

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: 04
PROJECT TITLE: GRIFFITH PARK: TRAVEL TOWN MUSEUM - Approval and Acceptance of Internment Camp Education Sign	LOG REFERENCE: BR 23-070

PROJECT LOCATION: 5200 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA, 90027

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:

The area in Griffith Park now known as Travel Town was once home to a Civilian Conservation Camp. Like other camps located throughout the country, it was purposed to meet a wartime need for internment camps. Immigration and Naturalization Service used Griffith Park to detain small groups of first generation immigrants. The Los Angeles Parks Foundation has received a generous donation from the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Foundation consisting of an educational sign which will be placed on a pedestal to be installed at Travel Town.

Beneficiaries of the project are the patrons of the park.

CONTACT PERSON: ELENA MAGGIONI	AREA CODE: 213	TELEPHONE NUMBER: 482-6980	EXT.:
--	--------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)	CITY CEQA GUIDELINES	STATE CEQA GUIDELINES																									
<input type="checkbox"/> DECLARED EMERGENCY <input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> MINISTERIAL PROJECT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION <input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL EXEMPTION <input type="checkbox"/> STATUTORY EXEMPTION	Art. II, Sec. 2a(1) Art. II, Sec. 2(a)(2)(3) Art. II, Sec. 2b Art. II, Sec. 2(c) See Below Art. II, Sec. 2(d) Art. II, Sec. 2(i)	ART. 18, Sec. 15269(a) ART. 18, Sec. 15269(b)(c) ART. 18, Sec. 15268 ART. 19, Sec. 15300 -15333 ART. 18, Sec. 15262 ART. 18, Sec. 15282																									
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Class</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Category</td> <td style="width: 30%;">(City CEQA Guidelines)</td> <td style="width: 30%;">(State CEQA Guidelines)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td>Art. III, Sec(s). 1(k)(5)</td> <td>Art. 19, Sec(s). 15311(a)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>Art. III, Sec(s). _____</td> <td>Art. 19, Sec(s). _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>Art. III, Sec(s). _____</td> <td>Art. 19, Sec(s). _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>Art. III, Sec(s). _____</td> <td>Art. 19, Sec(s). _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>Art. III, Sec(s). _____</td> <td>Art. 19, Sec(s). _____</td> </tr> </table>	Class	Category	(City CEQA Guidelines)	(State CEQA Guidelines)	11	5	Art. III, Sec(s). 1(k)(5)	Art. 19, Sec(s). 15311(a)	_____	_____	Art. III, Sec(s). _____	Art. 19, Sec(s). _____	_____	_____	Art. III, Sec(s). _____	Art. 19, Sec(s). _____	_____	_____	Art. III, Sec(s). _____	Art. 19, Sec(s). _____	_____	_____	Art. III, Sec(s). _____	Art. 19, Sec(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (See Public Resources Code Sect. 21080(b) and set forth in state & city guidelines provisions)		
Class	Category	(City CEQA Guidelines)	(State CEQA Guidelines)																								
11	5	Art. III, Sec(s). 1(k)(5)	Art. 19, Sec(s). 15311(a)																								
_____	_____	Art. III, Sec(s). _____	Art. 19, Sec(s). _____																								
_____	_____	Art. III, Sec(s). _____	Art. 19, Sec(s). _____																								
_____	_____	Art. III, Sec(s). _____	Art. 19, Sec(s). _____																								
_____	_____	Art. III, Sec(s). _____	Art. 19, Sec(s). _____																								

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15311(a) 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: 4/6/2023
---	--------------------------

FEE \$75.00	RECEIPT NO.	REC'D. BY:	DATE:
--------------------	--------------------	-------------------	--------------

GRIFFITH PARK: TRAVEL TOWN MUSEUM - Approval and Acceptance of Internment Camp Education Sign CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The area in Griffith Park now known as Travel Town was once home to a Civilian Conservation Camp. Like other camps located throughout the country, it was purposed to meet a wartime need for internment camps. In December 1941, the day after the Pearl Harbor attack, Griffith Park was allocated \$32,400 by the War Department to build a campsite. Griffith Park was designated as a Prisoner of War Enclosure known as the Griffith Park Internment Camp.

Immigration and Naturalization Service used Griffith Park to detain small groups of first generation immigrants. Approximately 101 Japanese, 21 Germans and 4 Italians were detained for periods of one night to several months during World War II. The Army closed this site in 1943 as the need for military guards increased throughout the war effort and were deployed elsewhere. Long term detention never occurred at the Griffith Park Civilian Conservation Camp site; however, this location is historically significant to Griffith Park and the City of Los Angeles. In recognition of this history, the Los Angeles Parks Foundation has received a generous donation from the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Foundation consisting of an educational sign which will be placed on a pedestal to be installed at Travel Town.

The sign and the pedestal has the following characteristics:

- Custom-High Pressure Laminate panels with matte finish;
- 1/8" (inch) thick exterior panel;
- 24" (inches) in height;
- 36" (inches) in width;
- Standard eased edge .03" (inch) rounded radius corners;
- Double cantilever pedestal (45-degree angle);
- 54" (inch) tall posts from the ground to top of sign;
- In-ground mount;
- Black powder coat.

The project is located at 5200 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA, 90027, in the Hollywood Community Planning Area (Fig.1).

II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Basis for Categorical Exemption

The proposed Project consists of installation of signs located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by its Board of Commissioners.

it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15311(a) 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 11 and could potentially constitute an exception to CEQA exemptions. According to the parcel profile report retrieved March 10, 2023 this area does not reside within a coastal or methane zone, but it is located in a liquefaction zone. 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 the installation of a sign in an existing park. 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 March 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 listed the Project site as N. 80000257, because in August, 1943, the area became the Army's Western Corps Photographic Center and Camouflage Experimental Laboratory. The installation of the sign, however, will create a significant hazard to the public. 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 area is located within Griffith Park, an historic cultural monument of the City of Los Angeles (HCM#942). Specifically, Travel Town has been recognized as an Historic Cultural Monument (HCM #474) on its own standing. However, the installation of a sign that memorializes the historic role of the space, will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource. The excavation required for the installation of the sign will occur in already disturbed areas, and this office does not

anticipate the disruption of archaeological or paleontological resources.
Therefore, this exception has no application here.

Figure 1. Project Location



List of References

California Regional Water Quality Control Board. *GeoTracker*. Retrieved, March 10, 2023, from [https:// geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov).

City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning Parcel Profile Report. Retrieved on March 10, 2023, from NavigateLA <http://boemaps.eng.ci.la.ca.us/navigate/la/>

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering. *NavigateLA*. Retrieved on March 10, 2023 from <http://boemaps.eng.ci.la.ca.us/navigate/la/>

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 March 10, 2023, 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>