

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

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Superintendent of Schools

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ORIGINAL FILED

JUL 05 2019

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

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Director, Environmental Health and Safety

JENNIFER FLORES
Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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JUL 05 2019

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK



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:

Southern California Gas Company Facility Use at Oso Avenue Elementary School

Project Location – Specific:

The Southern California Gas Company Facility Use at Oso Avenue Elementary School Project (Project) will be located on the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD's or District's) Oso Avenue Elementary School (Oso ES) campus. Oso ES is located at 5724 Oso Avenue in the neighborhood of Woodland Hills, California 91364.

Project Location – City:

City of 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 temporary storage and access of utility equipment by Southern California Gas Company on the District's Oso ES campus. Oso ES is not an active school campus. The current condition of Oso ES is a paved lot. All buildings on the site were previously removed by the District as part of a separate and unrelated effort. The Project includes the temporary installation of one mobile office, one storage container, four portable restrooms, and one generator. The mobile office shall not exceed 32 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 8 feet tall. The storage container shall not exceed 40 feet long and 8 feet wide. The portable restrooms shall not exceed 47 inches long, 43 inches wide, and 90 inches tall. The generator shall not exceed 32 inches wide, 72 inches long, and 50 inches tall.

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project:

Los Angeles Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Doc# 674909

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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Exempt Status: (check one below)

- Ministerial [Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines Section 15268¹]:
- 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 the temporary storage and access of one mobile office, one storage container, four portable restrooms, and one generator on the vacant Oso ES campus. The Project will not generate growth or require the addition or construction of new or expanded facilities. 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 the temporary storage and access of one mobile office, one storage container, four portable restrooms, and one generator on the existing Oso ES campus. The Project will place temporary use items and the placement of minor structures for facilities use. 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.

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

The Project will occur on an existing vacant campus that is located within an urban setting.² The surrounding uses are residential and commercial. 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 the Santa Monica Mountains which is located approximately 2.43 miles south of the

¹ CEQA Guidelines can be found at California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 - Section 15387.

² City of Los Angeles. ZIMAS. Available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>. Accessed February 2019.



Campus.³ However, the site is paved and gated and does not contain suitable habitat for use by wildlife. The nearest critical habitat is designated for the California red-legged frog and is located approximately 5.27 miles east of the site.⁴ As such, 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;*

The Project will not be expected to result in significant cumulative environmental impacts. As previously noted, Oso ES is not an active school campus, however, it is anticipated that infrequent maintenance activities will occur on the campus in the future. However, there are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for the campus. As it stands, the Project will not result in potentially significant impacts. Therefore, no cumulative impacts will result from the Project and successive projects of the same type and at the same place over time.

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 that would have a significant effect on the environment. The removal of trees is not anticipated as part of the proposed scope of work. However, should the Project be altered 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 District designated parties 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 Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects as adopted by the Board of Education in February 2019.⁵

Minor ground-disturbing activity is not anticipated as part of the proposed scope of work. However, should the Project be altered to include the removal of pavement, soil sampling and testing for characterization is required prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. 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. 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.⁶ Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11, 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.⁷ Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to

³ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed February 2019.
⁴ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed February 2019.
⁵ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on February 5, 2019.
⁶ LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t
⁷ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on February 5, 2019.

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the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1.⁸ 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 a highway officially designated as a scenic highway;*

The Project site is located approximately 22.56 miles southwest of State Route 2 (SR 2), the nearest officially designated State scenic highway.⁹ The Project is temporary and 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 a vacant school campus, which is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.¹⁰ 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.*

LAUSD's historic preservation specialist determined the Oso ES campus is ineligible as a historic resource.¹¹ The campus does not contain functional buildings, thus, no architectural features are associated with a particular style. 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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Signed by:



Date:

3/7/2019

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

⁸ *Ibid.*
⁹ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html. Accessed February 2019.
¹⁰ California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/>. Accessed February 2019.