

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

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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

ORIGINAL FILED

JUL 02 2020

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

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

From: LAUSD OEHS
333 South Beaudry Avenue
21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Project Title:

Garfield High School New Baseball Field Project

Project Location – Specific:

The Garfield High School New Baseball Field Project (Project) will be located on the 19.26-acre Garfield High School (Garfield HS) campus. Garfield HS is located at 5101 East 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90022. The Project will occur in the northern portion of the campus.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

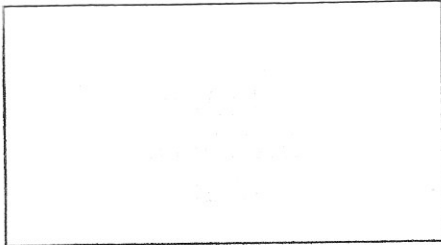
Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

This Project will expand the school's existing softball playfield area to include both a baseball and a softball field with corresponding backstops and dugouts. To provide sufficient space, the existing softball field will be relocated to the opposite end of the playfield and a portion of the existing visitor bleachers will be demolished. The scope of work also includes high barrier and perimeter fencing, site infrastructure, and accessibility upgrades as necessary.

The Project will be implemented pursuant to all applicable State, federal, and local regulations and all applicable LAUSD specifications, standards, and/or guidelines, including those in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the updated Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects as adopted by the Board of Education in February 2019 (SC).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.

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



The beneficiaries of the Project include Garfield HS students, faculty, staff, families, school supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the athletic field 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 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.

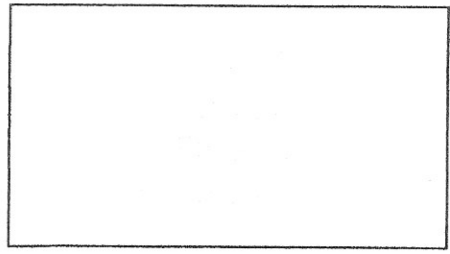
The Project will expand the school's existing softball playfield area to include both a baseball and a softball field with corresponding backstops and dugouts. To provide sufficient space, the existing softball field will be relocated to the opposite end of the playfield and a portion of the existing visitor bleachers will be demolished. The scope of work also includes high barrier and perimeter fencing, site infrastructure, and accessibility upgrades as necessary. Therefore, the Project fulfills 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, the Project involves expanding the school's existing softball playfield area to include both a baseball and a softball field with corresponding backstops and dugouts. To provide sufficient space, the existing softball field will be relocated to the opposite end of the playfield and a portion of the existing visitor bleachers will be demolished. The scope of work also includes high barrier and perimeter fencing, site infrastructure, and accessibility upgrades as necessary. The Project will not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing athletic field or campus. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

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



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.

The Project expands the school's existing softball playfield area to include both a baseball and a softball field with corresponding backstops and dugouts. The existing softball field will be relocated from its existing location to the opposite end of the playfield. The Project will not remove healthy, mature, 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 it will not violate any of the exceptions, as described in the following section.

1. *The project will 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 3.2 miles east of the Campus.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is designated as such for the coastal California gnatcatcher and is located approximately 7 miles east of the site.⁵ As such, the Project will not impact sensitive environments or locations.

2. *Cumulative impacts will be considerable because successive projects of the same type will occur at the same place over time;*

The Project will not be expected to result in significant cumulative environmental impacts. As an active school campus, it is anticipated that projects such as maintenance activities or upgrades will occur on the campus in the future. However, there are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for the campus. As it stands, the Project will not result in potentially significant impacts. Therefore, no cumulative impacts will result from the Project and successive projects of the same type and at the same place over time.

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

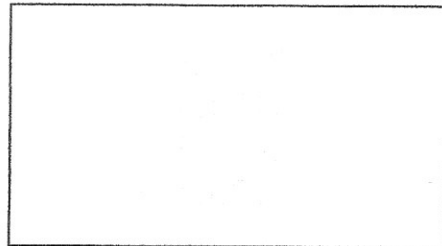
There are no known unusual circumstances that will have a significant effect on the environment. The Project does not constitute an expansion of use. There will be minor ground-disturbing activities associated with the Project. The Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) will be notified to provide oversight to ensure that these activities are conducted in compliance with the requirements of District Specification 01 4524,⁶ relevant provisions of South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1466, and other applicable environmental agency rules and requirements. Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-

³ City of Los Angeles. ZIMAS. Available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>. Accessed May 2020.

⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed May 2020.

⁵ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ccp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed May 2020.

⁶ http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t



11 and in District protocols, 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.⁷ Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1.⁸ 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 scenic highway;*

The Project site is located approximately 13.8 miles south of State Route 2 (SR 2), the nearest officially designated State scenic highway.⁹ 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 will occur on an existing school campus which is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.¹⁰ Therefore, the Project will not have an impact 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.*

Garfield HS is not eligible for federal, State, or local listing under any of the applicable criteria and is therefore not considered a historical resource pursuant to CEQA. Therefore, the Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.

Prepared By:

Phone and Email:

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Signed by:

Date:

5/20/2020

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

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html. Accessed May 2020.

¹⁰ California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/>. Accessed May 2020.