

# Los Angeles Unified School District

## Office of Environmental Health and Safety

ALBERTO M. CARVALHO  
Superintendent of Schools

ORIGINAL FILED

CARLOS A. TORRES  
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

OCT 10 2023

JENNIFER FLORES  
Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

### LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK 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  
21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

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**Project Title:**

Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School - Synthetic Turf Replacement Project

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**Project Location – Specific:**

The Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School Synthetic Turf Replace Project (Project) will be located on the 13.6-acre Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School (Dominguez Prep) Campus. The Dominguez Prep Campus (Campus) is located at 4110 Santa Fe Avenue in the city of Long Beach. The Project will occur on the existing Dominguez Prep track and field.

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**Project Location – City:**

Long Beach

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**Project Location – County:**

Los Angeles

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**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Project will replace approximately 80,000 square feet of existing synthetic turf on the football field, including installation of a new perimeter drainage system and water cannons, and repair of the track. The Project will result in the export of approximately 227 cubic yards of fill material, and the import of approximately 315 cubic yards of fill material.

The Projects will be constructed per DSA-approved plan sets. 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).<sup>1</sup> The primary purpose of the Project is to provide upgrades to school track and field and associated infrastructure systems that have reached or exceeded their service life. The Project will not cause an increase in student capacity or enrollment and will not result in an increase in the intensity of use of the track and

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<sup>1</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/caga>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

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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.*

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field. The beneficiaries of the Project include students and staff at Dominguez Prep 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<sup>2</sup>]:
- ☐ 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.

The Project will replace approximately 80,000 square-feet of existing synthetic turf at the Dominguez Prep campus. The Project will also include new perimeter drainage, water cannons, and repair of the existing synthetic track. The Project will result in the replacement and repair of worn out and damaged features of the existing track and field with new similar features. 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 15302 - Replacement or Reconstruction

Class 2 consists of replacing or reconstructing 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.

As previously noted, this Project will upgrade existing outdoor athletic facilities by replacing the existing synthetic turf field with a similar synthetic turf field, including upgrades to the track and field drainage, and other upgrades to support the track and field facilities. The Project will not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing Campus. Therefore, the Project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

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



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### 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 it 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.<sup>3</sup> The Project site has not been designated as a biologically sensitive location. The nearest threatened or endangered species is the Coastal California gnatcatcher located approximately 7.2 miles southwest of the Project site. The nearest sensitive environment to the Project site is the Harbor Lake Regional Park, located approximately 4.75 miles southwest of the campus.<sup>4,5</sup> 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 the campus operational. As the Project will not result in any lasting impacts once construction is complete, implementation of the proposed Project will not contribute to any 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 is 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 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.<sup>6</sup>

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-

<sup>3</sup> City of Long Beach Development Services Department, *Zoning Maps*, <https://www.longbeach.gov/lbds/planning/advance/maps/zoning/>, accessed September 2023.

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

<sup>5</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, [http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3\\_Public/Viewer.html](http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html), accessed September 2023.

<sup>6</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on February 5, 2019.

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AQ-4. As the Projects involve the removal of pavement, soil sampling and testing has or will be conducted and a determination memorandum will be created for all Campuses prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. Excavated soils will only be reused onsite if they are placed beneath paved areas. As it is anticipated that construction or earthmoving activities will require the import and 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.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1 of the Program EIR.<sup>9</sup> 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 State Route 2 (SR2), which is located approximately 27.1 miles north of the campus.<sup>10</sup> 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 Campus is not located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.<sup>11</sup> 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.*

Dominguez Prep was opened in 2012, and has not been identified for federal, State, or local listing under any of the applicable criteria and is therefore not considered a historical resource pursuant to CEQA.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, OEHS' Historical Preservation Specialist has determined that the Project does not have the potential to adversely impact historical resources.

<sup>7</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", [http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file\\_id=219798234&show\\_all\\_versions\\_p=t](http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t)

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

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16\\_livability/scenic\\_highways/](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/), accessed September 2023.

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese\\_List.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm), accessed September 2023.

<sup>12</sup> LAUSD OEHS. 2022. LAUSD Historic Resources Database.



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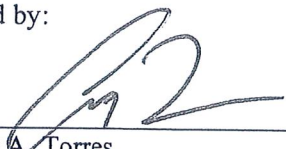
Prepared By:

Julian Capata  
CEQA Project Manager/Contract Professional

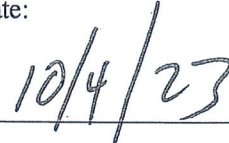
Phone and Email:

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Signed by:

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

Date:

  
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10/4/23

