



## VENICE OF AMERICA CENTENNIAL PARK - Outdoor improvements

### CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

#### I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On June 16th, 2022, the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners (Board) approved the proposed Project, which included the following improvements to Venice of America Centennial Park (Report No. 22-172):

- Installation of park fencing.
- Improvements to site landscaping and irrigation.

RAP staff has determined that it is necessary to modify the existing scope of work of the Project to include the following:

- Addition of new shrubs.
- Installation of new irrigation systems.
- Installation of new decomposed granite paving.
- Installation of new mulch paving.

The project is located at 501 Venice Boulevard, Venice, CA, 90291, in the Venice Community Planning Area (Fig.1).

#### II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

##### Basis for Categorical Exemption

The proposed Project consists of new gardening, tree planting, and landscaping; minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored, and construction 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 15304(b), 15304(f) 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 4, and 11 and could potentially constitute an exception to CEQA exemptions. According to the parcel profile report retrieved on April 21, 2023, this area resides in a liquefaction zone, in the methane zone and in the coastal zone. The construction of this Project will not create conditions that could lead to liquefaction and will not expose park patrons to more risks of methane seepage. As the

proposed Project consists in minor maintenance activities which are included in those repair and maintenance activities excluded from the requirements of the California Coastal Act (Section 30610(c) and Section 30610(e)). Therefore, 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 adding shrubs, mulch and irrigation to 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 5/18/2023, 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 1,000 foot 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. No excavation is required for the proposed Project and this office does not anticipate the disruption of archaeological or paleontological resources.

However, in case historical artifacts are encountered, City Engineer Standard

Therefore, this exception has no application here.

Figure 1. Project Location



## List of References

California Regional Water Quality Control Board. *GeoTracker*. Retrieved, April 21, 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 April 21, 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 April 21, 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 April 21, 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>