 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.<sup>9</sup> Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per standard condition of approval SC-USS-1 of the Program EIR.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

If the Project scope changes to include the removal of trees, LAUSD's OEHS must be notified immediately. District policy requires consultation with an arborist to determine if the trees are a protected native species. Additionally, written approval from the school principal will be required 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 of approval SC-BIO-3 of the Program EIR.<sup>11</sup>

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;*

There are no officially designated State scenic highways within the vicinity of any of the Campuses included in this Project's scope. The nearest State scenic highway is State Route 2 (SR2), which is located more than 11 miles away from the nearest campus.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, the Project would not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

<sup>8</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing," [http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file\\_id=219798234&show\\_all\\_versions\\_p=t](http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t)

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

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, [http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3\\_Public/Viewer.html](http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html), accessed March 2018.

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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 sites that are included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.<sup>13</sup> 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.*

The Project entails the installation of free-standing shade structures that are removable and are not connected to any permanent structures. Telfair Avenue EEC and Chase EEC do not meet the 45-year age criterion for consideration as a historic resource.

Fair Avenue EEC and 24<sup>th</sup> Street EEC meet the 45-year age criterion and were individually surveyed by LAUSD's Historical Preservation Specialist in 2018. Neither Campuses was found eligible for listing in the California Register and are therefore not considered a historical resource pursuant to CEQA.<sup>14</sup> The Campuses and their buildings do not meet the standards described in the Los Angeles Unified School District Historic Context Statement, 1870-1969 for eligibility under any applicable criteria related to LAUSD, nor do they represent an outstanding or distinctive example of architectural design or the work of a master architect. Research conducted to date did not reveal that the Campuses were the site of a significant event or pattern of development or that the Campuses were associated with a person of significance in the community, state, or nation. Therefore the Project does not have the potential to impact historical resources.

Prepared By:

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Signed by:



Robert Laughton,  
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Date:



<sup>13</sup> [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/Calsites/Coretese\\_List.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/Calsites/Coretese_List.cfm), accessed March 2018.

<sup>14</sup> LAUSD. 2018. Historic Resources Inventory. Los Angeles, CA.