

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

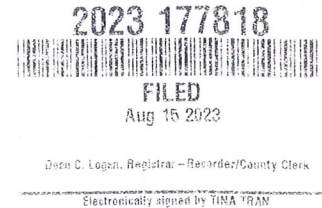
ALBERTO M. CARVALHO
Superintendent of Schools

CARLOS A. TORRES
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

JENNIFER FLORES
Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED	
ON	August 15 2023
UNTIL	September 14 2023
REGISTRAR - RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK	



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:

Canterbury Elementary School Underground Piping Replacement Project

Project Location – Specific:

The Canterbury Elementary School Underground Piping Replacement Project (Project) will be located on the 8.89-acre Canterbury Elementary School (Canterbury ES) campus. Canterbury ES is located at 13670 Montague Street in the Arleta neighborhood of Los Angeles County. It is bounded by Canterbury Avenue to the north, Montague Street to the east, Varna Avenue to the south, and Chase Street to the west. The Project will occur throughout the campus.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project will replace deteriorated underground water and sewer pipes serving the entire campus. The pipes were originally installed in the 1950s and have reached the end of their useful life. The Project includes abandoning all underground piping, providing new underground water and sewer piping, a new water line at the heater room of the kindergarten building, testing and commissioning of the entire system, and construction of a new CMU trash enclosure. Restoration of existing landscape and hardscape impacted by Project implementation will also be included.

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) as adopted by the Board of Education in February 2019. LAUSD's Standard Conditions of Approval (SCs), design guidelines, and best management practices are

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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.*



FILED

Aug 15 2023

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk,

Electronically signed by LINA TRAN

designed to be incorporated into the Project design in order to avoid or limit potential adverse impacts associated with the District's Projects. The primary purpose of the Project is to upgrade the Campus's water infrastructure. The beneficiaries of the Project include the Canterbury ES students, faculty, staff, families, school supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the facilities and grounds of the Campus pursuant to the Civic Center Act (CA Ed. Code Section 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 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 15301 – Existing Facilities*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 – Replacement or Reconstruction*
- ☐ 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.

Implementation of the proposed Project would replace deteriorated underground piping systems with a new in-kind system throughout the campus. The Project components would not present a new or expanded use of the Project site. Therefore, the Project constitutes minor alterations to an existing LAUSD campus that results in no expansion of use and meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

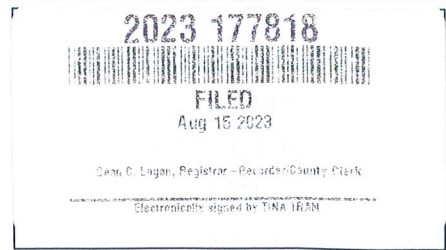
Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction

Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

The installation of the new water and sewer piping will replace the existing water and sewer piping system. The Project would not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing campus. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

Section 15300.2 – Exceptions

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



Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, Exceptions, provides conditions under which categorical exemptions are inapplicable. Review of the project indicates that construction and implementation would not violate any of the exceptions, as described below.

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

The Project site is a fully developed Campus within an urbanized community.² The Project site is not designated as biologically sensitive location and does not contain sensitive resources or habitat that will be impacted by the Project. The nearest threatened or endangered species is the Southwestern willow flycatcher located approximately 3 miles north of the Project site. The nearest sensitive environment to the Project site is the Tujunga Valley/Hansen Dam, located approximately 1.8 miles to the north of the Project site.^{3,4} The Project would occur entirely within the limits of the existing campus and underneath areas currently paved. As such, the Project will not impact sensitive environments or locations.

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 an active LAUSD campus and there will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor projects on the site to keep the school operational. As the Project will not result in any lasting impacts once construction of the Project is complete, the Project will not contribute to cumulative impacts when considered with expected successive projects.

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. 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, 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 EIR.⁵

The Project includes minor ground-disturbing activities. These activities are not considered unusual circumstances for the classes of projects under which an exemption is claimed. 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 4524.⁶ Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-6, SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11 of the Program EIR, construction activities must be stopped immediately and

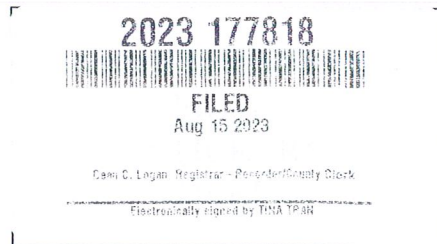
² City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, accessed July 2023.

³ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed July 2023.

⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed July 2023.

⁵ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://whiere.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

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



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 the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1 of the Program EIR.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 state scenic highway;*

The closest designated state scenic highway to the Project site is Angeles Crest Highway, which is located approximately 13.4 miles northeast of the Project site.⁹ In addition, the Project will not result in the removal of historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or other scenic resources. Therefore, the Project will not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway 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*

The Project site is not located on sites that are included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.¹⁰ Therefore, the Project will 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 LAUSD Historic Preservation Specialist determined that Canterbury ES is ineligible as an historic resource.¹¹ Therefore, the Project would have no impact to a historic resource.

Prepared By:

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Signed by:

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

Date:

Aug. 7, 2023

⁷ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed July 2023.

¹⁰ http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm, accessed July 2023.

¹¹ LAUSD. 2020. Historic Resources Inventory. Los Angeles, CA.

