

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

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Interim Superintendent of Schools

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

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Chief Executive Officer
District Operations and Digital Innovation

APR 12 2018

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Director, Environmental Health and Safety

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Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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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 South Beaudry Avenue
21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Project Title:

Mid City's Prescott School of Enriched Sciences – Shade Structure Project

Project Location – Specific:

Mid City's Prescott School of Enriched Sciences Shade Structures project (Project) will be located on the 3.3-acre Mid City's Prescott School of Enriched Sciences (SES) campus (Campus). Mid City's Prescott SES is located at 3100 West Adams Boulevard in the City of Los Angeles and is bound by West Adams Boulevard to the north, Arlington Avenue to the east, Math and Science College Preparatory School to the west, and single-family and multi-family residential properties to south.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project consists of installing one new 1,200-square foot and one new 640-square foot shade structure adjacent to the existing lunch shelter; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant path of travel (POT) upgrades; and replacing an existing, non-compliant drinking fountain with an ADA accessible drinking fountain.

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 21st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017 • Telephone (213) 241-3199 • Fax (213) 241-6816

*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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The Project will be implemented per all applicable local and State regulations, current ADA accessibility standards,¹ 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).² The Project will be constructed per Division of State Architect approved plans. The Project would not cause an increase in student capacity or enrollment and would not result in an increase in the intensity of use of the Campus. The beneficiaries of the Project include students and staff at Mid City's Prescott SES and the community at large who may request access to the school's 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 15268³]:
- 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:

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 the new shade structures in the Campus playground area, ADA compliant POT improvements, and the installation of an accessible drinking fountain constitute minor alterations of the existing facilities at the Campus. The Project will be installed completely within the boundaries of the existing Campus and will not require or result in the expansion of use beyond the existing Campus. In addition, the project will not require or result in an increase in student capacity or enrollment. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption.

¹ US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, "2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design", https://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm.

² LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

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

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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 two new shade structures (1,200-square feet and 640-square feet) constitute construction of new, small structures. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements for a Class 3 Categorical Exemption.

Section 15311 Accessory Structures

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

The installation of two new shade structures (1,200-square feet and 640-square feet) constitute construction of minor structures accessory to existing institutional 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 installation of the new shade structures in the Campus playground area will be completely within the boundaries of the existing Campus and will not require or result in the expansion of use beyond the existing Campus or increase in original student capacity. Therefore, the Project fulfills 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 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 would be located on the existing Campus. The Campus is fully developed and situated within an urban community.⁴ The Project site has not been designated as a biologically sensitive location. The nearest biologically sensitive location is for the western snowy plover and is approximately 9.3 miles southwest of the Campus. The nearest sensitive environment to the Project site is the Griffith Park Significant Ecological Area (SEA), located approximately 5.5 miles north of the Campus.^{5,6} Therefore, 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;*

⁴ City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, accessed March 2018.

⁵ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed March 2018.

⁶ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed March 2018.

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Currently, there are no successive projects of the same type planned for the Campus. Therefore, the Project, when considered with successive projects, would not result in considerable cumulative impacts.

3. *There is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances;*

The Project will result in minor ground-disturbing activities and asphalt removal associated with the installation of steel support columns and concrete footings for the new shade structures and POT improvements. 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 asphalt removal and excavated soils associated with earthwork activities. As the Project involves the removal of asphalt, soil sampling and testing for characterization is required prior to demolition and removal of asphalt. 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 4524,⁷ relevant provisions of South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1466, and other applicable environmental agency rules and requirements. Furthermore, as set forth in standard conditions of approval (SC) 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.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.

If the Project scope changes to include the removal of trees, LAUSD's Office of Environmental Health & Safety (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 (SC) of approval SC-BIO-3 of the Program Environmental Impact Report for the School Upgrade Program (Program EIR).¹⁰

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;*

Mid City's Prescott SES is located approximately 15.2 miles southwest of State Route 2 (SR 2), the nearest officially designated State scenic highway.¹¹ The Campus is not visible from and does not provide views to SR2. Therefore, the Project will not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway that is officially designated as a State 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*

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

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 *Ibid.*

¹¹ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed March 2018.

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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.¹² 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.*
Mid City's Prescott SES was opened in 1945 and therefore meets the 45-year age criterion for consideration as a historic resource. The Project includes the expansion of an existing shade shelter and the installation of a new shade structure. No permanent development or alterations to the existing Campus are a part of this Project. A Historic Resources survey was conducted by LAUSD's Historical Preservation Specialist for Mid City's Prescott SES in 2018 and found that the school is not eligible for listing in the California Register and is therefore not considered a historical resource pursuant to CEQA¹³. The Campus 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 Campus was the site of a significant event or pattern of development or that the Campus was associated with a person of significance to the state or nation. Therefore, the Project does not have the potential to cause a substantial adverse change in a historic resource.

Prepared By:

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Signed by:



Robert Laughton
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Date:

4/5/18

¹² http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm, accessed March 2018.

¹³ LAUSD. 2018. Historic Resources Inventory. Los Angeles, CA.