

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



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:

Vanowen District Warehouse – Fire Sprinkler

Project Location – Specific:

The Project will be located at the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD or District's) Vanowen Street Warehouse, located at 21213 Vanowen Street, Canoga Park in Los Angeles County. The warehouse site is approximately 2.77 acres in size and is located in an urbanized community with commercial uses to the east, west and south, with the channelized Los Angeles River located directly to the north, and multi-family residential uses located to the north of the Los Angeles River.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed Project consists of installation of a new automatic fire sprinkler system with a new water connection with a backflow system to replace the outdated existing system for the approximately 28,750 sf warehouse building. Approximately 200 cubic yards of asphalt will be trenched for the new water connection.

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). The primary purpose of the Project is to bring the District warehouse to current code, and improve the safety conditions of the warehouse. The Project would not result in an increase in the intensity of use at the warehouse facility.

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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The Project will result in a replacement fire sprinkler system being installed. As part of the installation activities, approximately 200 cubic yards of asphalt would be trenched to connect the new system to the existing water infrastructure. Upon completion of the installation, the trench will be backfilled and resurfaced. There will be no removal of trees or any other vegetation. Therefore, the Project fulfills 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 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 warehouse facility 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 Braunton's milk-vetch located approximately 3.7 miles northwest of the Project site. The nearest sensitive environment to the Project site is the Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills, located approximately 3.2 miles to the north of the Project site.^{3,4} 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 warehouse and there will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor projects on the site to keep the warehouse 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

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

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

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

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

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Prepared By:

Julian Capata
CEQA Project Manager/Contract Professional

Phone and Email:

(213) 241-3417
cp-julian.capata@LAUSD.net

Signed by:



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

Date:

4/19/23