

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 July 15 2025

UNTIL August 14 2025

REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

2025 143729



FILED

Jul 15 2025

Deen C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by CORTNEY MAFFITT

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:

Community Partner Greening Projects on Twelve LA Unified Campuses

Project Location – Specific:

- 116th Street Elementary School - 11610 Stanford Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90059
- 74th Street Elementary School - 2112 W 74th St, Los Angeles, CA 90047
- Charles W. Barrett Elementary School - 419 W 98th St, Los Angeles, CA 90003
- Eastman Avenue Elementary School - 4112 E Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90023
- Florence Avenue Elementary School - 7211 Bell Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90001
- Grape Street Elementary School - 1940 E 111th St, Los Angeles, CA 90059
- Independence Elementary School - 8435 Victoria Ave, South Gate, CA 90280
- Lillian Street Elementary School - 5909 Lillian St, Los Angeles, CA 90001
- Miles Avenue Elementary School - 6720 Miles Ave, Huntington Park, CA 90255
- Parmelee Avenue Elementary School - 1338 E 76th Pl, Los Angeles, CA 90001
- State Street Elementary School - 3211 Santa Ana St, South Gate, CA 90280
- Vista del Valle Dual Language Academy - 12441 Bromont Ave, San Fernando, CA 91340

Project Location – City:

Various

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The scope of the Community Partner Greening Projects include the removal of existing asphalt and replacement with greening improvements such as planting of trees, addition of gardens, and construction of unstructured play space to create living schoolyards on twelve Los Angeles Unified School District (LA Unified or District) school campuses; 116th St. Elementary School (ES), 74th St. ES, Barrett ES, Eastman ES, Florence ES, Grape ES, Independence ES, Lillian ES, Miles ES, Parmelee ES, State ES, and Vista del Valle Dual Language Academy (Campuses) (Project) (Figure 1 through 12).

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.



The community partner proposing the project, TreePeople, was awarded a grant in the amount of \$12,172,022 provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Resource Management Grant Program. The grant will fund the entire Project's cost. The table below summarizes the various greening improvements that would occur at each school as a part of this Project.

Summary of Greening Improvements at Each School

School	Asphalt Pavement Removal	Tree Planting	Native Planting Area	Learning Garden	Reading Garden	Outdoor Classroom	Grass Field
116 th St. ES	●	●	●				●
74 th St. ES	●	●	●	●	●		●
Barrett ES	●	●	●				●
Eastman ES	●	●	●	●			●
Florence ES	●	●	●				●
Grape ES	●	●	●	●	●		●
Independence ES	●	●	●	●			●
Lillian ES	●	●	●	●			●
Miles ES	●	●	●	●			●
Parmelee ES	●	●	●	●			●
State ES	●	●	●	●			●
Vista del Valle	●	●	●			●	

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, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects (SCs) as adopted by the Board of Education in December 2023.¹ Los Angeles Unified School District (LA Unified) 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 students, faculty, staff, families, and school supporters located at each respective school 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:

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



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 15302 – Replacement or Reconstruction*
 - *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 the removal of existing asphalt and replacement with greening improvements such as planting of trees, and construction of unstructured play space to create living schoolyards on twelve LA Unified Campuses. The Project will increase green space and create living schoolyards consisting of native planting areas, learning garden, reading garden, outdoor classroom, and/or grass field.

The Project will occur in existing outdoor areas at the Project sites and 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 existing school sites that result in no expansion of use and meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction

Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of 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.

The Project includes upgrades or replacement of existing structures and facilities, such as the removal of asphalt and replacement with nature-based designs and greening improvements. The Project would not change the location, or the purpose of the structures and facilities being replaced and will not expand the capacity of the Campuses. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

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 removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

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



The Project includes the installation of trees; native planting areas; garden areas; and grass fields. The Project will not remove healthy, mature, or scenic trees. 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 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 sites are fully developed Campuses within urbanized communities.³ The Project sites are not designated as a biologically sensitive site or location and does not contain sensitive resources or habitat that will be impacted by the Project. The Project will be contained exclusively within the boundaries of the Campuses. The nearest Significant Ecological Area is the Tujunga Valley/Hansen Dam located approximately 2.2 miles southeast of Vista Del Valle Dual Language Academy.^{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 Campuses to keep the schools operational. 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.

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, 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 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

³ City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, accessed July 2025.

⁴ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed July 2025.

⁵ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed July 2025.

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", <https://www.lausd.org/ceqa>.

FILED
Jul 15 2025

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by COURTNEY MAFFITT

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 closest designated state scenic highway to any of the Project sites is State Route 2 (SR 2), which is located approximately 14.3 miles southeast of Vista Del Valle Dual Language Academy.¹¹ The Project will not be visible from SR 2. Therefore, the Project would 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.¹² Therefore, the Project would 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.*

116th St. ES, 74th St. ES, Barrett ES, Eastman ES, Florence ES, Grape ES, Independence ES, Lillian ES, Miles ES, and Vista del Valle Dual Language Academy are not eligible for federal, state, or local listing under any of the applicable criteria and are therefore not considered to be historical resources pursuant to CEQA. Therefore, Project activities at these schools would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.

Parmelee ES and State ES are over 45 years old, meeting LA Unified's threshold for review as a potential historic resource and requiring evaluation for historic eligibility. LA Unified has identified Parmelee ES and State ES as eligible for listing as a historic resource per Section 18955 of the California State Historical Building Code

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

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

⁹ *Ibid.*

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



(CHBC).¹² The scope of the Project is focused on landscape features that are not character-defining. The Project will not alter or affect the historic resources on the campuses. Therefore, OEHS' Historic Preservation Specialist has determined that the Project will not be expected to materially impair the significance of the historic resource and therefore will not cause a substantial adverse historic impact.

Should the scope of the Project activities be altered from the components that are described above, standard District procedure requires that OEHS must be notified immediately to ensure that these activities are conducted in compliance with the Secretary's Standards and would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Prepared By:

Christy Wong
CEQA Project Manager/Contract Professional

Phone and Email:

(213) 241-3394
cp-christy.wong@LAUSD.net

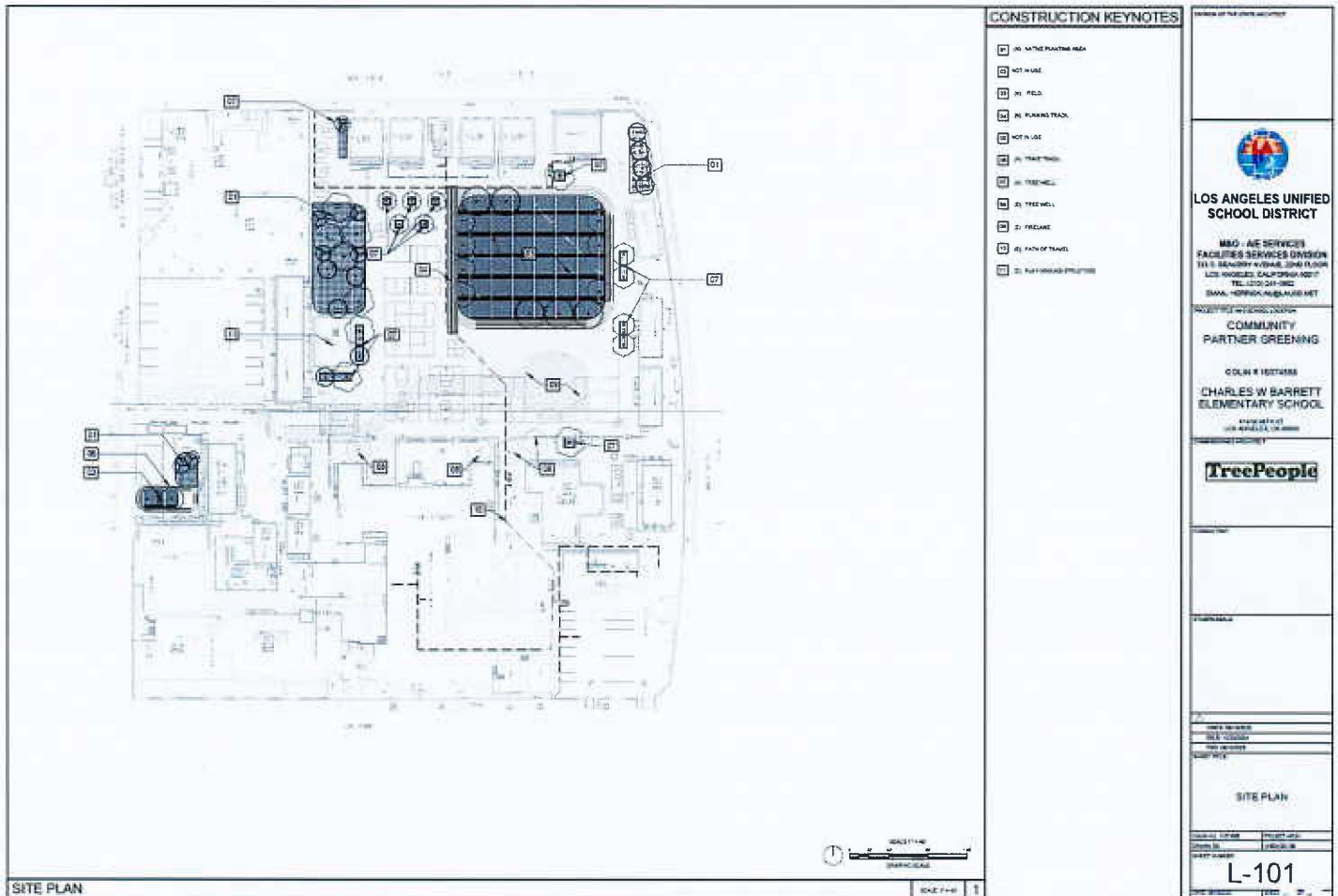
Signed by:

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

Date:

¹² State of California. 2003. State Historical Building Code, Health and Safety Code, Division 13, Part 2.7, Section 18955. Available at: http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/AboutUs/shbsb/shbsb_health_safety.aspx. Also see California Building Standards Commission. 2014. California Code of Regulations, Title 24, California Historical Building Code, Section 8-101.2. Washington, DC. p. 4.

Figure 3. Barrett ES Site Plan



Abstract

FILED
Jul 15 2025

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by CORTNEY MAFFITT

Figure 4. Eastman ES Site Plan

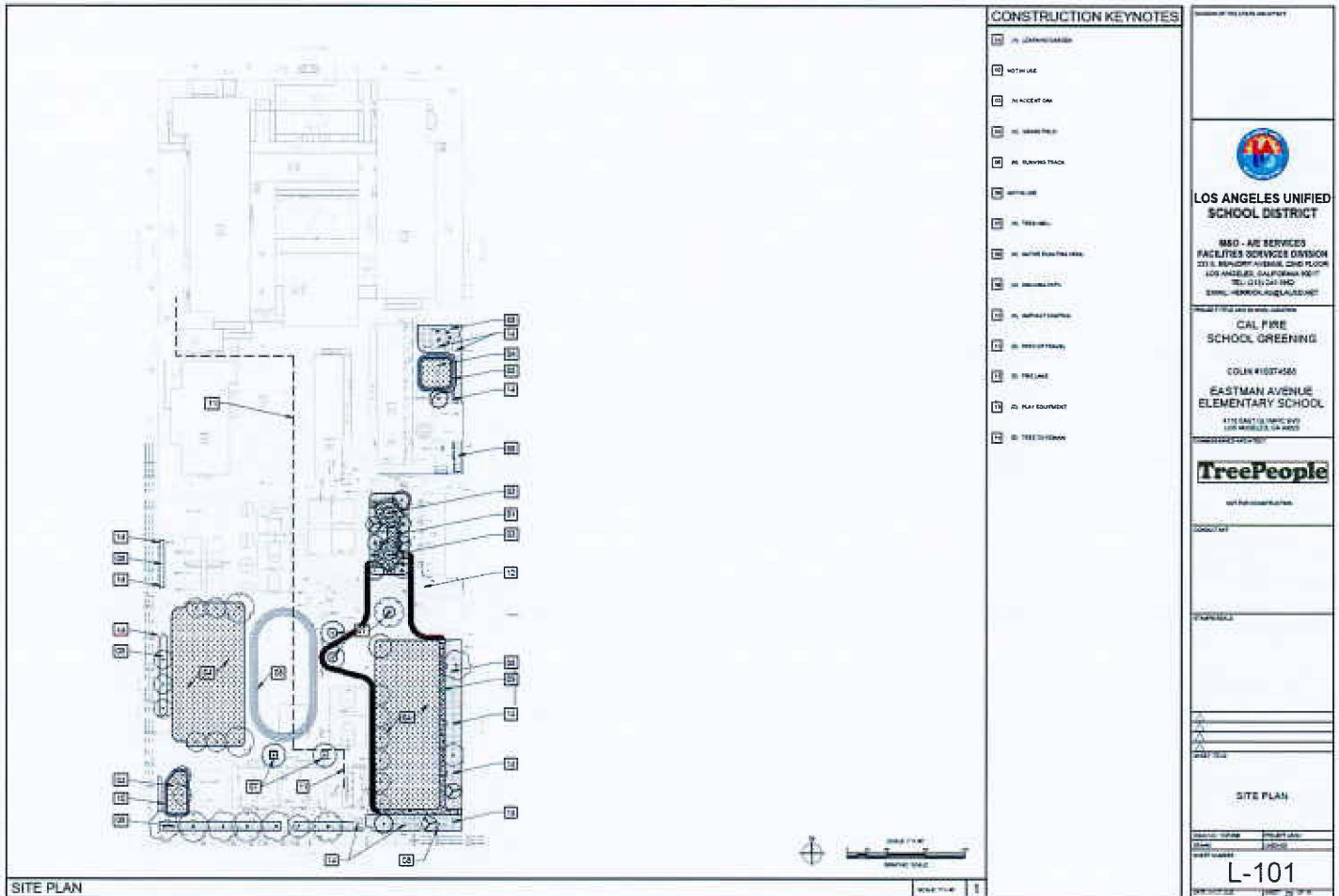


Figure 5. Florence ES Site Plan

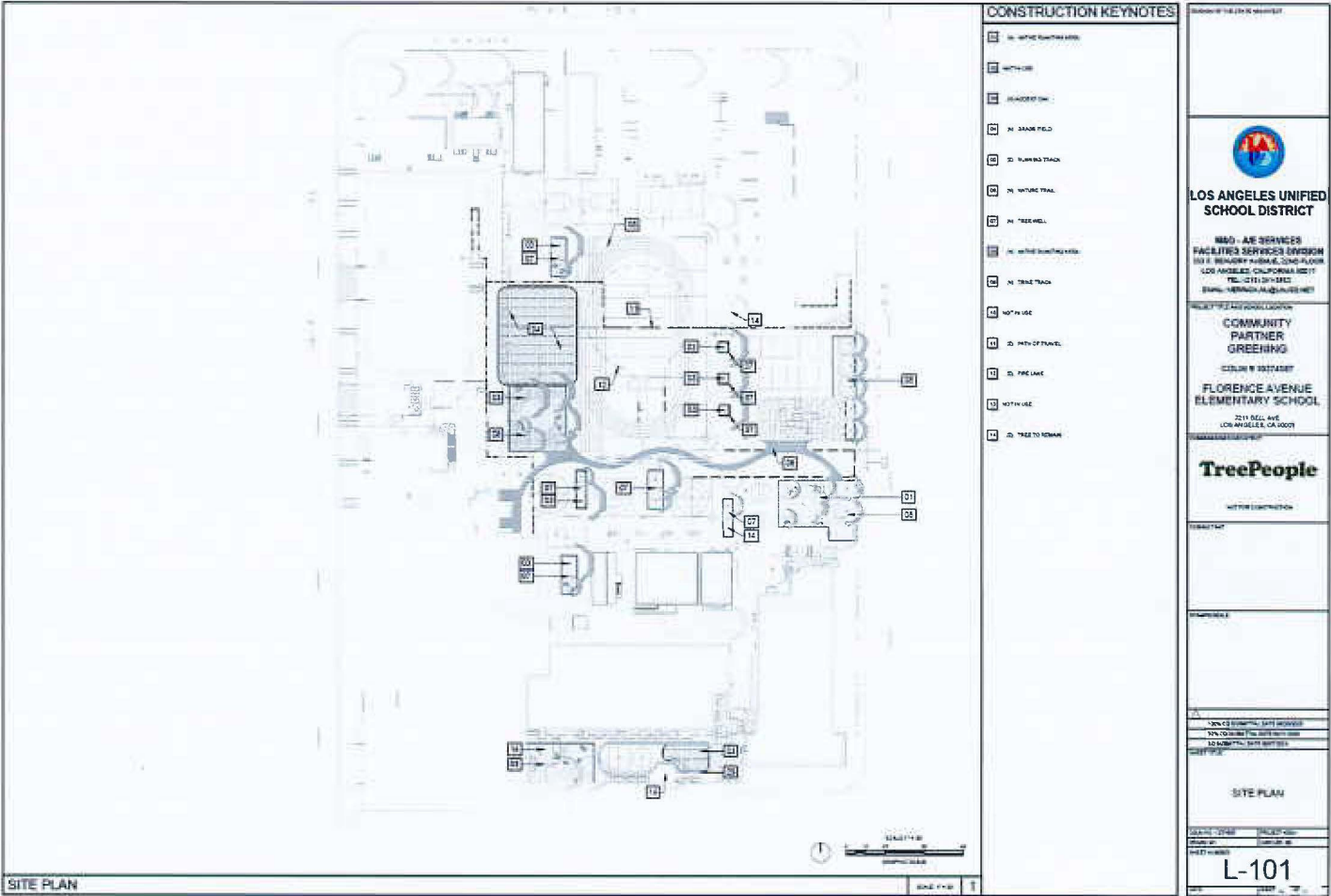


Figure 6. Grape ES Site Plan

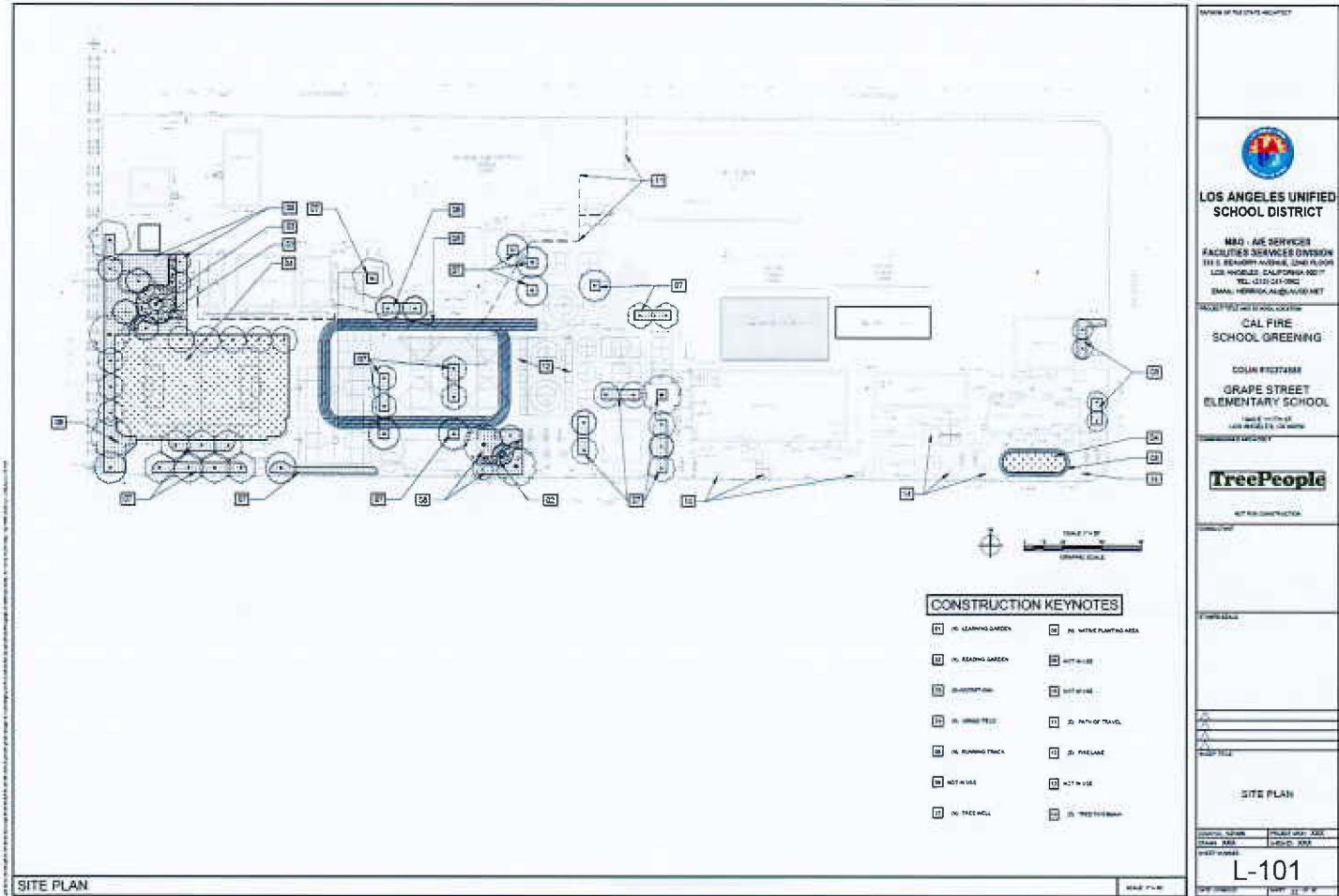


Figure 7. Independence ES Site Plan

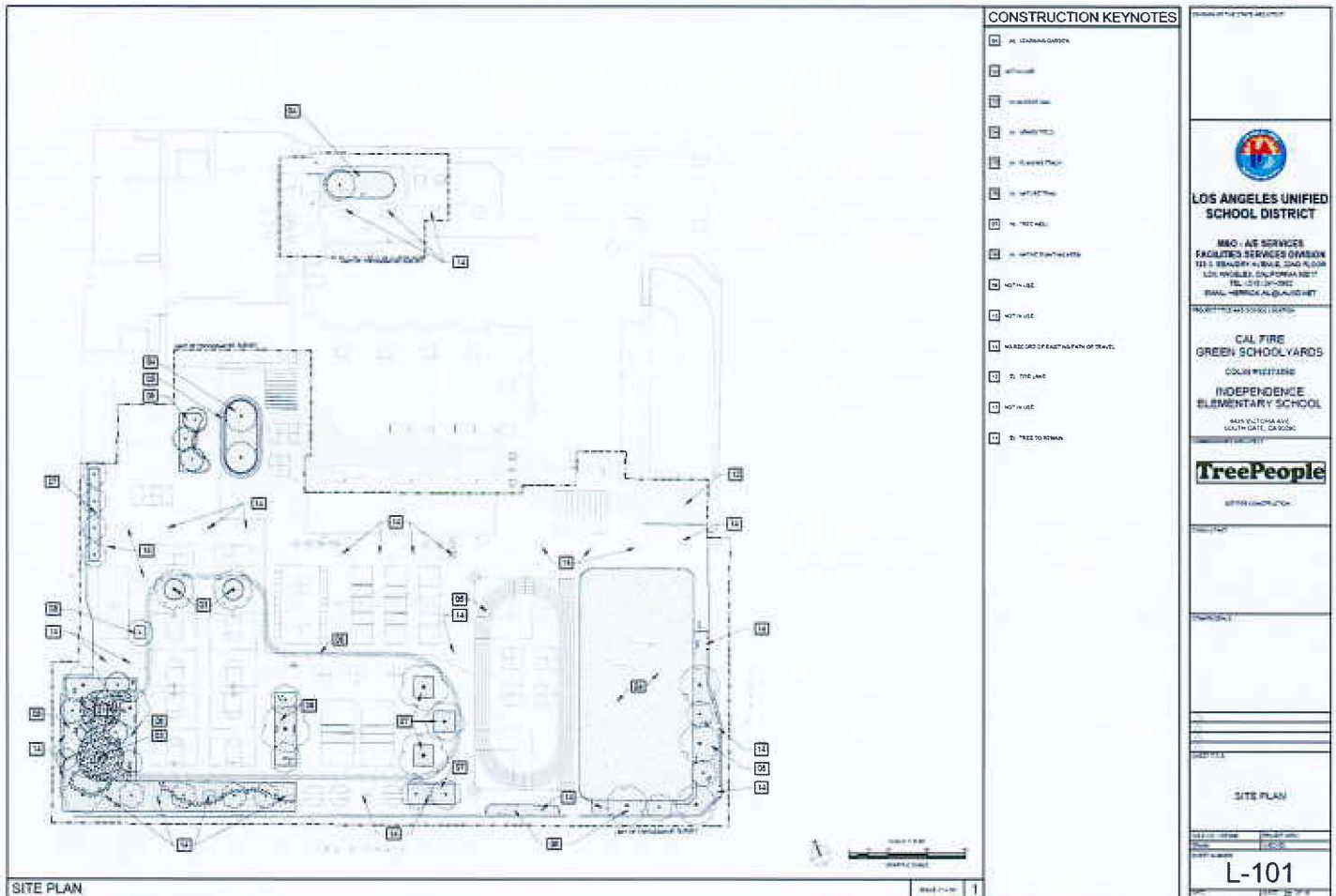


Figure 8. Lillian ES Site Plan

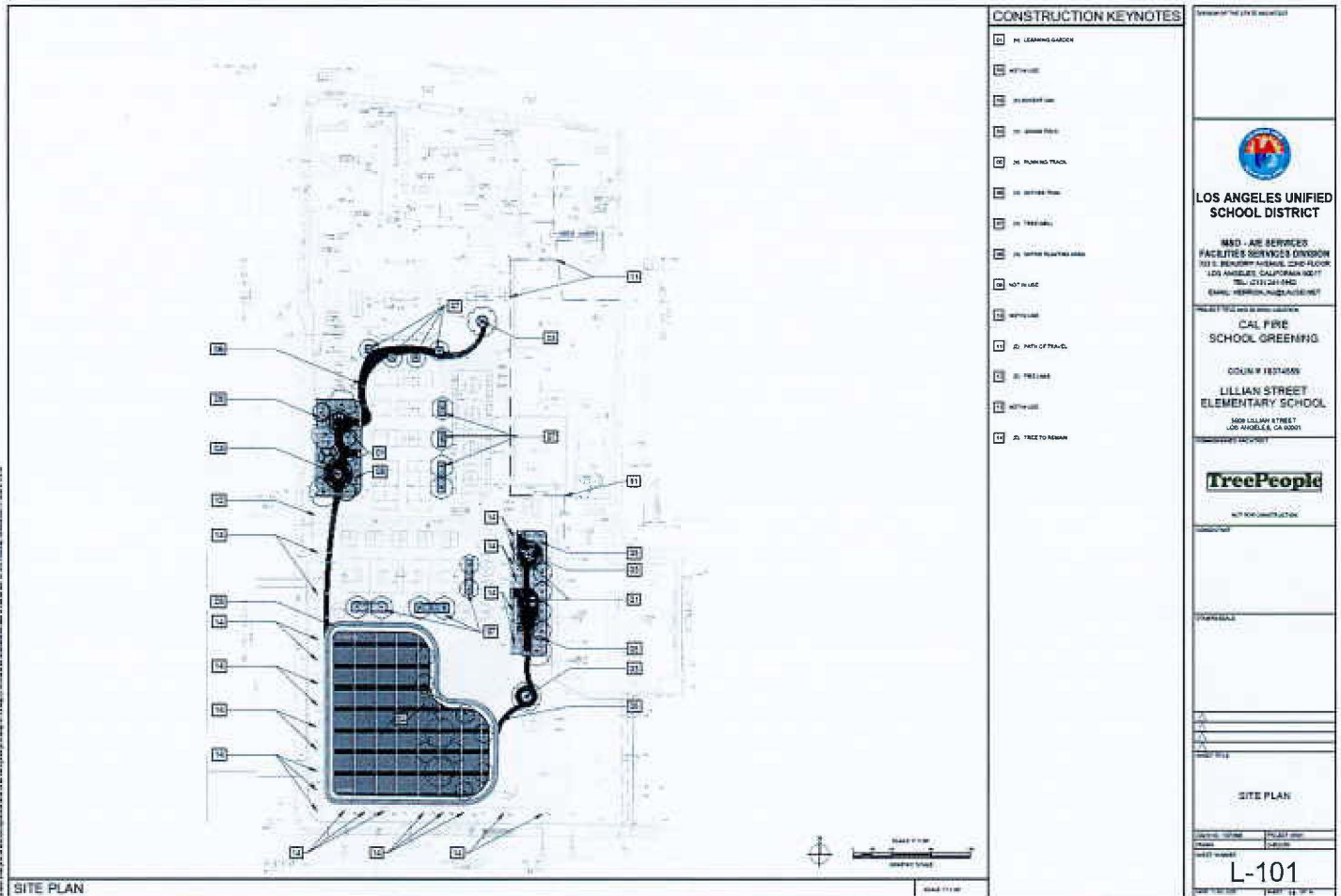


Figure 9. Miles ES Site Plan

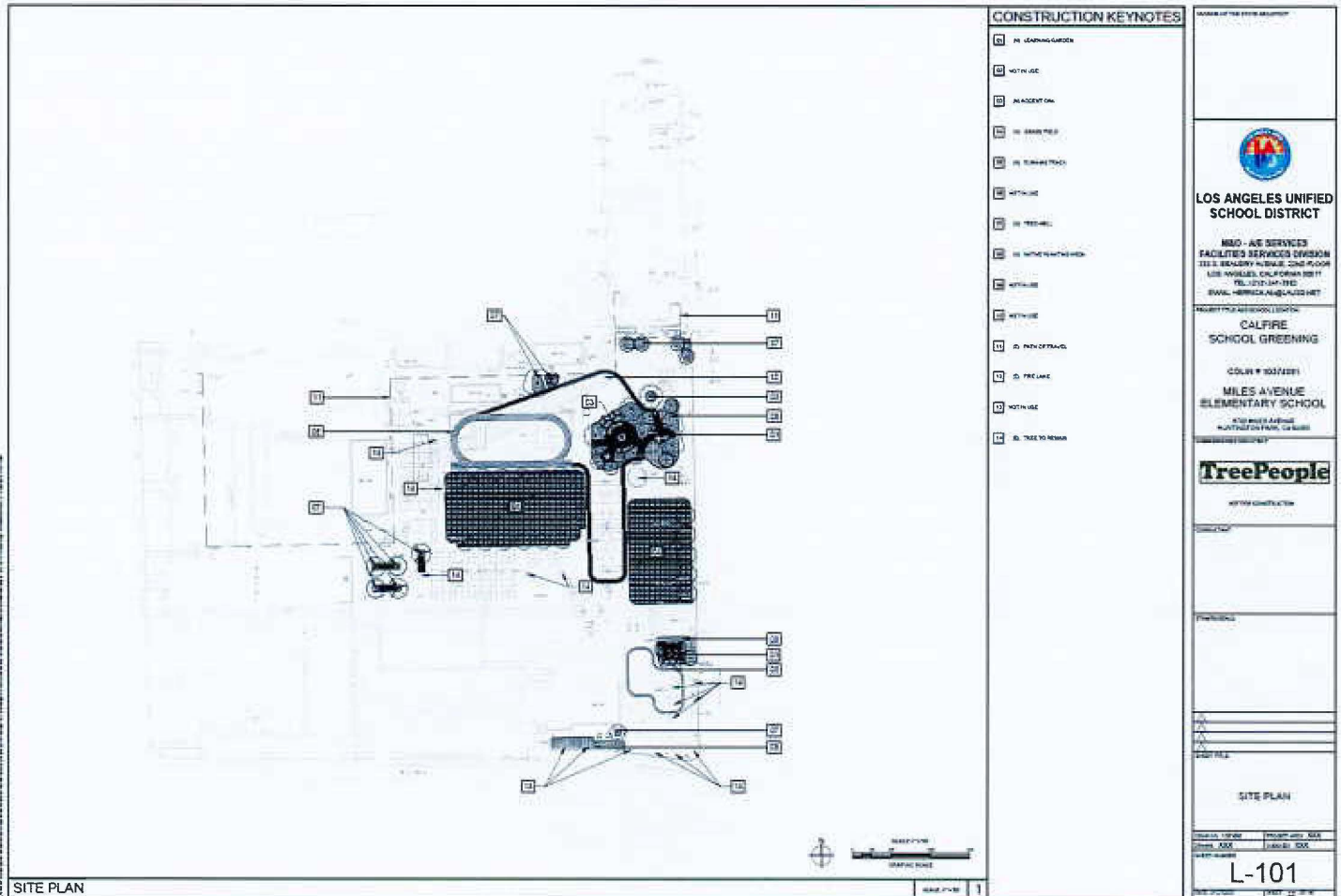


Figure 10. Parmelee ES Site Plan

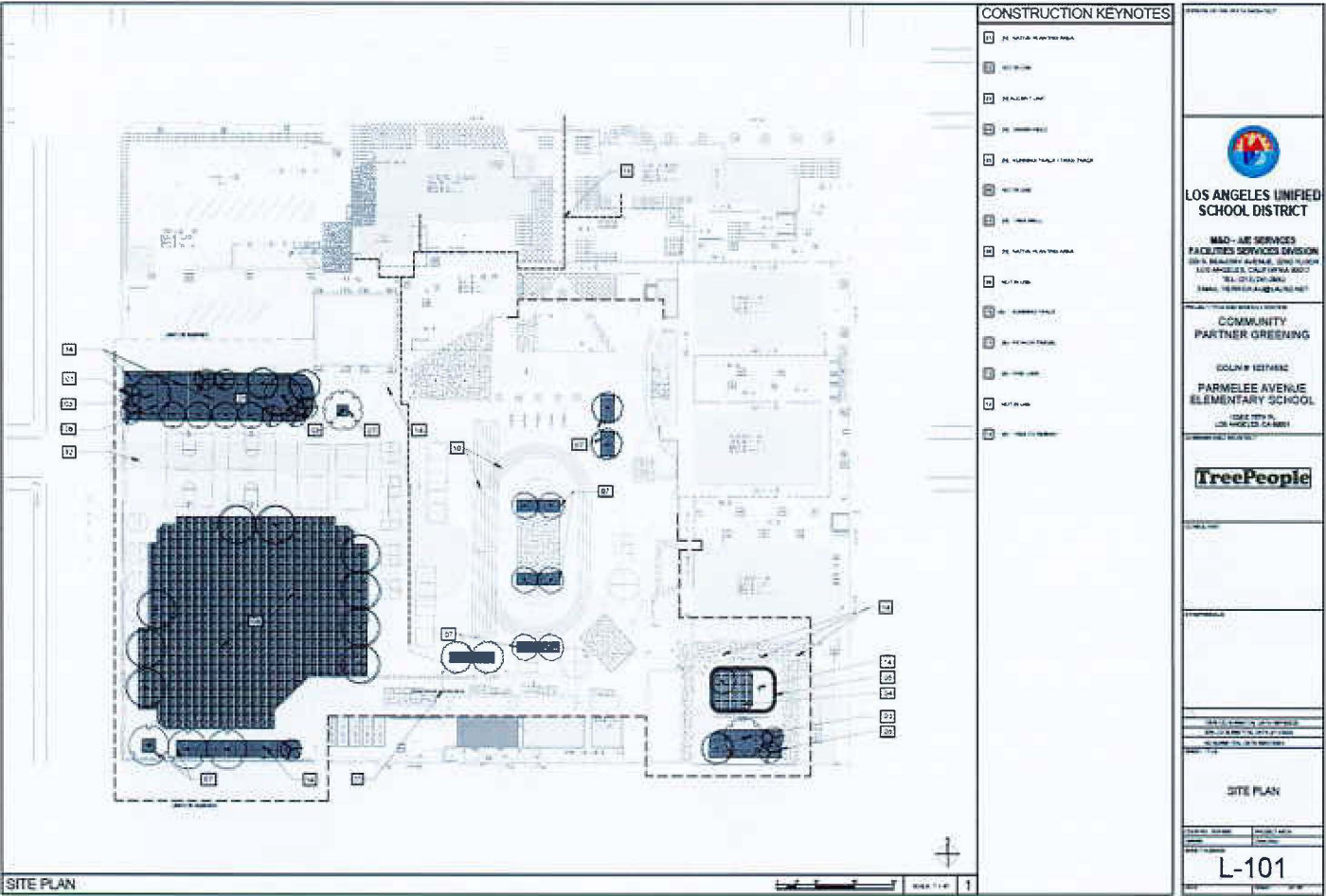


Figure 11. State ES Site Plan

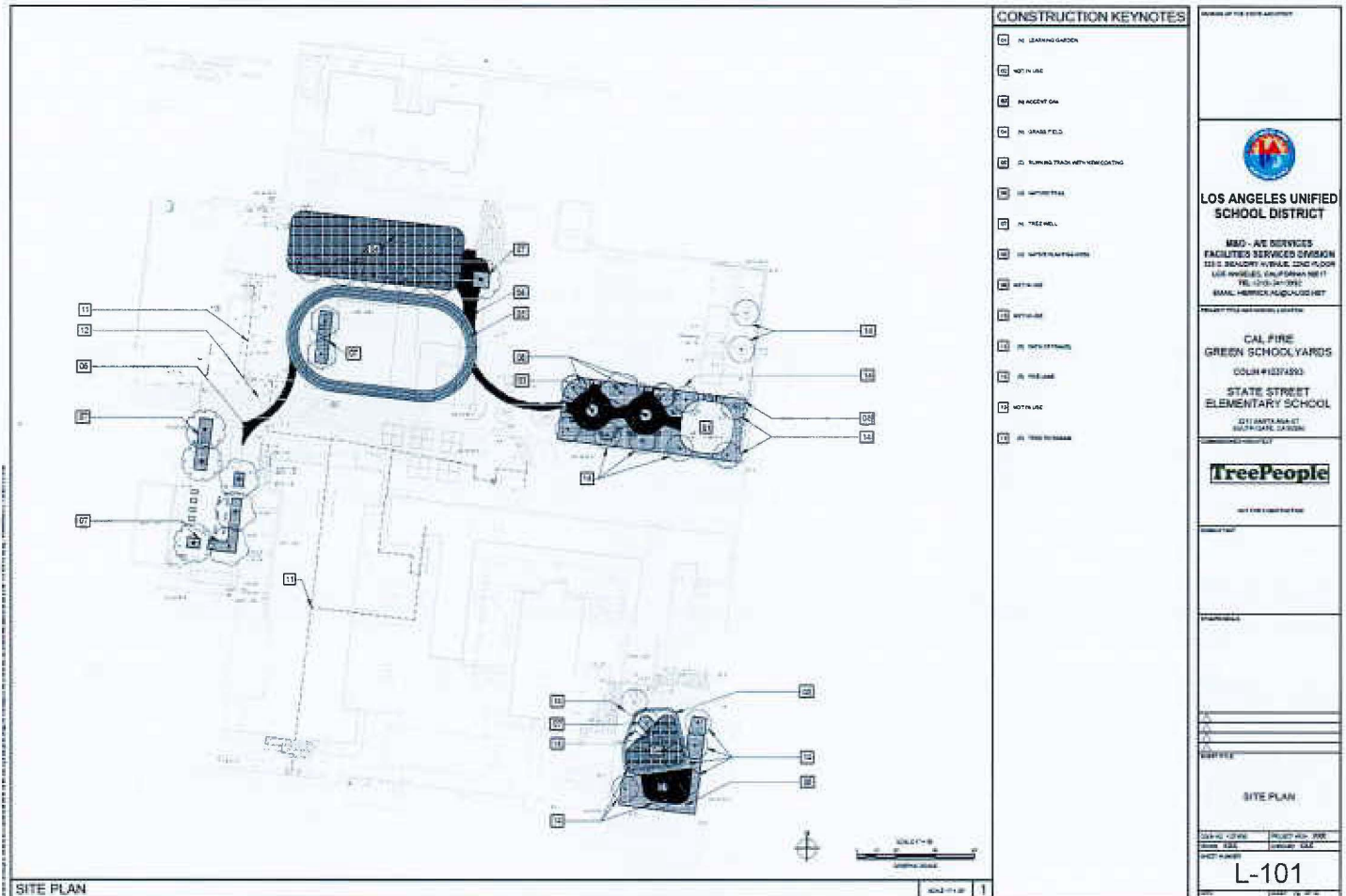


Figure 12. Vista del Valle Dual Language Academy Site Plan

