

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
 OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
 ROOM 395, CITY HALL
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

(Article III, Section 3, City CEQA Guidelines)

FORM RP 1-1-91

Submission of this form is optional. This form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 East Imperial Highway, Norwalk, California 90650, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21168(d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitation on Court challenges to the approval of the project. Failure to file this notice with the County Clerk results in the statute of limitation being extended to 180 days.

LEAD CITY AGENCY AND ADDRESS: City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, 221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90012	COUNCIL DISTRICT: 09
PROJECT TITLE: VERMONT SQUARE - Los Angeles Park Foundation tree donation	LOG REFERENCE: BR 23-054

PROJECT LOCATION: 1248 East 47th St, Los Angeles, CA, 90011

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:

The proposed Project consists of planting six (6) 24-inch Coast Live Oak box trees (LA Commons Supply) with fencing installed around each of the trees in grassy areas of the park that do not interfere with irrigation or existing facilities. In addition to the tree installation, the donation will also fund a two-year maintenance plan implemented by the LAPF through its licensed landscape contractor(s), which will include monthly, as-needed maintenance including deep water irrigation, weeding and pest abatement, and tree replacement in the event of any tree loss.

Beneficiaries of the project are the patrons of the park.

CONTACT PERSON: ELENA MAGGIONI	AREA CODE 213	TELEPHONE NUMBER: 482-6980	EXT.
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EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)	CITY CEQA GUIDELINES	STATE CEQA GUIDELINES
<input type="checkbox"/> DECLARED EMERGENCY	Art. II, Sec. 2a(1)	ART. 18, Sec. 15269(a)
<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY PROJECT	Art. II, Sec. 2(a)(2)(3)	ART. 18, Sec. 15269(b)(c)
<input type="checkbox"/> MINISTERIAL PROJECT	Art. II, Sec. 2b	ART. 18, Sec. 15268
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION	Art. II, Sec. 2(c) See Below	ART. 19, Sec. 15300 -15333
<input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL EXEMPTION	Art. II, Sec. 2(d)	ART. 18, Sec. 15262
<input type="checkbox"/> STATUTORY EXEMPTION	Art. II, Sec. 2(i)	ART. 18, Sec. 15282


Class	Category	(City CEQA Guidelines)	(State CEQA Guidelines)
1	8	Art. III, Sec(s). 1(a)(8)	Art. 19, Sec(s). 15301(h)
4	3	Art. III, Sec(s). 1(d)(3)	Art. 19, Sec(s). 15304(b)
11	6	Art. III, Sec(s). 1(k)(6)	Art. 19, Sec(s). 15311
		Art. III, Sec(s). _____	Art. 19, Sec(s). _____
		Art. III, Sec(s). _____	Art. 19, Sec(s). _____

OTHER (See Public Resources Code Sect. 21080(b) and set forth in state & city guidelines provisions)

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:

It is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8), Class 4(3) and Class 11(6) of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15301(h), 15304(b) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines. None of the limitations set forth in State CEQA Guidelines 15300.2 apply, see attached narrative.

IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT OF EXEMPTION FINDING

SIGNATURE: ELENA MAGGIONI Environmental Supervisor		DATE: 3/16/2023
FEE \$75.00	RECEIPT NO.	REC'D. BY:
		DATE:

VERMONT SQUARE - Los Angeles Park Foundation tree donation

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LAPF has established a Park Forest Initiative that involves the solicitation of donations to support the planting of clusters of new trees within existing parks that act as micro-forests. Through private funding received by the LAPF from the Union Pacific Foundation in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), the LAPF has offered to fund park-forest improvements which include the planting of six (6) 24-inch Coast Live Oak box trees (LA Commons Supply) with fencing installed around each of the trees in grassy areas of the park that do not interfere with irrigation or existing facilities. In addition to the tree installation, the donation will also fund a two-year maintenance plan implemented by the LAPF through its licensed landscape contractor(s), which will include monthly, as-needed maintenance including deep water irrigation, weeding and pest abatement, and tree replacement in the event of any tree loss.

The project is located at 1248 East 47th St, Los Angeles, CA, 90011, in the South Los Angeles Community Planning Area (Fig.1).

II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Basis for Categorical Exemption

The proposed Project consists of maintenance of existing landscaping; new gardening, and tree planting on City property and placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing institutional facilities.

It is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8), Class 4(3) and Class 11(6) of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15301(h), 15304(b) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines.

Consideration of Potential Exceptions to Use of a Categorical Exemption

The State CEQA Guidelines (CCR Sec 15300.2) limit the use of categorical exemptions in the following circumstances:

1. Location. Exemption Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may be significant in a particularly sensitive environment. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply to all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The proposed project falls under Class 1, 4, 11 and could potentially constitute an exception to CEQA exemptions. According to the parcel profile report retrieved February 10, 2023, this site is not within a coastal or methane zone. This area resides in a liquefaction zone but the construction of this Project will not create conditions that could lead to liquefaction. Therefore, the project does not impact on a recognized environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern, and this exception has no application here.

2. Cumulative Impact. This exception applies when, although a particular project may not have a significant impact, the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type

in the same place, over time is significant.

The proposed project consists of planting new trees in an existing park, with an agreement to maintain them for three years. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed project. Therefore, this exception has no application here.

3. Significant Effect. This exception applies when, although the project may otherwise be exempt, there is a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

RAP is not aware of any unusual circumstances associated with this project. Therefore, this exception has no application here.

4. Scenic Highway. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project that 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 proposed project is not within sight of any state designated scenic highway, nor of any other historic and scenic resource. Therefore, this exception has no application here.

5. Hazardous Waste Site. This exception applies when a project is located on a site listed as a hazardous waste site under Government Code Section 65962.5.

As of February 10, 2023, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (Geotracker at <https://Geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>) have not listed any site within the project area or in a 500 feet radius from the area. Therefore, this exception has no application here.

6. Historical Resources. This exception applies when a project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The proposed Project is located in proximity Vermont Square Library, a site listed in the National Register of Historic Places (#87001022) as the first permanent branch library building in the Los Angeles Public Library System. The planting of new trees will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource and the excavation required for the tree planting will occur in already disturbed areas, therefore this office does not anticipate the disruption of historic, archaeological or paleontological resources.

However, in case historical artifacts are encountered, City Engineer Standard Specifications, Section 6-3.2, (Greenbook, 2012) states: "If discovery is made of items of archaeological or paleontological interest, the Contractor shall immediately cease excavation in the area of discovery and shall not continue until ordered by the Engineer." Therefore, during activities in which there will be ground disturbances (i.e., digging, drilling, etc.) if any evidence of archaeological, cultural, or paleontological resources are found, all work within the vicinity of the find shall stop until a qualified archaeologist can assess the finds and make recommendations. No excavation of any finds should be attempted by Project personnel unless directed by a qualified archaeologist. Construction activities may continue in other areas. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA (Section 15064.5f; Public Resources Code or PRC 21082), additional work such as testing or data recovery may be warranted.

The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbances; State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Los Angeles County Coroner has made a determination of origin and

disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. The Los Angeles County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Therefore, this exception has no application here.

Figure 1. Project Location



List of References

California Regional Water Quality Control Board. *GeoTracker*. Retrieved, September 2, 2022, from [https:// geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov).

City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning Parcel Profile Report. Retrieved on September 2, 2022, from NavigateLA <http://boemaps.eng.ci.la.ca.us/navigatela/>

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering. *NavigateLA*. Retrieved on September 2, 2022 from <http://boemaps.eng.ci.la.ca.us/navigatela/>

City of Los Angeles Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5

Los Angeles Municipal Code.

Public Resources Code Section 5097.98

Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction. Greenbook, 2012 edition.

State CEQA Guidelines.

State Department of Toxic Substances Control. *EnviroStor*. Retrieved September 2, 2022, from www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov

State Department of Transportation. *California Scenic Highway Mapping System*., from <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>