

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: 11
PROJECT TITLE: DOCKWEILER STATE BEACH – LA COUNTY STORM DRAIN RENOVATION	LOG REFERENCE: BR 23-068

PROJECT LOCATION: 12001 Vista del Mar, Playa del Rey, CA 90293

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:

The proposed project consists of the replacement of an existing stormwater conveyance structure. The proposed Project includes installing a cofferdam, removing and replacing the broken portion of the reinforced concrete box drain including the installation of 48 concrete support piles that will be impact driven about 36 feet deep along a 175-foot segment of the renovated storm drain, installing a water barrier and replacing the fencing on top of the stormwater capturing structure.

Beneficiaries of the project are the citizens of the Los Angeles coastal area.

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 <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-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Class</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Category</th> <th style="text-align: left;">(City CEQA Guidelines)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">(State CEQA Guidelines)</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">1</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">1</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Art. III, Sec(s). 1(a)(1)</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Art. 19, Sec(s). 15301(a)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">2</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">3</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Art. III, Sec(s). 1(b)(3)</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Art. 19, Sec(s). 15302(c)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Art. III, Sec(s). _____</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Art. 19, Sec(s). _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Art. III, Sec(s). _____</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Art. 19, Sec(s). _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> </td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Art. III, Sec(s). _____</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Art. 19, Sec(s). _____</td> </tr> </table>	Class	Category	(City CEQA Guidelines)	(State CEQA Guidelines)	1	1	Art. III, Sec(s). 1(a)(1)	Art. 19, Sec(s). 15301(a)	2	3	Art. III, Sec(s). 1(b)(3)	Art. 19, Sec(s). 15302(c)			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)	
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JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:

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

DOCKWEILER STATE BEACH – LA COUNTY STORM DRAIN RENOVATION

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) has contacted RAP regarding an urgent repair that LACDPW needs to undertake to a storm drain that crosses Dockweiler Beach.

The subject storm drain (Project No. 5241) meets the ocean about a quarter of a mile south of Sandpiper Street and Vista Del Mar. Project 5241 is a Reinforced Concrete Box (RCB) drain that is located within Dockweiler Beach. In 2015, LACDPW performed temporary repairs to avoid collapse and began preparing plans for a permanent repair. Since then, the drain has further deteriorated and is at risk of collapse. LACDPW has indicated that it is vital for expedient repair of this drain as should this drain collapse, it could cause flooding to the neighboring communities.

The Project proposes the replacement of 380 feet of the RCB drain and upgrade to the outlet protection will allow continued flood protection of various communities in the City. The project will:

- Install a cofferdam;
- Remove and replace the broken portion of the Reinforced Concrete Box Drain including the installation of 48 concrete support piles that will be impact driven about 36 feet deep along a 175-foot segment of the renovated storm drain;
- Install a water barrier at the outlet to reduce the wave impacts to the drain and minimize sand accumulation inside the RCB;
- Remove and install new fencing on top of the drainage structure.

LACDPW will post project information posters near the project location prior to the start of construction. Additionally, LACDPW will create a website with project information and the link will be displayed on the project poster as well.

The California Coastal Commission issued a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) to the Project in April 2022 (Application # 5-21-0706) and mandated the following conditions.

- The permit for operating the project expires in 10 years. Within 10 years, Los Angeles County should plan the replacement of the stormwater drain with a structure that takes into account future risk of coastal hazards influenced by sea level rise and relocation alternatives to avoid or minimize coastal access and recreation impacts (e.g. obstruction of lateral beach and water access);
- Before starting the issuance of the CDP, Los Angeles County should submit to the Coastal Commission:
 - a Final Public Access Plan, to provide continuous coastal access to the public;
 - a Coastal Pollution Prevention Plan which includes best management practices and best housekeeping practices to minimize the effects of construction on coastal waters;
 - a bird monitoring and avoidance plan;
 - a grunion monitoring and avoidance plan.

As the proposed Project is located in proximity of the breeding areas of the federally

endangered California least tern [*Sternula antillarum browni* (*Sterna a. b.*) least tern] and of the federally threatened western snowy plover [*Charadrius nivosus* (*C. alexandrinus n.*); snowy plover], the US Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mandated conservation measures, so the final project design is not likely to adversely affect the least tern or to adversely modify designated critical habitat for the snowy plover.

The project is located at 12001 Vista del Mar, Playa del Rey, CA 90293, in the Community Planning Area (Fig.1).

II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Basis for Categorical Exemption

The proposed Project consists of exterior alterations involving minor construction where there be negligible or no expansion of use and replacement and reconstruction of existing utility facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

The proposed Project it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) and Class 2(c) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15301(a) and 15302(c) 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 replacement of an existing stormwater conveying structure. 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.

Unusual circumstances associated with this project, like the presence of the breeding grounds of the California least tern and of the western snowy plover in the vicinity of the project, as well as potential interference of construction activities with grunions' reproductive rituals have been addressed in the Coastal Development Permit. 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 3, 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 3, 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 3, 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 3, 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>