

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

ALBERTO M. CARVALHO
Superintendent of Schools

**ORIGINAL FILED WITH THE LOS ANGELES
COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY
CLERK, 9/5/2023, Filing #: 2023194712**

CARLOS A. TORRES
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

JENNIFER FLORES
Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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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

Project Title:

Sylvan Park Elementary School New Shade Structure

Project Location – Specific:

The Sylvan Park Elementary School New Shade Structure project (Project) will be located on the 6.41-acre Sylvan Park Elementary School campus (Sylvan Park ES or Campus), located at 6238 Noble Avenue in the Van Nuys neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles. The Campus is bound by single family residences to the north, Lemona Avenue to the east, Delano Street to the south, and Noble Avenue to the west.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project consists of the installation of a new, freestanding shade structure and minor site work to comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The approximately 1,485-square-foot fabric shade structure (55 feet by 27 feet) will be located at the existing playground in the middle of the Campus and secured by concrete footings. The Project will include minor site work to provide ADA access to the structure, as well as ADA improvements to the existing parking lot located southwest corner of the Campus such as a new 3-foot-high accessible gate, restriping of existing parking stalls and access aisles, and a new parking sign. The Project scope of work will also include minor upgrades to fire emergency apparatus on existing buildings on-site.

The purpose of the Project is to install a new shade structure on unshaded portions of the existing playground located in the middle of the Campus. The Project protects beneficiaries such as students, faculty, staff, and community at large provided access to the Campus pursuant to the Civic Center Act (CA Ed. Code Section 38130-38139) from potential adverse effects of exposure to heat and direct sunlight.

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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Implementation of the Project is subject to the Division of the State Architect’s oversight and will require compliance with Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (California Building Standards Code). Approval of the Project will require that the Project plans and design incorporate the LAUSD Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvement Projects (Standard Conditions; SCs), which are uniformly applied development standards and District Standards and Technical Specifications, design guidelines, and best management practices to avoid or limit potential adverse impacts.¹

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 Minor Alterations*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 – Accessory Structures*
- ☐ 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 consists of the installation of a new, freestanding shade structure and minor site work to comply with the ADA. 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 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 in the exterior of the structure.

¹ Design Standards and Technical Specifications, LAUSD Facilities Services Division, <https://www.lausd.org/Page/18996>, accessed July 14, 2023

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

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The Project consists of the installation of a new, freestanding shade structure and minor site work to comply with the ADA. The shade structure qualifies as a new, small facilities or structures. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.

Section 15311 – Accessory Structures

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 consists of the installation of a new, freestanding shade structure and minor site work to comply with the ADA. These structures are minor accessories to an existing school campus. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15311.

Section 15300.2 – Exceptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines (Exceptions), identifies the conditions under which categorical exemptions Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are not applicable to the Project. None of the exceptions described in the CEQA Guidelines apply to the Project’s categorical exemptions.

1. *The project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*

The Project site is located at 6238 Noble Avenue, a 6.41-acre site occupied by the Sylvan Park Elementary School campus in Van Nuys, a neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles. The Project site is within an urban area and adjacent to urbanized uses and structures including industrial to the south, Delano Park to the southeast, and residential on all other directions.³ The Project site contains no designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern. Therefore, the Project is consistent with Classes 1, 3, and 11 categorical exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.

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

The Project site is in an existing elementary school site with an enrollment of 680 students in the 2022-2023 school year. The proposed Project is consistent with the operational scale customary to maintaining existing school operations including playground activities and parking for disabled persons. No other known potential developments include the Project site. Therefore, the Project is consistent with Classes 1, 3, and 11 categorical exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.

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

³ SCAG Land Use Database updated Feb 2021, SCAG,
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=3b27b21e9aa64e4a8200d0385ccfe3ac>, accessed July 14, 2023

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The Project consists of the installation of a new, freestanding shade structure and minor site work to comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and appurtenances for fire emergency purposes on existing buildings and paved areas of the Campus. Implementation of the Project will not include ground-disturbing activities or handling of hazardous materials and waste and the proposed activities are consistent with the operational scale customary to maintaining existing school operations including playground activities and parking for disabled persons. Therefore, the Project is consistent with Classes 1, 3, and 11 categorical exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.

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 state scenic highway;*

The Project is not located on or adjacent to any highway and is within an urban area. The Project site is not within any eligible or existing state scenic highway identified by the California Department of Transportation, City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, and the Department of Federal Highway Administration.⁴ Therefore, the Project is consistent with Classes 1, 3, and 11 categorical exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.

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 Sylvan Park Elementary School Campus is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (“Cortese List”), which is maintained by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).⁵ The Project site does not contain, or handle materials and wastes regulated by the CalEPA and US Environmental Protection Agency. Therefore, the Project is consistent with Classes 1, 3, and 11 categorical exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.

6. *The project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.*

Sylvan Park ES is over 45 years old, meeting LAUSD’s threshold for review as a potential historic resource and requiring evaluation for historic eligibility. The District’s Historic Preservation Specialist determined that Sylvan Park ES is ineligible as a historic resource. The school’s Main Building (1948) is all that remains of the early campus. The remaining buildings on the campus were built in 1957 or later. The Campus does not reflect school development history and the buildings are not excellent examples of a particular style or type. Therefore, the Project is consistent with Classes 1, 3, and 11 categorical exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.

4 Scenic Highway, California Department of transportation, <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>, accessed July 14, 2023

5 Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese), CalEPA Department of Toxic and Substances, https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search?cmd=search&reporttype=CORTESE&site_type=CSITES,FUDS&status=ACT,BKLG,C&reporttitle=HAZARDOUS+WASTE+AND+SUBSTANCES+SITE+LIST+%28CORTESE%29, accessed July 14, 2023

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Prepared By:

Phone and Email:

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Signed by:

Date:



Jul 26, 2023

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