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 November 21 2025

UNTIL December 22 2025

REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

2025 262563

FILED
Nov 21 2025

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by ISAURA CORREA

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:
Windsor Hills Math/Science/Aerospace Magnet ES - Green Schoolyard Improvement

Project Locations – Specific:
The Windsor Hills Math/Science/Aerospace Magnet ES - Green Schoolyard Improvement (Project) is located at 5215 Overdale Drive in the unincorporated County of Los Angeles community of Windsor Hills. It is bound by Stocker Street to the north, Mt. Vernon Drive to the east, Overdale Drive to the south, and Overhill Drive to the west. The Project will occur on an approximately three-acre portion of the Windsor Hills Math/Science/Aerospace Magnet ES campus (Windsor Hills ES or Campus). The Campus is located in an urbanized residential community adjacent to the Inglewood Oil Field and commercial uses.

Project Location – City:
Unincorporated Los Angeles County

Project Location – County:
Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The proposed Project (Project) consists of new landscape, greening, seating, and modification of play equipment and painted running track in the existing playground area. The Project will also provide an updated accessible path of travel from the public right of way to the administrative office, two restrooms, drinking fountain, and playground area. On December 12, 2023, the Board of Education authorized $39,500,000 to implement Green Schoolyard Improvements on 34 sites including Windsor Hills ES. Approximately $3,253,094 is budgeted for the Project.

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 LA Unified's Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report for the School Upgrade Program (Subsequent PEIR).[1] The purpose of the Project is to facilitate removal of portable classrooms pursuant to State and District policies and to provide outdoor

[1] LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR)," https://www.lausd.org/ceqa, adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

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learning experiences. The Project will not cause an increase in student capacity or enrollment and would not result in an increase in the intensity of use. The beneficiaries of the Project include students and staff at each of the respective schools and the community at large who may request access to the facilities and grounds of the Campuses 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 15268[2]]:
☐ Declared Emergency [PRC Section 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a)]:
☐ Emergency Project [PRC Section 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines Section15269(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.

The Project consists of new landscape, greening, seating, and modification of play equipment and painted running track in the existing playground area. The Project will also provide an updated accessible path of travel from the public right of way to the administrative office, two restrooms, drinking fountain, and playground area. As such, the Project would constitute operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public facilities involving no expansion of the facilities' use. All proposed Project components would involve minor alterations to an existing Campus and will occur within the area occupied by existing facilities at the Campus. The Project components will not present a new or expanded use of the Campus. Therefore, the Project constitutes minor alterations to an existing school site that results in no expansion of use and meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land
Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.

The Project consists of new landscape, greening, seating, and modification of play equipment and painted running track in the existing playground area. The Project will also provide an updated accessible path of

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

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travel from the public right of way to the administrative office, two restrooms, drinking fountain, and playground area. The Project includes approximately 32,546 square feet of grading and asphalt removal on the northeast portion of the Campus and 327 cubic yards of export and import of soils. Removal of scenic trees will not be required as a part of the Project. Therefore, the Project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15304.

Section 15300.2 – Exceptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, Exceptions, provides conditions under which categorical exemptions are inapplicable. Review of these Projects indicates that they 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 located within a fully developed campus within an urbanized neighborhood.[3] The Campus is not designated as a biologically sensitive location. The nearest threatened or endangered species is the Coastal California gnatcatcher located approximately six miles west of the Project site. The nearest sensitive environment to the Project site is the Santa Monica Mountains Significant Ecological Area located approximately 9.5 miles north of the Project site in Los Angeles.[4,5] 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 Campus is an active school site and there will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor projects to keep them operational. There are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for the Campus. As the Project would not result in any lasting impacts once construction of the Project is complete, the Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts when considered with expected successive projects. 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 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 scopes of work. However, should the Project be altered to include the removal of trees, LA Unified'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

[3] Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), *2019 Annual Land Use (ALU v.2019.2)*, https://arcg.is/1SqnKm, accessed October 2025.
[4] United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html, accessed October 2025.
[5] Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, https://rpgis.isd.lacounty.gov/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=GISNET_Public.GIS-NET_Public, accessed October 2025.

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removal activities, per standard condition (SC) of approval SC-BIO-3 of the Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects.[6]

The Project will include minor ground-disturbing activities. These activities are not considered unusual circumstances for the classes of projects under which an exemption is claimed. All Project related ground disturbing activities would comply with SC-AQ-1, SC-AQ-2, SC-AQ-3, and SC-AQ-4. As the Project involves the removal of asphalt and concrete pavement, soil sampling and testing has or will be conducted and a determination memorandum will be created for the Campus prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. Excavated soils will only be reused onsite if they are placed beneath paved areas. 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.[7] Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11 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 state scenic highway;*

The closest designated state scenic highway is the Topanga Canyon State Scenic Highway, a 2.5-mile portion of State Route 27 (SR-27), which is located approximately 9.8 miles north of Windsor Hills ES.[10] Therefore, the proposed 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*

None of the Project sites are located on sites that are included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.[11] 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.*

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6 LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," available at https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/domain/135/ceqa/2023_Standard_Conditions_UPDATE_Final.pdf.

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

9 *Ibid.*

10 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, https://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html. Accessed October 2025.

11 California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: https://dtsc.ca.gov/dtscs-cortese-list/ Accessed October 2025.

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Windsor Hills ES opened in 1954. LA Unified's Historic Preservation Specialist and Coordinator has determined that the Campus is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources. Therefore, the Project would have no impact to a historic resource.

Prepared By:

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CEQA Project Manager/Contract Professional

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Signed by:

Date: 11/6/25

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

Attachment: Exhibit A – Site Plan

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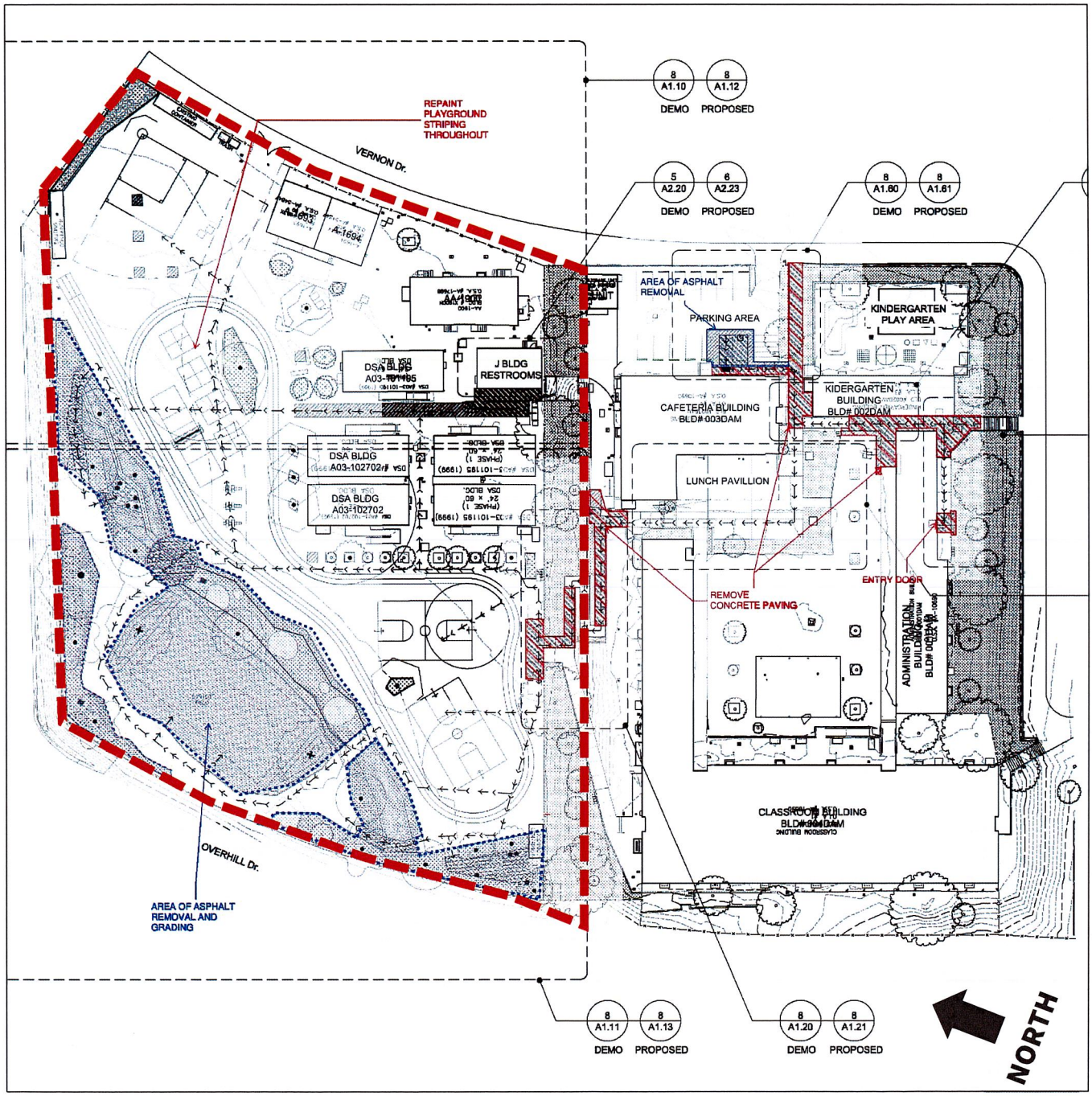
EXHIBIT A – WINDSOR HILLS ES SITE PLAN (not to scale)