

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety


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Superintendent of Schools

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

2023 177768

FILED
Aug 15 2023
Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by DINA TRAM

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:

O'Melveny Elementary School – New Shade Structure

Project Location – Specific:

The O'Melveny Elementary School New Shade Structure Project (Project) will be located on the 5.7-acre O'Melveny Elementary School (O'Melveny ES) campus. O'Melveny ES is located at 728 Woodworth Street in the City of San Fernando of Los Angeles County. It is bounded by Chatsworth Drive to the north, Acala Avenue to the east, Wolfskill Street to the south, and Woodworth Street to the west.

Project Location – City:

San Fernando

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

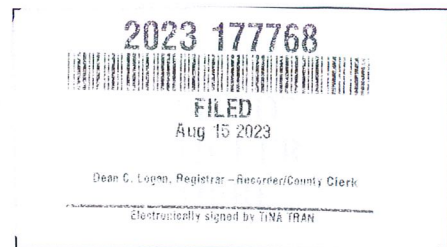
The Project consists of the installation of one (1) new shade structure over the existing playground equipment at the Kindergarten play yard. The structure would be a maximum of 19'-7" high with a total area of 1,184 square-feet. The new shade structure would have galvanized steel posts and frame with a Multiknit LTD fabric top cover. Footings would be placed 10-feet deep into the ground. The Project will also upgrade two existing gates and door hardware, and provide a fire extinguisher with cabinet, signages and a Knoxbox® (a small, wall-mounted safe that holds building keys for fire departments, emergency medical services, and sometimes police to retrieve in emergency situations).

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 2019.¹

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

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.



LAUSD's Standard Conditions of Approval (SCs), design guidelines, and best management 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 primary purpose of the Project is to upgrade the Campus's Kindergarten play yard. The beneficiaries of the Project include the O'Melveny 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 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.

This Project consists of the installation of one (1) shade structure in Kindergarten play yard of the Campus and minor infrastructure and safety related features. 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 consists of the installation of one (1) shade structure in Kindergarten play yard of the Campus and minor infrastructure and safety related features. The shade structure qualifies as a new, small facilities or structures. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.

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



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.

This Project consists of the installation of one (1) shade structure in Kindergarten play yard of the Campus and minor infrastructure and safety related features. 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, 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 sites are fully developed campuses within urbanized communities.³ None of the Project sites have been designated as biologically sensitive locations. The nearest threatened or endangered species is the Southwestern willow flycatcher located approximately 2.9 miles west of the O'Melveny ES. The nearest sensitive environment to the Project site is the Tujunga Valley/Hansen Dam, located approximately 2.5 mile west of the O'Melveny ES.^{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 campuses are active school sites and there will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor Projects on the Campus 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.

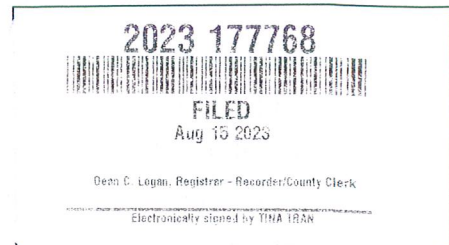
3. *There is a reasonable possibility that the activity would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

There are no known unusual circumstances that would have a significant effect on the environment. The upgrades associated with the Project are comparable to other modernizations and improvements that are being completed throughout the District under the School Upgrade Program. 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, written approval from the school principal will be required

³ City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, accessed July 2023.

⁴ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed July 2023.

⁵ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed July 2023.



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 removal activities, per standard condition (SC) of approval SC-BIO-3 of the Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects as adopted by the Board of Education in February 2019.⁶

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. 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. 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-6, SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11 of the Program EIR, 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 of the Program EIR.⁹ 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 is the State Route 2 (SR2), which is located approximately 15 miles northeast of the O'Melveny ES campus.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*

The O'Melveny ES campus is not 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 LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on February 5, 2019.

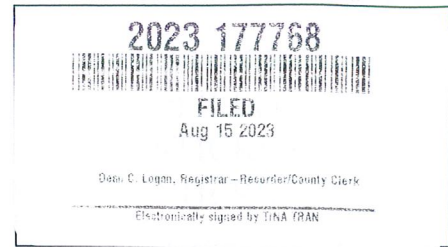
⁷ LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t

⁸ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/, accessed July 2023.

¹¹ http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm, accessed July 2023.



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

The LAUSD Historic Preservation Specialist determined that O'Melveny ES is ineligible as an historic resource. 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

