

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: 13
PROJECT TITLE: LARISSA PARKWAY - Retaining Wall Renovation	LOG REFERENCE: PRJ21685, BR 23-075

PROJECT LOCATION: 3305 Larissa Drive, Los Angeles, CA, 90026

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:

Larissa Parkway is currently an unimproved parcel, not open for public use, because the lot faces Sunset Boulevard with a grade difference of 42 feet from the top to the bottom of the lot. Its primary feature is a gunite concrete retaining wall use. A site observation assessment was conducted earlier this month revealing an eroded void beneath the gunite wall. The trees and vegetation are potential causes for the cracks. The extent of the void requires remedial action to prevent further erosion. The proposed Project consists of clearing and grubbing of vegetation, demolition of upheaved concrete at existing wall and construction of new concrete wall and sealing of cracks and gaps. This proposed Project includes the removal of approximately two (2) China flame trees and one (1) Moreton Bay fig tree within the park, which are not "protected" trees under the Los Angeles Administrative Code. RAP will replace the removed trees with sixty (60) new 15 gallon tree plantings, the type, size, and location to be determined by RAP's Forestry Division. The new trees are not being planted at this site to avoid root intrusion and upheaval of the new proposed wall.

Beneficiaries of the project are the neighbors 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	4	Art. III, Sec(s). 1(a)(4)	Art. 19, Sec(s). 15301(d)
2		Art. III, Sec(s). 1(b)	Art. 19, Sec(s). 15302
		Art. III, Sec(s). _____	Art. 19, Sec(s). _____
		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:

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(4) and Class 2 of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15301(d) and 15302 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:

LARISSA PARKWAY - Retaining Wall Renovation

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Larissa Parkway is located at 3305 West Larissa Drive in the Silver Lake community of the City.

On July 14, 1922, Larissa Parkway was acquired for park purposes through a filing of subdivision maps. Due to the size of the park, and the facilities and plan features it provides, Larissa Parkway meets the standard for a Neighborhood Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan. The park is currently unimproved and not open for public use, as the lot faces Sunset Boulevard with a grade difference of 42 feet from the top to the bottom of the lot. Its primary feature is a gunite concrete retaining wall use.

A site observation assessment was conducted earlier this month revealing an eroded void beneath the gunite wall. The trees and vegetation are potential causes for the cracks. The extent of the void requires remedial action to prevent further erosion.

There is currently a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) pole in the middle of the site carrying overhead utility and AT&T telephone lines. Due to the location of the power pole in relation to the retaining wall, RAP is currently coordinating with LADWP to remove the existing power pole to begin renovations.

The scope of the proposed Project will include the following:

- Clearing and grubbing of vegetation;
- Demolition of upheaved concrete at existing wall;
- Construction of new concrete wall and sealing of cracks and gaps.

This proposed Project includes the removal of approximately two (2) China flame trees and one (1) Moreton Bay fig tree within the park, which are not protected trees under the Los Angeles Administrative Code. RAP will replace the removed trees with sixty (60) new 15 gallon tree plantings, the type, size, and location to be determined by RAP's Forestry Division. The new trees are not being planted at this site to avoid root intrusion and upheaval of the new proposed wall.

The project is located at 3305 Larissa Drive, Los Angeles, CA, 90026, in the Silver Lake - Echo Park - Elysian Valley Community Planning Area (Fig.1).

II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Basis for Categorical Exemption

The proposed Project consists of the rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, to meet current standards of public safety and reconstruction of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(4) and Class 2 of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15301(d) and 15302 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 and 2, therefore, 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 replacement of an existing wall. 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 4/6/2023, 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 area is not located in proximity of known historical, paleontological or archeological resources. The excavation required for the proposed Project will occur in already disturbed areas, and this office does not anticipate the disruption of 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, March 9, 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 9, 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 9, 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 9, 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>