

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

ALBERTO M. CARVALHO
Superintendent of Schools

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Director, Environmental Health and Safety

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Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED
ON December 02 2025
UNTIL January 01 2026
REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

2025 268325

FILED
Dec 02 2025
Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by MARY JOANNE PUAINA

To:
**County Clerk and Registrar-Recorder
County of Los Angeles
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650**

From:
**LA UNIFIED OEHS
333 S. Beaudry Avenue
21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017**

Project Title:

East Los Angeles Occupational Center Classroom Replacement Project

Project Location – Specific:

The East Los Angeles Occupational Center Classroom Replacement Project (Project) will be located on the approximately 9-acre East Los Angeles Occupational Center (ELAOC) campus. The ELAOC campus (Campus) is located at 2100 Marengo Street in the City of Los Angeles. It is bound by Marengo Street to the north, San Bernardino Freeway (Interstate 10) to the east and to the south, and North Chicago Street to the west. The Project will occur on the northern portion of the Campus. The Campus is located in an urbanized community primarily consisting of public facilities, commercial uses, multi-family, and single-family residences.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project consists of the removal of eight relocatable buildings that contain eleven classrooms, administrative spaces, and a Los Angeles Unified Personnel Commission satellite office. They will be replaced with the construction of a new two-story classroom building with fourteen new classrooms, including five general classrooms, five Career Technical Education (CTE) classrooms, four associated lab classrooms, and support spaces. Site improvements include resurfacing/restriping the existing parking lot, new marquee, associated utility upgrades, landscaping, and hardscaping (Figure 1). The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education approved the Project's budget of \$61,156,305 on April 9, 2024.

The Project will be implemented per all applicable State, federal, and local regulations, as well as all District Standards and Specifications; such as those provided in the updated Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction,

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 21st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017 • Telephone (213) 241-3199

*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.*



Upgrade, and Improvements Projects (SCs) as adopted by the Board of Education in December 2023.¹ LAUSD's 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 beneficiaries of this Project are the ELAOC 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 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 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 or Conversion of Small Structures*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15314 – Minor Additions to Schools*
- Statutory Exemption:

Reasons why project is exempt:

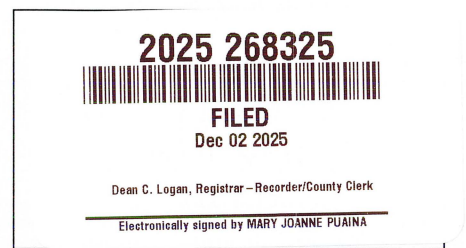
Section 15301 Existing Facilities

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 includes the removal of eight relocatable buildings that contain eleven classrooms, administrative spaces, and a Los Angeles Unified Personnel Commission satellite office. They will be replaced with the construction of a new two-story classroom building with fourteen new classrooms, including five general classrooms, five Career Technical Education (CTE) classrooms, four associated lab classrooms, and support spaces. Site improvements including resurfacing/restriping the existing parking lot, new marquee, associated utility upgrades, landscaping, and hardscaping will also be a part of this Project. The Project would constitute operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public structures involving no expansion of the facilities' use. Therefore, the Project constitutes minor alterations to an existing school site that result in no expansion of use and meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

¹ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects" <https://www.lausd.org/ceqa>. Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

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



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 structure.

This Project consists of site improvements including resurfacing/restriping the existing parking lot, new marquee, associated utility upgrades, landscaping, and hardscaping on the Campus. These improvements constitute operation, repair, maintenance and minor alteration of an existing campus involving no expansion in enrollment or of the facilities' use. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.

Section 15314 – Minor Additions to Schools

Class 14 consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, whichever is less. The addition of portable classrooms is included in this exemption.

The Project entails the removal of eight existing relocatable buildings containing eleven classrooms and the construction of a new two-story classroom building consisting of fourteen classrooms on an existing campus. The Project does not increase the original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15314.

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 they would not violate any of the exceptions, as described below.

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

The Project will occur on an existing campus that is located within an urban setting.³ The surrounding uses are residential and commercial. The campus has not been designated as a biologically sensitive site or location and does not contain sensitive resources or habitat that will be impacted by the Project. The nearest significant ecological area (SEA) is Puente Hills which is located approximately 6.2 miles east of the Campus.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is designated as such for the coastal California gnatcatcher and is located approximately 6.2 miles east of the site.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;*

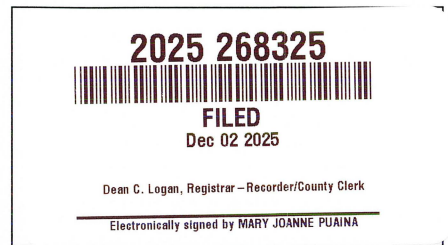
The Campus is an active school site and there will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor projects on the Campus to keep the schools operational. As the Project will not result in any lasting adverse impacts once construction of the Project is complete, the Project would not contribute to 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.*

³ City of Los Angeles. ZIMAS. Available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>. Accessed November 2025.

⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed November 2025.

⁵ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed November 2025.



There are no known unusual circumstances that would have a significant effect on the environment. The removal of trees is anticipated as a part of the proposed scope of work. 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 of Approval (SC) SC-BIO-3 of the Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR).^{6,7}

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. Nevertheless, consideration must be given to the management of pavement removal and excavated soils associated with earthwork activities for the Project. As the Project involves the removal of pavement, soil sampling and testing for characterization is required prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. 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.⁸ Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-6, SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, SC-CUL-10, and SC-GEO-2 of the SPEIR, 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.⁹ Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1 of the Program EIR.¹⁰ 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 Project site is located approximately 12 miles north of State Route 2 (SR 2), the nearest officially designated State scenic highway.¹¹ The Project will not be visible from SR 2. Therefore, the Project will not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway that is officially designated as a 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 is not located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.¹² 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 historical resource.*

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, "Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure", <http://www.lausd.org/ceqa>.

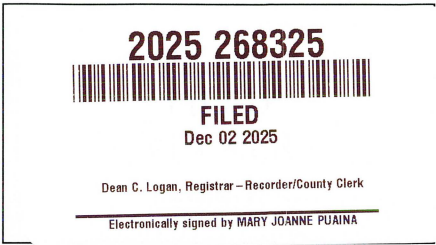
⁸ LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t

⁹ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report," <http://www.lausd.org/ceqa>. Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html. Accessed November 2025.

¹² Department of Toxic Substances Control, "Hazardous Waste And Substances Site List (Cortese)" https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search?cmd=search&reporttype=CORTESE&site_type=CSITES,FUDS&status=ACT,BKLG,COM&reporttitle=HAZARDOUS+WASTE+AND+SUBSTANCES+SITE+LIST+%28CORTESE%29, accessed November 2025.



Built in 1972, ELAOC is over 45 years old, meeting LAUSD’s threshold as a potential historic resource and requiring evaluation for historic eligibility. However, LAUSD’s Historic Preservation Specialist determined that ELAOC is ineligible as a historic resource.¹³ Research did not reveal any significant association between the Campus and the development of alternative educational approaches or any other historical events or personages significant to national, state, or local history. Therefore, the Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.

Prepared By:

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Signed by:

Date:

11/20/25

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

¹³ LAUSD OEHS. “East Los Angeles Occupational Center DPR 523,” May 8, 2019.

