

Notice of Exemption**California State Clearinghouse Handbook Form D**

TO: (X) Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

FROM: City of Montclair
Public Works Department
5111 Benito Street
P.O. Box 2308
Montclair, CA 91763-0808

(X) County Clerk
County of San Bernardino
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

DATE FILED & POSTED

Posted On: 3.10.2025

Removed On: 4.15.2025

Receipt No: 36-03102025-139

Project Title: Saratoga Park Improvement Project

Project Location – Specific:

The project area is located between Kingsley Street and Vernon Avenue in the City of Montclair in San Bernardino County, California.

Description of Project:

This project will renovate the existing park amenities by replacing the existing baseball fields, concession building, parking lots, basketball court, play equipment, trees, lighting, landscaping and irrigation as well as constructing new shade structures, exercise station trail, benches, and picnic tables.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Montclair

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Monica Heredia, City Engineer

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a);
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
☒ Categorical Exemption. Section 103, Class 1: Existing Facilities
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State the code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The existing amenities at the park will be replaced with new facilities and enhancements to the park.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Monica Heredia

Telephone: 909-625-9441

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

M Heredia

(Signature)

Monica Heredia, Public Works Department, City of Montclair

Date: 3/6/25

Title: City Engineer

☐ Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

☐ Signed by Applicant



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: MARCH 3, 2025

FILE I.D.: PRK700

SECTION: CONSENT - ADMIN. REPORTS

DEPT.: PUBLIC WORKS

ITEM NO.: 2

PREPARER: M. HEREDIA

SUBJECT: CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR THE SARATOGA PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

REASON FOR CONSIDERATION: The City Council is requested to consider authorizing the filing of a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption for the Saratoga Park Improvement Project (Project).

BACKGROUND: The Saratoga Park Improvement Project was identified as a priority by the City. During the community engagement phase of the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2023, 30 percent of respondents identified Saratoga Park as requiring significant improvements and additional amenities to enhance the park's quality and better accommodate future recreational needs. Weaknesses identified with the City's park system were a lack of trees, not enough developed park acreage, and the need for more parking. In addition, during focus groups, themes emerged that signified the need to enhance park space:

- Increase access to parks for children and people with disabilities.
- Preserve, manage, and grow the tree canopy.
- Plant more trees in public areas such as parks.
- Reduce runoffs from property.
- Plant native, low-maintenance plants and grasses.

A Council Workshop meeting was held on January 16, 2024, to present and discuss the conceptual design for the Project. The conceptual park improvements were approved by the City Council that night at its regular meeting.

On April 3, 2024, the City Council approved a contract with L.D. King to prepare the plans and specifications for the Project. The design plans are currently 90 percent complete, and the estimated construction cost is \$10,354,210.

City Staff is actively pursuing grants to fund construction of several capital improvement projects.

- On November 17, 2023, staff, with the assistance of Blais and Associates, submitted a grant application to the California Natural Resources Agency Urban Greening Program for \$4,313,135, with a required local match of \$404,000. Unfortunately, the City's application was not successful that round.
- City staff and Blais and Associates are currently working on a grant application for the California Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program. The grant requires a 50 percent match of about \$5 million, and the performance period is for five years starting Fall of 2026. Staff should know by September 2025 whether the City is selected as one of the recipients of this grant.

- The ORLP grant, 2021 Lease Revenue Funds, and the \$2 million Community Services Grant from Congresswoman Norma Torres would together enable the City to fund the proposed improvements and enhancements described below.

The Project will convert 11.7 acres from a space lacking landscaping and other amenities into a green oasis attracting City residents and visitors. The park improvements consist of new baseball fields, a new basketball court, a new snack bar, new restrooms, and a new playground. Site improvements include fencing, re-grading the entire site, removal of the existing snack bar, and electrical upgrades. Landscaping features 93 trees and nearly 2,900 drought-tolerant plants. The 2,300-linear-foot walking path, constructed with permeable pavement, will host new exercise stations. Benches and picnic tables are strategically placed for outdoor enjoyment. Trash and recycling receptacles will ensure a clean environment. The Project also includes bioswales, a weather-based irrigation system, ADA-compliant restrooms, drinking fountains, bike racks, perimeter fencing, expanded parking lots, and bark bag stations.

The project qualifies for a CEQA Exemption pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), and Section 15311 (Accessory Structures).

FISCAL IMPACT: Should the City Council approve the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Project, the filing fee of \$50 will be paid from the General Fund.

The Project's future construction is anticipated to be funded by a Community Services Grant secured by Congresswoman Norma Torres, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program Grant, and 2021 Lease Revenue Bond Funds.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the City Council authorize the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Saratoga Park Improvement Project.



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
**2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT**
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print

StartOver

Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:

36 — 03102025 — 139

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY City of Montclair Public Works Dept.	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 03102025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING San Bernardino	DOCUMENT NUMBER	

PROJECT TITLE

Saratoga Park Improvement Project

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME City of Montclair	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (909) 625-9441
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 5111 Benito Street	CITY Montclair	STATE CA
	ZIP CODE 91763	

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,123.50	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,968.75	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,401.75	\$	0.00

☒ Exempt from fee

☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)

☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)


☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☒ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE X 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Jennifer Luna, Deputy Clerk
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