



## MACARTHUR (GEN. DOUGLAS) PARK - Playground installation

### CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

#### I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project includes the following:

- Construction and installation of a new playground in the southwest corner of the park.
- Installation of related landscaping, irrigation, path-of-travel improvements.
- Installation of fencing around the playground.
- Installation of hydration station(s), and related site amenities.

The project is located at 2230 West 6th St, Los Angeles, CA, 90057, in the Westlake Community Planning Area (Fig.1).

#### II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

##### Basis for Categorical Exemption

The proposed Project consists of new gardening, and landscaping; minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored and construction and placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing institutional facilities.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3), Class 4(12) and Class 11(6) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections

15303(e), 15304(b), 15304(f) 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 4, and 11, and could potentially constitute an exception to CEQA exemptions. This site is not within a coastal, methane, or liquefaction zone, therefore to the project does not impact on a recognized environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern, 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 installation of a new playground of 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 February 9, 2023, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (Envirostor at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://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 MacArthur Park, a Historic Cultural Monument of the City of Los Angeles (HCM #100). The proposed Project, however, does not detract from the historic significance of the park and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource. Any 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, February 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 February 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 February 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 February 9, 2023, from [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://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>