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ON August 21 2024

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REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUREAU OF ENGINEERING
1149 S. BROADWAY, 7th FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

(Articles II and III – City CEQA Guidelines)

Submission of this form is optional. The form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, California, 90650 and with the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research, if filed with the County Clerk, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21167(d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval of the project.

LEAD CITY AGENCY AND ADDRESS:	**COUNCIL DISTRICT**
City of Los Angeles c/o Bureau of Engineering 1149 S. Broadway, 6th Floor, MS 939 Los Angeles, CA 90015	14
PROJECT TITLE: E. 6th Street Green Infrastructure Corridor (W.O. S33WE6GC / CIP No. WPD000023)	**LOG REFERENCE**

PROJECT LOCATION: E. 6th Street from St. Louis Street to Mathews Street in the Boyle Heights Community Plan Area of the City of Los Angeles (see *Figure 1: Project Location and Figure 2: Project Vicinity*). T.G. Page 635 Grid A5

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT: The E. 6th Street Green Infrastructure Corridor (Project) will capture stormwater runoff along E. 6th Street between St. Louis Street and Mathews Street. The Project would construct biofiltration planters, tree wells, landscaped parkways, a pet waste station, and public education signage in various locations along E. 6th Street and its cross streets. The purpose of this Project is to add aesthetic enhancements to the 6th street corridor, manage stormwater runoff from streets in the Project area, and to create open space for the community. Project beneficiaries include members of the community. Please see the Project description continuation in the narrative for more details. On August 8, 2024, the Bureau of Engineering determined the project to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approved the Project to move forward to the bid and award phase, with an anticipated construction start date in March 2025.

CONTACT PERSON	**CONTACT INFORMATION**
Lauren Rhodes	Lauren.Rhodes@lacity.org

EXEMPT STATUS
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION*

CITY CEQA GUIDELINES	Art. III, Sec. 1 Class 1, 3, 4, and 11
STATE CEQA GUIDELINES	Sec. 15301, 15303, 15304, and 15311

* See Public Resources Code Sec. 21080 and set forth state and city guidelines provisions.

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION: This Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15301, Class 1 *Existing Facilities,* Section 15302, Class 3 *New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures,* Section 15304, Class 4, *Minor Alterations to Land,* and Section 15311, Class 11, *Accessory Structures*. Additionally, the Project is exempt pursuant to *Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines* Article III, Section 1, Section 1 Class 1 *Existing Facilities*, Class 3 *New Construction of Small Structures*, Class 4 *Minor Alterations to Land*, and Class 11 *Accessory Structures*. *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:	TITLE:	DATE:
Jan Green Rebstock boxSIGN 4ZJQVZL4-1XX26X6L Dr. Jan Green Rebstock	Environmental Affairs Officer Clean Water Division	Aug 9, 2024

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

DISTRIBUTION: (1) COUNTY CLERK; (2) STATE CLEARINGHOUSE; (3) AGENCY RECORD

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

I. DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT, CONTINUED

The Project would capture stormwater runoff and add aesthetic enhancements along E. 6th Street between St. Louis Street and S. Mathews Street. The Project would construct 13 biofiltration planters, 37 tree wells, a pet waste station, curb extension, and public education signage at various locations along E. 6th Street and its cross streets, St. Louis Street, Chicago Street, Breed Street, Soto Street and Mathews Street.

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Figure 1: Project Location

Biofiltration planters are landscaped areas that are designed to capture and improve the water quality of urban stormwater runoff using layers of mulch, soil media, and a gravel bed. Stormwater runoff will flow from the existing curb and gutter to a catch basin inlet (per City of Los Angeles Standard Plan No. S-354-0), then into the biofiltration planters and flow to the existing storm drain network. The catch basin for each biofiltration planter will be constructed next to the upstream end, at the existing curb and gutter, and include a grate to prevent trash and debris from entering the system. Each biofilter would have catch basin inlet, landscape plantings, mulch, planting soil, drainage gravel, non-woven geotextile and a subdrain pipe. Runoff water quality would be improved by infiltrating through the planting soil underneath the parkway basin. The improved water flows to the subdrain pipe that would connect to a storm drain. The excavation depth required to install a planter is approximately 5 feet.

No tree removal is anticipated. The Project site contains 117 existing trees, and all will be protected in place using tree protection fencing. The Project would plant approximately 37 trees and plant new landscaping in new and existing tree wells and parkways. The Project would construct curb extension features including striping and reflective bollards at the intersection of Soto Street and E. 6th Street. No travel lanes or parking spaces would be added or removed. Construction is anticipated to begin in March 2025.

Project operation and maintenance includes the general inspection, maintenance, cleanout and replacement of the Project features. The maintenance type and inspection frequency depend on the Project element. The pet waste station requires the most frequent maintenance, involving replacement of the pet waste bag on a weekly basis. The biofiltration planters and landscaped parkways have similar maintenance frequencies, once a month during the wet season and once every two weeks during the dry season. Maintenance involves removing trash, inspecting vegetation and watering landscaping.

Biofiltration planter cleanouts also need to be maintained once a year. The planter's catch basins require maintenance twice a year to remove trash, blockage at the grate and inside the basin. Trees require monthly maintenance, including removal of trash and watering. Signs require monthly inspections to check for vandalism and should be replaced as needed. The City of Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) would be responsible for the maintenance of all Project elements.

Unless otherwise stated, the proposed Project will be designed, constructed and operated following all applicable laws, regulations, ordinances and formally adopted City standards including but not limited to:

- City of Los Angeles Municipal Code
- Bureau of Engineering Standard Plans
- Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, including Additions and Amendments
- Work Area Traffic Control Handbook

In addition, the Project will include the following best management practices (BMP):

- **BMP-ARC-1. Archaeological Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP).** Prior to the start of construction, the Qualified Archaeologist[1] or Archaeological Monitor[2] shall conduct training for construction personnel regarding archaeological resources. The training should include an overview of potential archaeological, tribal cultural, and paleontological resources that could be encountered during ground-disturbing activities, contact information and procedures for inadvertent finds, and penalties for unauthorized artifact and/or fossil collecting or intentional disturbance. The WEAP training can be in the form of a video or PowerPoint presentation or printed literature (handouts) that can be given to new workers and contractors to avoid the necessity of continuous training over the course of the project. A copy of the WEAP training materials will be provided to the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering. It is assumed that the training will occur only within on-site construction hours. A training log documenting all on site construction personnel have received the WEAP training will be developed and provided to the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering. In the event of an archaeological resource discovery by construction personnel, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a Qualified Archaeologist shall be contacted to evaluate the find before restarting work in the area. If it is determined that the archaeological resource(s) is(are) scientifically significant, the archaeological monitor shall complete the Archaeological Assessment.

- **BMP-ARC-2. Archaeological Assessment.** If a possible archaeological resource is uncovered during earthwork or construction, all work shall cease within a minimum distance of 50 feet from the find until a Qualified Archaeologist has been retained to evaluate the find in accordance with National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources criteria and the Bureau of Engineering is notified of the inadvertent discovery. The Qualified Archaeologist may adjust this avoidance area, ensuring appropriate temporary protection measures of the find

1 Qualified Archaeologist. A professional archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Archeology and Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards and is eligible for listing on the Register of Professional Archaeologists or the Society for American Archaeology; holds a graduate degree in archaeology or a related field; and has a minimum of five years of experience completing and supervising field work in archaeological contexts similar to the Project site.

2 Archaeological Monitor. An archaeologist who has a minimum of a bachelor's or equivalent degree in archaeology, anthropology, paleontology, or another closely related field and no less than one year of experience conducting archaeological monitoring and/or excavation in similar regional archaeological contexts.

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are taken while also considering ongoing construction needs in the surrounding area. Temporary staking and delineation of the avoidance area shall be installed around the find in order to avoid any disturbance from construction equipment. Ground Disturbance Activities[3] may continue unimpeded on other portions of the site outside the specified radius. Any potential archaeological resource or associated materials that are uncovered shall not be moved or collected by anyone other than an Archaeological Monitor or Qualified Archaeologist unless the materials have been determined to be non-unique archaeological resources, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.1(h), by the Qualified Archaeologist. The Qualified Archaeologist shall determine if the resources are unique archeological resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2(g). Consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21083.2, the handling, treatment, preservation, and recordation of unique archaeological resources should occur as follows:

- The find should be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state unless the Project would damage the resource.

- When preserving in place or leaving in an undisturbed state is not possible, excavation and recovery of the find for scientific study should occur unless testing or studies already completed have adequately recovered the scientifically consequential information from and about the resource, and this determination is documented by a Qualified Archaeologist.

Ground Disturbance Activities in the area where resource(s) were found may recommence once the identified resources are properly assessed and processed by a Qualified Archaeologist. A report that describes the resource(s) and its disposition, as well as the assessment methodology, shall be prepared by the Qualified Archaeologist according to current professional standards and maintained for at least five years after certificate of occupancy. If appropriate, the report should also contain the Qualified Archaeologist's recommendations for the preservation, conservation, and curation of the resource at a suitable repository, such as the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, with which the City of Los Angeles (City) must comply. Within 60 days following the completion of monitoring and all associated work, the archeologist shall submit the appropriate report to the City Bureau of Engineering and to the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at the University Of Fullerton; the report(s) shall include all state and local requirements. Reports submitted to the SCCIC shall be formatted and completed in accordance with the California Historic Resources Inventory System (CHRIS) document submittal standards.

- **BMP-TCR-1. Treatment of Tribal Cultural Resources.** If a possible tribal cultural resource is uncovered during earthwork or construction, all work shall cease within a minimum distance of 50 feet from the find until a Qualified Tribal Monitor[4] or Archaeological Monitor has been retained to evaluate the find and the Bureau of Engineering is notified of the inadvertent discovery.

3 Ground Disturbance Activities. Any earthwork activity including, but not limited to, excavating, digging, trenching, plowing, drilling, tunneling, quarrying, grading, leveling, removing peat, clearing, driving posts, augering, backfilling, blasting, stripping topsoil or a similar activity at a Project site.

4 Qualified Tribal Monitor. A tribal representative who possesses the knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience established by the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC) Guidelines for Native American Monitors/Consultants (2005), and as may be amended.

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Following discovery, the Bureau of Engineering shall immediately contact all Native American tribes that have informed the City they are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the Project, as well as the Bureau of Engineering. If a Qualified Tribal Monitor or Archaeological Monitor determines, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21074(a)(2), that the object or artifact appears to be a potential tribal cultural resource, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, the City shall provide any affected tribe a reasonable period of time, not less than five business days, to conduct a site visit and make recommendations to the City and Bureau of Engineering regarding the monitoring of future Ground Disturbance Activities and the treatment and disposition of any discovered tribal cultural resources. The City shall implement the tribe's recommendations if the Qualified Tribal Monitor or Archaeological Monitor reasonably concludes such recommendations are reasonable and feasible.

Consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21083.2, the handling, treatment, preservation, and recordation of tribal cultural resources should occur as follows:

- The find should be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state unless the Project would damage the resource.

- When preserving in place or leaving in an undisturbed state is not possible, excavation and recovery of the find for scientific study should occur unless testing or studies already completed have adequately recovered the scientifically consequential information from and about the resource, and this determination is documented by a Qualified Tribal Monitor or Qualified Archaeologist.

All collected artifacts and fieldwork notes, if not human remains or other mortuary objects, shall be curated at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County or another appropriate curatorial facility for educational purposes. If cleared by the Qualified Tribal Monitor or Archaeological Monitor, Ground Disturbance Activities may continue unimpeded on other portions of the site. Ground Disturbance Activities in the area where resource(s) were found may recommence once the identified resources are properly assessed and processed. A report that describes the resource and its disposition, as well as the assessment methodology shall be prepared by the Qualified Tribal Monitor or Archaeological Monitor, according to current professional standards and maintained for at least five years after the certificate of occupancy is issued. A copy of the report shall be submitted to Bureau of Engineering, the South Central Coastal Information Center at California State University, Fullerton and to the Native American Heritage Commission for inclusion in its Sacred Lands File. The Bureau of Engineering may review and approve any monitoring or mitigation plan prior to implementation.

- **BMP-PAL-1. Paleontological Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP).** Prior to the start of construction, the Qualified Paleontologist[5] or Paleontological Monitor[6] shall conduct

5 Qualified Paleontologist. A paleontologist who meets the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards for a Principal Investigator or Project Paleontologist; has demonstrated competence in field techniques, preparation, identification, curation, and reporting and/or a graduate degree in paleontology or geology or a publication record in peer reviewed journals; at least two years professional experience with administration and project management experience; proficiency in recognizing fossils in the field and determining their significance; expertise in local geology, stratigraphy, and biostratigraphy; and experience collecting vertebrate fossils in the field.
6 Paleontological Monitor. A paleontologist who has a minimum of a bachelor's or equivalent degree in geology or paleontology and no less than one year of experience performing paleontological monitoring and salvaging fossil materials in the relevant geologic province; or an equivalent degree in biology or pursuit of a degree in geology or paleontology and no less than two years of comparable experience.

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training for construction personnel regarding the appearance of fossils and the procedures for notifying paleontological staff should fossils be discovered by construction staff. The WEAP training can be in the form of a video or PowerPoint presentation or printed literature (handouts) that can be given to new workers and contractors to avoid the necessity of continuous training over the course of the project. A copy of the WEAP training materials will be provided to the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering. It is assumed that the training will occur only within on-site construction hours. A training log documenting all on site construction personnel have received the WEAP training will be developed and provided to the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering. In the event of a fossil discovery by construction personnel, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a Qualified Paleontologist shall be contacted to evaluate the find before restarting work in the area. If it is determined that the fossil(s) is(are) scientifically significant, the Paleontological Monitor shall complete the next two steps.

- **BMP-PAL-2. Treatment of Paleontological Resources.** If a probable paleontological resource is uncovered during earthwork or construction, all work shall cease within a minimum distance of 50 feet from the find until a Qualified Paleontologist has been retained to evaluate the find in accordance with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Standard Procedures for the Assessment and Mitigation of Adverse Impacts to Paleontological Resources (2010) and the Bureau of Engineering is notified of the inadvertent discovery. Temporary flagging shall be installed around the find in order to avoid any disturbance from construction equipment. Any paleontological materials that are uncovered shall not be moved or collected by anyone other than a Qualified Paleontologist or his/her designated representative such as a Paleontological Monitor. If cleared by the Qualified Paleontologist, Ground Disturbance Activities may continue unimpeded on other portions of the site. The found deposit(s) shall be treated in accordance with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Standard Procedures for the Assessment and Mitigation of Adverse Impacts to Paleontological Resources. In consultation with the City, Ground Disturbance Activities in the area where resource(s) were found may recommence once the identified resources are properly assessed and processed by Qualified Paleontologist. A report that describes the resource and its disposition, as well as the assessment methodology, shall be prepared by the Qualified Paleontologist according to current professional standards and maintained for at least five years after certificate of occupancy. If appropriate, the report should also contain the Qualified Paleontologist's recommendations for the preservation, conservation, and curation of the resource at a suitable repository, such as the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, with which the City must comply. Within 60 days following the completion of monitoring and all associated work, the archeologist shall submit the appropriate report to the City Bureau of Engineering and to the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at the University Of Fullerton; the report(s) shall include all state and local requirements. Reports submitted to the SCCIC shall be formatted and completed in accordance with the California Historic Resources Inventory System (CHRIS) document submittal standards.

- **BMP-NOI-1. LAMC Noise Ordinance Compliance.** The proposed Project shall comply with the City of Los Angeles Noise Ordinance No. 144,331 and 161,574 (LAMC Section 112.05), and any subsequent ordinances, which prohibit the emission or creation of noise beyond certain levels.

- **BMP-NOI-2. Permitted Time for Construction.** Construction shall be restricted to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. Construction activity shall not be permitted on any Sunday or national holiday.

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- **BMP-NOI-3. Noise-generating equipment.** NOISE RCM-3: Noise-generating equipment operated at the Project site shall be equipped with the most effective and technologically feasible noise control devices, such as mufflers, lagging (enclosures for exhaust pipes), and/or motor enclosures. All equipment shall be properly maintained to ensure that no additional noise, due to worn or improperly maintained parts, is generated.

- **BMP-NOI-4. Construction signage.** The proposed Project shall comply with the City of Los Angeles Building Regulations Ordinance No. 178,048 (LAMC Section 91.106.4.8), which requires a construction site notice to be provided that includes the following information: job site address, permit number, name and phone number of the contractor and owner or owner's agent, hours of construction allowed by code or any discretionary approval for each site, and City telephone numbers where violations can be reported. The notice shall be posted and maintained at the construction of each site prior to the start of construction and displayed in a location that is readily visible to the public.

II. PROJECT HISTORY

The Project is funded by Measure W – Safe Clean Water funds. The Project is located within the boundaries of the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed (ULAR) Management Area and has been identified as a disadvantaged community. The Project would implement street beautification enhancements, improve the surface water quality of the area through implementation of multi-benefit stormwater improvements, and add more open, green and educational spaces to the 6th Street corridor in the Boyle Heights community. The Project is part of a larger compliance strategy to not only improve water quality but also to provide environmental, aesthetic, water supply, and other enhancements to benefit disadvantaged low-income neighborhoods. The Project would also improve the water quality of its tributary drainage area's runoff which carries suspended solids, trash, oils, pesticides, and metals before it reaches Hollenbeck Park Lake and the Los Angeles River. This will result in the reduction of pollutant loads in stormwater runoff from the streets around the Project, improving street access and safety for community members during storm events.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A. Basis for Categorical Exemption

The proposed Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15301, Class 1 *Existing Facilities* for minor alteration of an existing public facility used to provide stormwater conveyance and minor alteration of an existing street and sidewalks with negligible or no expansion of use; Section 15303, Class 3 *New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures* for construction of limited new, small structures including construction of new, small stormwater conveyances structures; Section 15304, Class 4 *Minor Alterations to Land* for the minor public alterations of the condition of vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees including new gardening or landscaping and minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored; and Section 15311, Class 11, *Accessory Structures* for the construction of minor structure access to the existing land uses including on-premise signs for education purposes.

Additionally, this Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines Article III, Section 1, Class 1 *Existing Facilities* for the minor alteration with negligible or no expansion of use of an existing public facility and street, and modification of existing storm drain systems for collection of local water at alternate points within an existing local drainage area unless impact to a park is

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anticipated; Class 3 *New Construction of Small Structures* for the construction of limited numbers of new, small facilities including storm drain constructed to collect low flow or alleviate other local drainage problems unless impact on a park is anticipated; Class 4 *Minor Alteration to Land* for the minor public alteration to the condition of vegetation, including new gardening, tree planting or landscaping, which does not involve removal of mature scenic trees and or minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored; and Class 11 *Accessory Structures* for the construction of minor structures accessory to adjacent land uses including a sign located on City property managed by a City department.

B. 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 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.

This Project is located in the public right of way in a highly urbanized area of the City of Los Angeles where the surrounding land uses are residential and public facilities thus it is not a particularly sensitive environment. The Project would not 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. Therefore, this exception has no application to this project.

2. Cumulative Impact. This exception applies when, although a 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 Project is adjacent to and within the project area for the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services' (StreetsLA) Hollenbeck Park Adjacent and I-5 Freeway Adjacent Beautification Project. The Hollenbeck Park Adjacent and I-5 Freeway Adjacent Beautification Project will add new trees on 6th Street between St. Louis Street and Soto Street and reduce street width on St. Louis Street to install sidewalks on the west side of St. Louis Street. The existing parking and travel lanes will remain and no impacts to traffic are anticipated related to the project implementation. New trees added to the StreetsLA project would impact the Project's proposed configuration, and locations of landscape improvements on 6th Street. The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) and StreetsLA have coordinated the two projects to avoid design and schedule conflicts. The Hollenbeck Park Adjacent and I-5 Freeway Adjacent Beautification Project is currently in construction and is anticipated to be completed in summer 2024 before the start of the Project. Additionally, StreetsLA has completed and filed a separate CEQA Notice of Exemption in April 2023 for its project.

The Project is less than 0.5 miles northeast of the Sixth Street Viaduct - Park, Arts, and River Connectivity (PARC) Improvements project which includes the development of a new 12 acre park underneath and adjacent to the Sixth Street Viaduct from Mateo Street to the US-101 freeway. The Sixth Street PARC Improvements project's boundaries do not overlap with the Project's boundaries. Construction for Sixth Street PARC is underway and is expected to be completed in June 2026.

As an existing public right-of-way, it is anticipated that the need for repair and maintenance may occur in the future; however, this Project is not expected to result in any cumulative impacts due to successive

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projects of the same type in the same place. While other similar projects are occurring elsewhere in the City, they have been determined to be happening in distinct locations and at separate times. Given the nature of the project, this project is not anticipated to result in a cumulative impact when included with successive projects in the same place and over time. Therefore, this exception has no application to this project.

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.

Recreation – Hollenbeck Park

Hollenbeck Park is located directly west of the intersection of 6th Street and St. Louis Street at the west terminus of the Project boundaries. The Project will not impact on the use of the park or any features at the park. Parking on the 6th Street may be temporarily impacted due to Project construction, however no permanent change to street parking will occur and there are other nearby areas to park during construction. The existing stormwater runoff from the Project drainage area flows into the water feature at Hollenbeck Park and further into the Los Angeles River via the storm drain system. The Project objective is to reduce the debris and pollutant load from the runoff prior to flowing into Hollenbeck Park by installing the Project elements and improving water quality downstream of the Project site. The type of proposed Project elements and construction methodology are not uncommon for a project of this type and would not be considered an unusual circumstance. Thus, there is no possibility that the Project would have a significant effect due to any unusual circumstances.

Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources

In August 2023, SWCA prepared the *Archaeological Resources Assessment* and the *Paleontological Resources Technical Memorandum* (on file with the BOE) for the Ben Franklin Library Renovation project. Ben Franklin Library is located approximately ½ mile north of the Project site. The survey area of these reports covers the Project limits and thus the reports are used to determine the presence of known cultural resources and potential for buried resources within the Project site. The following summarizes the findings and conclusions of the report:

Archaeological Resources Assessment

The California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search results identified three historical archaeological resources recorded near the Project site. Collectively, these resources were composed of various types of refuse dating from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Substantial portions of the materials were domestic items associated with residences that were once located on or near the properties in which the discoveries were made. The artifacts were identified beneath the existing developed surface and extending to depths ranging from 4 to 10 feet. The archival record of construction and demolition events within the Project site from the 1880s to the 1970s, particularly in what is now the parking lot outside of the library building constructed in 1916, very likely has resulted in the historical archaeological components being deposited and remaining preserved in the near-surface setting beneath the parking lot within the Project site. Based on the available evidence, there is a high potential for buried historical archaeological resources within the Project site.

None of the archaeological resources identified in the CHRIS records search contained Native American components. Background research identified several Native American settlements, rancherias, and sites in the vicinity. Notably, the Gabrielino village known as Yaanga and the rancheria known as Pueblito were located between 1.0 and 1.7 miles northwest of the Project site. There is a low potential for a buried Native American archaeological resource within the Project site. What potential exists would be in naturally deposited alluvial sediments beneath any mechanically altered strata

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associated with land uses from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The protocols and best management practices described outlined in the section I. above are sufficient to ensure that any potential impacts to tribal cultural resources that may be present in the Project site are less than significant.

Construction at the Project site would adhere to applicable best management practices intended to reduce and avoid creating significant impacts to archaeological resources in the event of a discovery during grading, excavation, or other soil-disturbing activities within the Project site. Specifically, BOE will implement the BMP-ARC-1, BMP-ARC-2 and BMP-TCR-1 which define a protocol by which inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources will be addressed for compliance with the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction and the Public Resources Code. These BMPs require developing and presenting a worker environmental awareness program (WEAP) and assessing archaeological and tribal cultural resources if they are encountered. Based on the available evidence, there is a high likelihood to encounter previously unknown archaeological resources for historical archaeological resources within the Project site. However, given the limited depth and extent of ground disturbing activities, and with the implementation of the BMPs to address potential inadvertent discoveries, there would be no anticipated significant effects to cultural resources, and as such this exception does not apply.

Geology and Soils – Paleontological Resources

In August 2023, SWCA prepared the *Paleontological Resources Technical Memorandum* (on file with the BOE) for the Ben Franklin Library Renovation project. The survey area of these reports covers the Project limits and thus the reports are used to determine the presence of known paleontological resources and potential for buried resources within the Project site. The following summarizes the findings and conclusions of the report:

Paleontological Resources Technical Memorandum

Based on the results of this assessment, the Project site contains Recent artificial fill and previously disturbed sediments that have low paleontological sensitivity, Qyf that has low to high, increasing with depth, paleontological sensitivity, and Qof_2 and Qof_1 at depth that have high paleontological sensitivity. Ground-disturbing activities associated with the construction or implementation of the Project are unlikely to result in significant impacts to paleontological resources due to shallow depth of such activities. Therefore, there is no potential for significant impacts to scientifically significant paleontological resources. In the unlikely event of an unanticipated fossil discovery, however, procedures should be established to reduce any potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels, pursuant to CEQA**.** The protocols described outlined in BMP-PAL-1 and BMP-PAL-2 are sufficient to ensure that any potential impacts to paleontological resources that may be present in the Project site are less than significant.

Given the similar sedimentary deposits, excavation and trenching within the Project site has the potential to uncover previously unknown significant fossils. BOE would address the potential for inadvertent discovery of previously unknown paleontological resources by incorporating BMP-PAL-1 and BMP-PAL-2. The need for improvement projects including excavation is common throughout the City's public right-of-way, as such, this is not an unusual circumstance. With the implementation of these BMPs and compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations, there would be no significant effect to paleontological resources during construction anticipated, and as such this exception does not apply.

Hazards & Hazardous Materials - Hazardous Waste

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As of August 8, 2024, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) (Geotracker database at https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/) has listed two contaminated sites near (within 1000 feet) the Project site. See Table 1. RWQCB Contaminated Sites Near the Project Site below.

TABLE 1. RWQCB CONTAMINATED SITES NEAR PROJECT SITE

SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	STATUS	ADDRESS
LINDA VISTA HOSPITAL (T0603792895)	LUST CLEANUP SITE	COMPLETED - CASE CLOSED AS OF 10/29/2004	610 SAINT LOUIS ST LOS ANGELES, CA 90023
HOLLENBECK HOME TRUST (T0603700835)	LUST CLEANUP SITE	COMPLETED - CASE CLOSED AS OF 9/20/1996	573 BOYLE AVE BOYLE HEIGHTS, CA 90033

As of August 8, 2024, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor database at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) has listed one contaminated site near (within 1000 feet) the Project site. The Roosevelt High School Comprehensive Modernization Project (60002623) is located adjacent to the eastern terminus of the Project site. The school facilities are being upgraded and a component of the modernization is methane gas mitigation to comply with Los Angeles Unified School District Office of Environmental Health and Safety requirements. The Project would not construct any buildings to be used for habitation. Work is occurring within open spaces and open excavation with adequate ventilation. No work in confined spaces is anticipated. Given the project design and construction methodology, there is no reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

Los Angeles is a vast, urban area and it is not uncommon to find sites with past or present releases that have completed or are undergoing assessment and/or remediation throughout the region. It is not uncommon to find the need for improvement projects in these areas and, as such, this is not an unusual circumstance. The proposed Project consists of the minor alteration of the existing public right of way, public facilities, and new landscaping within a developed area of the City, and there is no reasonable possibility that the Project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No unusual circumstances related to the repair (construction) or operation of the existing facility in this area are known. For the reasons stated above, there is no reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

Noise

In January 2024, Urban Crossroads prepared the *Noise and Vibration Impact Study* for the proposed Project (on file with the Bureau of Engineering) examined potential construction and operational impacts related to noise and vibration. During construction noise levels from individual pieces of equipment would typically range from 60.3 to 70.2 A-weighted decibels (dBA) at 50 feet from the construction activities. Based on these calculations noise levels would not exceed the allowable noise level stated in the LAMC (75 dBA). In compliance with the requirements of the LAMC and to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible, BMP-NOI-1 through BMP-NOI-4 would help to maintain acceptable noise levels.

Implementation of BMP-NOI-1 through BMP-NOI-4 would ensure that the proposed Project would include technically feasible measures to reduce community noise exposure from construction equipment. The use of mufflers can produce approximately 3 dB in noise reduction while enclosures

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can produce approximately a 10 dB to 20 dB reduction. The proposed Project would comply with all regulatory requirements and related noise ordinances and construction noise is not anticipated to exceed City noise standards. Therefore, the proposed Project would not cause any significant effects related to construction noise at the Project site.

In addition to on-site construction activities, noise would be generated off-site by construction-related trucks. The proposed Project would require limited excavation, hauling, and construction materials import. It is anticipated that there would be approximately less than 10 truck trips per day. A doubling of traffic volumes is typically needed to audibly increase noise levels along a roadway segment. 6th Street is a local street with school and residential traffic. Over an 8-hour workday the maximum hourly haul truck volume would be approximately two truck trips per hour and would not double roadway volumes. Therefore, off-site vehicle activity would not audibly change average daily noise levels due to the low volume of haul truck trips per day. The operation of the proposed Project is not anticipated to generate substantial noise as the operation is located mostly underground. Activities associated with long-term operations and maintenance would be minimal and not create perceptible noise.

Methane Zone

The Project area is within Boyle Heights which has some areas that are designated by the Zoning Information and Map Access System (ZIMAS) as methane zones. Throughout the Los Angeles Basin, areas more prone to high methane gas concentrations include former and active oil fields, landfills, and sub-surface naturally occurring petroleum deposits are present. The Los Angeles Department of Building Safety (LADBS) identified portions of the City designated as a methane zone or methane buffer zones including the central belt from Cheviot Hills extending east to Boyle Heights, southern district of Wilmington Heights to pocket areas bordering Aliso Canyon. These areas are densely populated and served by the City's sewer system. The proposed Project consists of the installation of biofiltration planters in the public right of way and will not construct buildings for habitation. Work is occurring within open spaces and open excavation with adequate ventilation. No work in confined spaces is anticipated. It is not uncommon to find the need for improvement projects in these areas and, as such, this is not an unusual circumstance. Given the project design and construction methodology, there is no reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

The proposed Project would involve standard conditions and construction practices. Public right-of-way improvements are a common and routine occurrence throughout the City, and as such, this is not an unusual circumstance. For the reasons stated above, there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project would have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

4. Scenic Highway. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which 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 a state designated scenic highway or within sight of any state designated scenic highway. Therefore, this exception has no application to this project.

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 23, 2024, the Project site was not listed as a hazardous waste site. Therefore, this exception has no application to this Project.

6. Historical Resources. This exception applies when a project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

As discussed above, encountering cultural resources is not anticipated. However, there is still a

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potential to encounter previously unknown archaeological resources during excavation and trenching activities associated with the proposed Project. With the implementation of best management practices and protocols outlined in Attachment 1 and compliance with all appropriate Federal, State, and local laws and regulations there would be no potential for significant effects to cultural resources. Therefore, a substantial adverse change in the significance of historic, archaeological, or paleontological resources is not anticipated, and this exception has no application here.

IV. REFERENCES

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (State CEQA Guidelines), available from http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/

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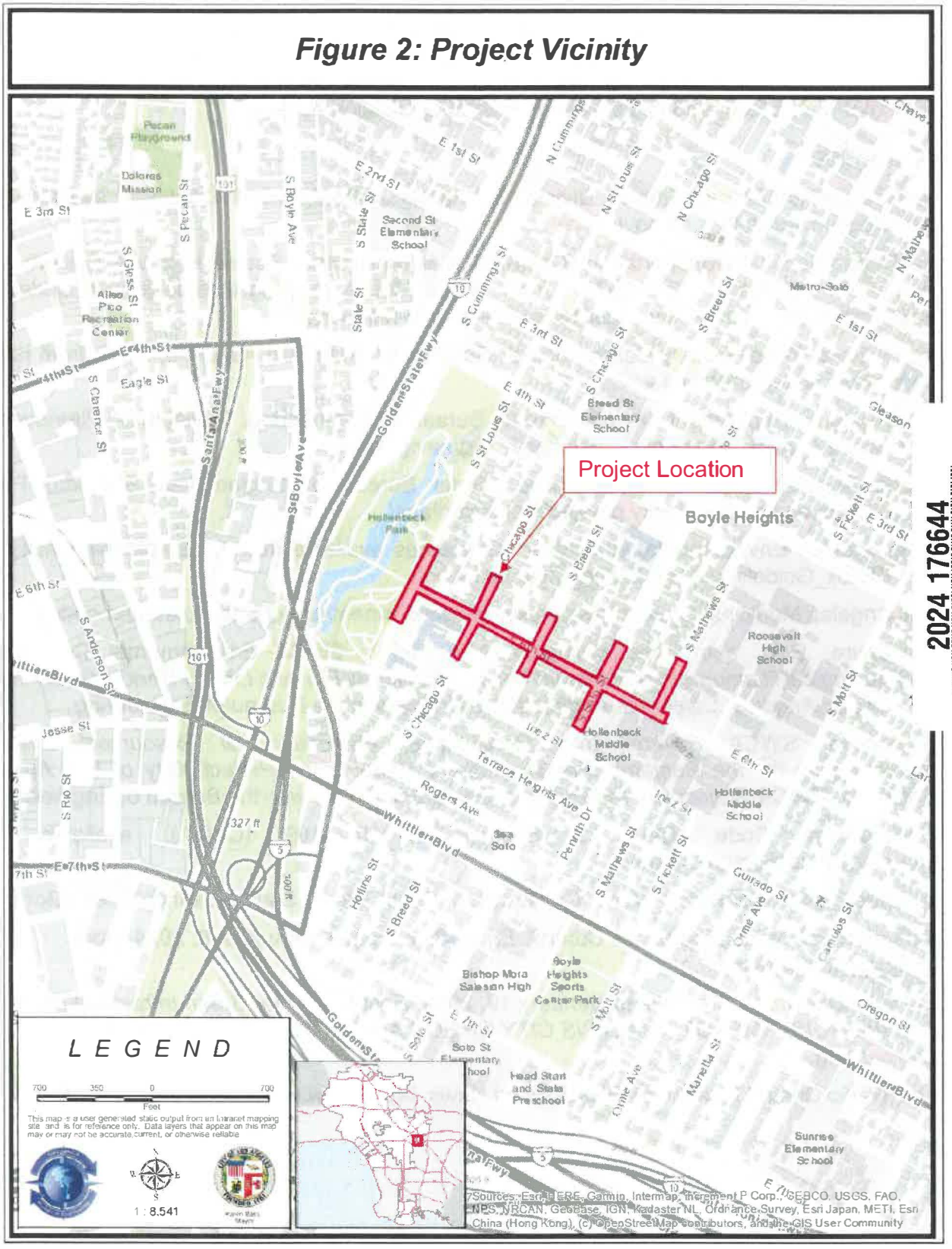
E. 6th Street Green Infrastructure Corridor (W.O. S33WE6GC/ CIP No. WPD000023)

Figure 2: Project Vicinity



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