

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

PLACE
"FILED"
STICKER
HERE

FILED

JUN 22 2022

DEAN C. LOGAN
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK
DEPUTY

PLACE
"POSTED"
STICKER
HERE

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:

O'Melveny Elementary School Marquee Project

Project Location – Specific:

O'Melveny Elementary School Marquee Project (Project) will be located on the 5.7-acre O'Melveny Elementary School (O'Melveny ES) Campus. The O'Melveny ES Campus (Campus) is located at 728 Woodworth Street in the City of San Fernando. The Project will occur on the northern portion of the Campus.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project will install a new free-standing electronic marquee in the front of the school. The Project will also provide a new concrete footing and electricity for the marquee. The Project will not result in an increase in the student enrollment or require an alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing facilities or Campus.

The Project will be implemented pursuant to all applicable State, federal, and local regulations and all applicable Los Angeles Unified School District (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 (SC) as adopted by the Board of Education in February 2019.¹ 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.

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.

PLACE
"FILED"
STICKER
HERE

The beneficiaries of the Project include O'Melveny ES students, faculty, staff, families, school supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the Campus pursuant to the Civic Center Act (CA Ed. Code Sections 38130 - 38139).

Should the Project be altered from the improvements that are described above, LAUSD's Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) must be notified immediately to ensure that these activities are conducted in compliance with the required standards.

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 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 – Accessory Structures*
- Statutory Exemption:

Reasons why project is exempt:

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 in the exterior of the structure. The numbers of structures described in this section are the maximum allowable on any legal parcel.

The Project will install a new free-standing electronic marquee in the front of the school, along with associated concrete footing and electricity. Replacement of these facilities will not present a new or expanded use of the Campus. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.

Section 15311 – Accessory Structures

Class 11 consists of construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities.

The Project will install a new free-standing electronic marquee in the front of the school, along with associated concrete footing and electricity. The Project will place a minor structure accessory to an existing institutional facility. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15311.

Section 15300.2 – Exceptions

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

PLACE
"FILED"
STICKER
HERE

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 the Tujunga Valley/Hansen Dam, which is located approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the Campus.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is designated as such for the Southwestern willow flycatcher and is located approximately 3 miles southeast 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 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, then 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 vegetation 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 Program EIR.⁶ Compliance with District specifications will ensure that there is not a reasonable possibility that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unforeseen circumstances.

Consideration must be given to the management of excavated soils and/or to the earthwork activities involving more than 50 cubic yards of soil for the Project. If construction or earthmoving activities require import or export of soils and materials, OEHS must be notified to provide oversight to ensure that the import and/or export of soils are conducted in compliance with the requirements of District Specification Section 01 4524.⁷ If earthwork activities involve the disturbance of more than 50 cubic yards, OEHS will direct the completion of sampling and analysis of underlying soils which provides guidance to ensure compliance with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1466. Any variances for compliance with Specification Section 01 4524 and SCAQMD Rule 1466 must be approved by OEHS.

³ City of Los Angeles. ZIMAS. Available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>. Accessed April 2022.

⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed April 2022.

⁵ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed April 2022.

⁶ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

⁷ http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t

PLACE
"FILED"
STICKER
HERE

Furthermore, as set forth in LAUSD's SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11⁸ 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. Construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1 of the Program EIR.⁹ 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 15-miles east of State Route 2 (SR 2), the nearest officially designated State scenic highway.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ 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.*

Built in 1949, O'Melveny ES Campus is over 45 years old, meeting LAUSD's threshold for review as a potential historic resource and requiring evaluation for historic eligibility. However, LAUSD's Historic Resource Specialist determined that O'Melveny is ineligible as a historic resource.¹² 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:

Christy Wong
CEQA Project Manager

Phone and Email:

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

Signed by:



Date:

5/10/22

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

⁸ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on February 5, 2019.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html. Accessed April 2022.

¹¹ California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/>. Accessed April 2022.

¹² LAUSD OEHS. 2021. LAUSD Historic Resource Inventory Database.