

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent of Schools

CARLOS A. TORRES
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

JENNIFER FLORES
Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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ORIGINAL FILED
OCT 04 2019
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 OELC
333 South Beaudry Avenue
21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Project Title:

Torres High School Shade Shelter Project

Project Location – Specific:

The Torres High School Shade Shelter Project (Project) will be located on the 11.24-acre Torres High School (HS) campus (Campus). Torres HS is located at 4211 Dozier St, Los Angeles, CA 90063. The school is bounded by Brannick Avenue to the west, to Eastern Avenue and Mariana Avenue to the east, Hammel Street to the north, and Dozier Street and Cesar Chavez Avenue to the south. The surrounding area is generally comprised of residential land uses and some commercial. The Project will primarily be located near the school's outdoor theater venue.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

This Project involves the construction of three shade canopies and accessibility upgrades. The Project will not result in an increase in the student enrollment or require an alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing facilities or Campus.

The Project will be implemented pursuant to all applicable State, federal, and local regulations and all applicable LAUSD specifications, standards, and/or guidelines, including those in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the updated Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects (SC)¹ as adopted by the Board of Education in February 2019. LAUSD's SCs, design guidelines, and best management

¹ LAUSD OELC, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on February 5, 2019.

Doc# 723250

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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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practices are designed to be incorporated into the Project design in order to avoid or limit potential adverse impacts associated with the District's projects.

The beneficiaries of this Project are the Torres HS students, faculty, staff, families, school supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the Campus 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 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 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land*
- 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.

This Project involves the construction of three shade canopies and accessibility upgrades. 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 15301.

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.

This Project involves the construction of three shade canopies and accessibility upgrades that qualify as new small structures. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.

Section 15311 – Accessory Structures

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

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Class 11 consists of construction or replacement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities, including, but not limited to, on-premise signs and small parking lots.

The Project involves the construction of three shade canopies and accessibility upgrades that qualify as new accessory structures. Therefore, the Project satisfies 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 campus that is located within an urban setting.³ The surrounding uses are primarily residential. 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 Puente Hills, which is located approximately 4.23 miles southeast of the Campus.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is designated as such for the Coastal California gnatcatcher and is located approximately 4.23 miles southeast of the site.⁵ 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 an active school campus, it is anticipated that projects such as maintenance activities or upgrades 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. There will be minor ground-disturbing activities associated with the installation of three new shade canopies and other Project components. 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. The Project involves the removal of asphalt and/or pavement, which requires soil sampling and testing for characterization prior to removal. Excavated soils will only be reused onsite if they are placed beneath paved areas. Prior to any 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

³ City of Los Angeles. ZIMAS. Available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>. Accessed August 2019.

⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed August 2019.

⁵ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed August 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

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Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11 of the Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects as adopted by the Board of Education in February 2019,⁷ and in District protocols, 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-1.⁹ Therefore, the Project will 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 12.4 miles south of State Route 2 (SR 2), the nearest 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.*

Opened in 2005, Torres HS does not meet the 45-year age criterion for consideration as a historic resource. Therefore, the Project does not have the potential to cause a substantial adverse change to a historic resource

⁷ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on February 5, 2019.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed August 2019.

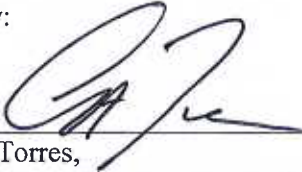
¹¹ California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/>. Accessed August 2019.

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Prepared By:

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Signed by:



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Date:

9/24/2019