THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED

ON February 23 2026

UNTIL March 25 2026

REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

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)

2026 041658

FILED
Feb 23 2026

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by BYRON PATTON JR

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	13
PROJECT TITLE: Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation Operations and Maintenance Project (W.O. S33WEPOM)	**LOG REFERENCE**

PROJECT LOCATION: 751 Echo Park Avenue, in the Echo Park - Silver Lake – Elysian Valley Community Plan Area, City of Los Angeles (*Figure 1: Regional Project Location, Figure 2: Project Site Location)*

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT: The Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation Operations and Maintenance Project [herein referred to as "proposed Project" or "Project"] is proposed to be undertaken by the City of Los Angeles (City), as a joint endeavor between the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), and City Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP). Specifically, the proposed Project, is an operations and maintenance (O&M) project involving ongoing O&M activities at Echo Park Lake (Lake) to maintain habitat, implement structural best management practices (BMPs), and ensure the proper functionality of the lake, which serves as a detention basin for flood control purposes. The activities include landscaping, trash removal, sediment removal, aquatic vegetation management, wildlife management, and water quality monitoring. *See Figure 3: Echo Park Lake Wetlands and Figure 4: Sediment Basin Location.* Project beneficiaries include residents, neighboring businesses, visitors, and local wildlife at the Lake. Residents and neighboring businesses benefit from improved water quality, enhanced flood control, and a well-maintained recreational space. Visitors to the park benefit from the aesthetic and recreational improvements both within and outside of the Lake, and healthier wildlife habitats. Additionally, the Project supports local biodiversity and contributes to the overall environmental health of the wildlife community. Please see Appendix A, Project Description for more details.

On January 30, 2026 the Bureau of Engineering determined the Project was exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approved the Project.

CONTACT PERSON	**CONTACT INFORMATION**
Cristian Centeno	cristian.centeno@lacity.org

EXEMPT STATUS:

CITY CEQA GUIDELINES	CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION	Art. III, Sec 1, Class 1, Cat. ((8)) and ((9))
STATE CEQA GUIDELINES	CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION*	Sec. 15301 (h) and (i)

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

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION: This Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, categories (h) and (i).) Additionally, the Project is exempt pursuant to *Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines* Article III, Section 1, Class 1, Existing Facilities, categories ((8)) and ((9)) *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:
For Jan Green Rebstock box SIGN 4K5RZ274-4LV9RXXQ	Environmental Affairs Officer Clean Water Division	Jan 29, 2026
FEE: $75.00 RECEIPT NO.	REC'D BY	DATE

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Figure 1 Regional Project Location



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Project Location



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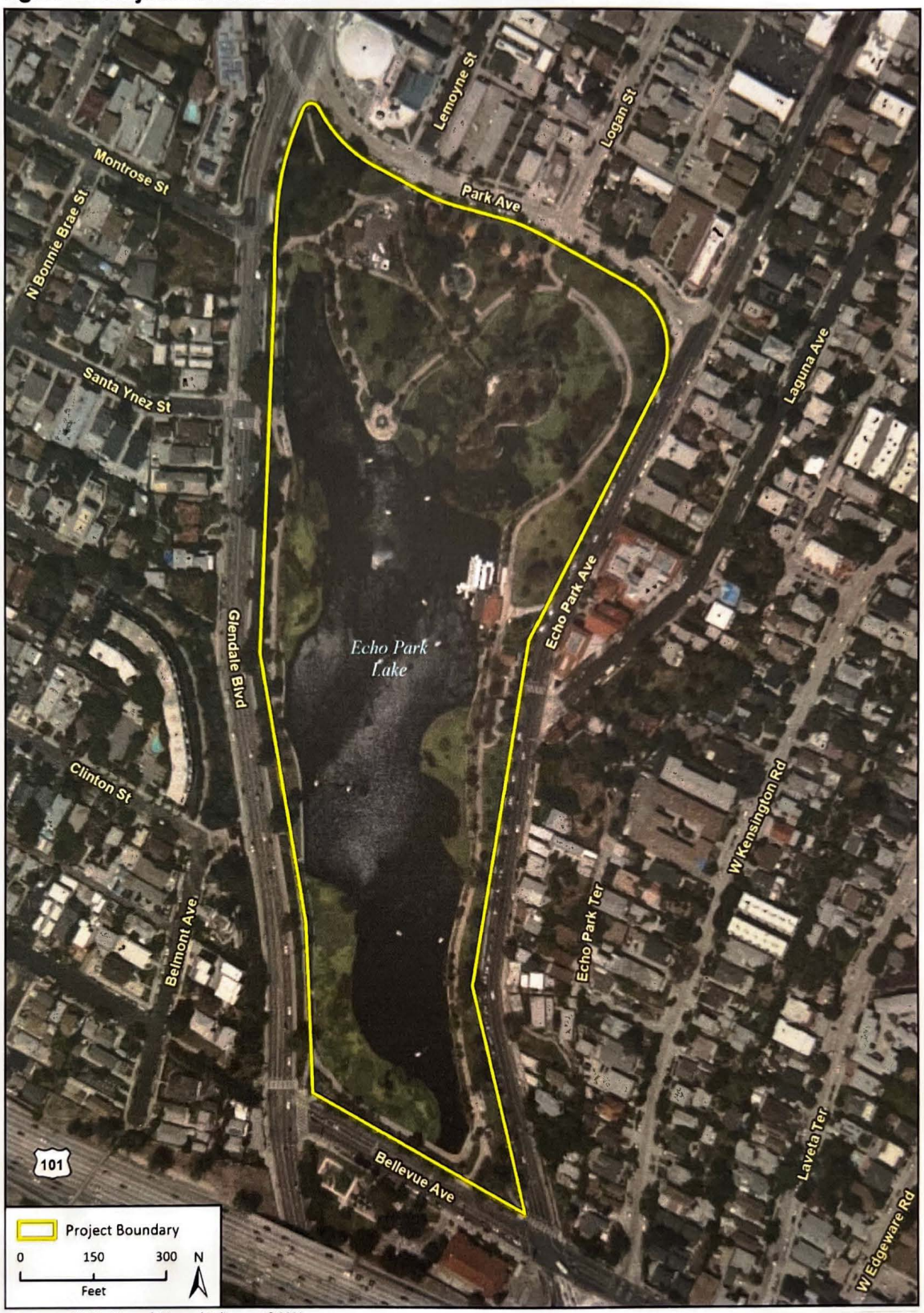
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Figure 2 Project Site Location



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Figure 3 Echo Park Lake Wetlands



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Figure 4 Sediment Basin Location



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CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

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

The proposed Project consists of O&M activities including landscaping, trash removal, sediment removal, aquatic vegetation management, wildlife management, and water quality monitoring. O&M activities would be conducted jointly by LASAN and RAP. The 10 acres of urban park, lotus pond, and island in Wetland 1 are maintained by RAP, while the wetlands and assets from lake edge to lake edge are maintained by LASAN.

O&M activities conducted by RAP would occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Nighttime O&M activities may be required between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Regular O&M activities conducted by LASAN would occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. No nighttime or weekend O&M activities are anticipated to take place by LASAN.

Site Landscaping

Landscaping on park grounds would be managed by RAP and include various maintenance activities including: weed abatement as needed, weekly mowing and weed trimming, daily trash removal, and annual tree pruning. The annual tree pruning would be conducted by the RAP Forestry Division. The Forestry Division conducts annual tree inspections to identify tree conditions for scheduled tree pruning. The proposed Project does not involve the removal of trees.

Trash Removal

Trash and recycling on park grounds are managed by RAP, with trash disposal occurring daily.

Removal of trash and debris from the lake is managed by LASAN and would include disposing of trash and recycling in designated bins and conducting weekly removal of visible floating and trash and debris from the lake. The removal process would utilize an electrically motorized johnboat equipped for barging the lake debris, and a bass boat to access remote areas.

Equipment for collecting lakeside trash and debris may include skimming nets, collection baskets, straining tools, hand tools, containers, and tubs. Protective gear such as gloves, hip or chest waders, protective eyewear, and water masks would be used for safety. Debris would be collected in service containers and trash containers equipped for disposal. Various tools would be used for skimming and netting debris, such as pool poles, algae brushes, rakes, and nets. Tools used for plant trimming and removal would involve blades, cutters, and a boat-mounted electric weed trimmer.

Transportation of the equipment, collected trash, and crews within the park would be facilitated by utilizing electric utility carts, hauling box trailers, flat-bed trailers, and/or electric golf-carts. A trailer would also be available for boat transport.

Sediment Removal

Sediment removal would be managed by LASAN and conducted every five years. Sediment removal entails the removal of up to 80 cubic yards of sediment from the sediment basin located in Wetland 1, depicted in Figure 4. The primary method for sediment removal would involve using a combination of mechanical removal and pumping equipment, including a flat-bottom boat, a hydrovac pumping truck, and support vehicles for sediment hauling. Additional equipment such as a skip-loader or a backhoe equipped with specialized attachments for straining and collection may also be used on park grounds. These tools would help remove water and facilitate sediment removal. The extracted sediment would be transported and disposed of using trailers equipped with water-straining features and disposal containers.

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Aquatic Vegetation Management

RAP is responsible for maintaining the Lotus Pond; this includes the annual removal of deceased lotus plants, as-necessary replacement of the lotus flowers (*Nelumbo hybrid*), and manual clearing of invasive aquatic vegetation such as water lettuce from the pond.

LASAN would oversee the as-needed quarterly installation of wetland vegetation, which may include Water Lily (*Nymphaea hybrid*), Green Arrow Arum (*Peltandra virginica*), Striped Rush (*Baumea rubiginosa*), Water Iris (*Iridaceae*), Lotus (*Nelumbo hybrid*), Compact Giant Papyrus (*Cyperus percamenthus*), Hardstem Bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*), American Bulrush (*Scirpus americanus*), Maritime Bulrush (*Scirpus maritimus*), Red Stem Thalia (*Thalia geniculata*), Powdery Thalia (*Thalia dealbata*), Pickerel Rush (*Pontederia dilatata*), Taro (*Colocasia cultivar*), Variegated Sweet Flag (*Acorus calamus variegatus* variegate), Moneywort (*Bacopa monnieri*), and Star Grass (*Dichromena colorata*), or similar native aquatic plant species.

Vegetation management includes the periodic removal of undesired vegetation and algae. Removed vegetation would be disposed of in waste containers. Replacement plants may be transplanted from other vegetated areas within the lake at equivalent depths.

The anticipated tools and equipment used for these activities include aquatic planting and trimming hand tools and small watercraft that may be equipped with electric trolling motors. Additional equipment utilized may include skimming nets, collection baskets, straining tools, containers, tubs, and wheelbarrows. A skip-loader with specialized straining and collection attachments, a backhoe with an open scoop for draining materials, and a hauling trailer with water-straining capabilities may be used for material handling and disposal. Disposal dumpsters, along with repair kits and supplies for maintaining the bird enclosure units such as wire mesh, rope, and support poling, would also be used.

Additionally, floating and submerged invasive aquatic vegetation, such as Lake-weed (*Potamogeton spp.*), Water Primrose sp.), ((*Ludwigia peploides*), Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*), Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spp.*), Cattail (*Typha spp.*)), Water Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle spp.*), and other species would be removed as necessary when they appear. The removal schedule would be at least monthly from October through April, and twice monthly from May through September, with all vegetation disposed of in waste containers. The primary method for managing invasive species involves manual removal or the use of other appropriate tools. Beneficial plants would be replanted as needed, and beneficial microorganisms and dye would be added bi-monthly and as needed year-round to control algal blooms. Aside from the microorganisms and dye, no other chemicals or materials would be added to the water. Weekly, floating algae mats would also be removed and disposed of in waste containers.

Wildlife Management

Wildlife management would be conducted by LASAN and occur throughout the Lake, from lake edge to lake edge. This management involves the removal of apple snail eggs from surfaces and plant stems on a weekly basis. After egg mass removal, the surfaces would be scrubbed clean. The eggs would then be collected in plastic bags and disposed of in waste containers. Additionally, there would be monitoring for non-native species such as red-eared slider turtles, bullfrogs, and koi fish. Potential control measures would be identified as necessary, in consultation with biologists, as part of a Wildlife Management Plan.

Water Quality Monitoring

LASAN is responsible for comprehensive water quality management. The Lake currently uses a buoy with a real-time monitoring system which continuously measures parameters such as pH, conductivity, temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen (DO), fluorescent dissolved organic matter (fDOM), E. coli, and total algae. In addition to this automated monitoring, manual grab samples are collected and screened for potentially toxigenic cyanobacteria (PTOX) on an as- needed basis.

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Best Management Practices (BMPs)

An appropriate combination of monitoring and resource avoidance would be employed during all construction activities, including implementation of the following BMPs:

- BMP-1: Worker's Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) Training. Prior to the start of O&M work (including annual vegetation maintenance, invasive species management, and sediment removal), all personnel will participate in WEAP training. BMPs that should be presented in the training program include but are not limited to:
    - No temporary storage or stockpiling of materials or equipment will be allowed outside of the designated Project site. Staging areas and work areas will be kept free of trash and other waste.
    - Trash and food items will be contained in a closed bin and removed daily.
    - Activities will be limited to the period of daylight hours to limit disturbances on wildlife activity; no night work is recommended.
    - Upon completion of the work, all unused materials and equipment will be removed from the site.
    - All equipment will be properly maintained such that no leaks of oil, fuel, or residues will take place, and provisions will be in place to remediate any accidental spills. All re-fueling, cleaning, and maintenance of equipment will occur at least 100 feet from jurisdictional areas (Echo Park Lake) or within secondary containment.
    - Loose materials, chemicals, and spoils will be located away from jurisdictional areas and protected from stormwater runoff using temporary perimeter sediment barriers such as berms, silt fences, fiber rolls, covers, sand/gravel bags, and straw bale barriers, as appropriate.
    - Mechanized equipment and work vehicles will be inspected to ensure they are free of any dirt or mud that could contain invasive plant seeds, roots, or rhizomes, and the tracks, outriggers, tires, and undercarriage will be carefully washed, with special attention being paid to axles, frame, cross members, motor mounts, underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies. Other vehicles (e.g., pick-up trucks) that will be frequently entering and exiting the site will be inspected and washed on an as-needed basis.
- BMP-2: Pre-construction Nesting Bird Survey. To avoid disturbance of nesting and special status birds, including raptor species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) 3503, activities related to the Project including, but not limited to, tree pruning, vegetation clearance, trimming, and sediment removal activities associated with the maintenance of the Lake and its surrounding margins will occur outside of the nesting season for migratory birds (February through August), if feasible.

  If O&M activities must occur within the nesting season, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting birds within all Project work areas, plus a 100-foot buffer (300 for raptors), within seven days prior to any tree pruning, vegetation clearance, or sediment removal activities associated with the maintenance of the Lake and its surrounding margins. The biologist conducting the survey will be familiar with special status species with potential to occur in the vicinity of the Project.

  If active nests of protected birds are found, an avoidance buffer (dependent upon the species, the proposed work activity, and existing disturbances associated with land uses outside of the site) will be determined and demarcated by the biologist with bright construction fencing, flagging, or other means to mark the boundary. All O&M personnel will be notified as to the existence of the buffer

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zone and to avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season. No O&M activities will occur inside this buffer until the avian biologist has confirmed that breeding/nesting is completed, the young have fledged the nest, and/or the nest is no longer active. Encroachment into the buffer will occur only at the discretion of the qualified biologist.

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 "Greenbook"
- Brown Book, City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Additions and Amendments to the 2021 Edition of the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction
- Work Area Traffic Control Handbook

II. PROJECT HISTORY

This initiative follows the Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation Project completed in 2013 (2013 Project). The 2013 Project was initiated in response to Echo Park Lake's designation as an impaired water body under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) by the State of California Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), due to pollutants such as algae, ammonia, copper, eutrophication, lead, odor, PCBs, pH imbalance, and trash. The main objective of the 2013 Project was to improve water quality and achieve Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) waste load allocations by implementing in-lake improvements, vegetation, habitat and park improvements, and parkland structural BMPs. Funded by the Clean Water Bond Program (Prop O), the Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation Project involved replacing the deteriorating Lake bottom and constructing wetland areas to improve water quality. The 2013 Project rehabilitation efforts concluded in 2013, with the understanding that ongoing O&M would be necessary to sustain the 2013 improvements made. This proposed Project furthers the objectives of the 2013 Project, by providing a prescribed plan to implement the O&M activities, provide reduction measures and BMPs for reducing impacts to plants and wildlife, while simultaneously continuing to reduce and/or maintain the water quality TMDLs levels at appropriate waste load allocations.

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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 (h) and (i), *Existing Facilities* for operation, maintenance of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use (CEQA 2025). The proposed Project does not include the expansion of the existing facilities, as the proposed Project seeks to provide continued maintenance and upkeep to the Lake, to provide for the most beneficial uses to the Lake's visitors, wildlife, plants and aquatic features.

Additionally, the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the *Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines* Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (8)) and ((9) *Existing Facilities* for (8) maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, water supply reservoirs; and brush clearance for weed abatement and fire protection, and (9) maintenance of fish screens, fish ladders, wildlife habitat areas, artificial wildlife waterway devices, stream flows, springs and waterholes, and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources, lakes and reservoirs, as further described below (City of Los Angeles 2002).

(8) Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, water supply reservoirs; and brush clearance for weed abatement and fire protection: The Project includes regular maintenance of the existing landscaping within Echo Park Lake. This involves weed abatement, weekly mowing and weed trimming, daily trash removal, and annual tree pruning. Additionally, the Project includes the maintenance of the lake, which serves as a detention basin for flood control purposes.

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(9) Maintenance of fishscreens, fishladders, wildlife habitat areas, artificial wildlife waterway devices, streamflows, springs and waterholes, and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources, lakes and reservoirs: The Project includes O&M activities aimed at implementing water quality improvement activities and maintaining the wildlife habitat areas within the Lake. These activities include the removal of invasive aquatic vegetation, management of wildlife such as apple snail eggs, and monitoring for non-native species. Additionally, the Project involves the regular removal of trash and debris from the lake for the protection of fish and wildlife resources.

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 exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15301, Class 1 [Existing Facilities]. (*The use of a Class 3, 4, 5, 6, or 11 exemption is not proposed).* While the Project qualifies for a Class 1 exemption and the location exception is not applicable to this Project, a brief analysis is provided below to further substantiate no potential impacts on sensitive environments. An Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (AQ/GHG) Memorandum was prepared by Rincon Consultants Inc (Rincon) in May 2025 [(2025 AQ/GHG) Appendix B)], concluded that the proposed Project would not result in significant air quality impacts or exceed South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) thresholds. The proposed Project's Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC) emissions would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial emissions nor interfere with adopted GHG emissions reduction plans. Therefore, the Project would not impact sensitive environments, and this exception does not apply. A Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) was prepared by Rincon in July 2025 [(2025 BRA) Appendix C] concluded that the Project site does not include any sensitive habitats. The Project site does contain emergent freshwater marsh and mulefat thickets that are considered sensitive natural communities, and the proposed Project activities would not result in a net loss of these habitats. Therefore, the Project would not impact sensitive environments, and this exception does not apply.

2. Cumulative Impact. The Cumulative Impact 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 proposed Project would involve O&M activities through regular landscaping, trash removal, sediment removal, aquatic vegetation management, wildlife management, and water quality monitoring. There are no other successive projects of the same type or scale planned for the Project site or adjacent sites that, with the Project, would result in a significant cumulative impact in combination with the proposed Project (PLUC 2025). Furthermore, the Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation Project discusses the proposed O&M activities, concluding that future O&M activities would not cause significant cumulative environmental effects (DEIR 2010).

Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in cumulative impacts, and this exception does not apply.

3. Significant Effect. The significant effect 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.

The Project site is located within Echo Park Lake and consists of existing pedestrian pathways, and recreational activities. The proposed Project consists of regular O&M activities. The circumstances of the proposed Project are not considered unusual because the Project is located in an existing recreational

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area, and routine inspections and maintenance are typical activities associated with public recreational areas. The O&M activities, including landscaping, trash removal, sediment removal, aquatic vegetation management, wildlife management, and water quality monitoring, are standard activities for recreational lake areas.

Air Quality

Based on the AQ/GHG Memorandum (Appendix B) conducted by Rincon in May 2025, the proposed Project is expected to have minimal environmental impact in terms of air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The proposed Project includes routine activities such as sediment removal, aquatic vegetation and invasive species management, landscaping, trash removal, wildlife management, and water quality monitoring. According to the technical memorandum, emissions from these operations are well below the thresholds set by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). For example, daily emissions of pollutants like VOCs, NOx, CO, PM10, and PM2.5 are significantly lower than the regulatory limits, therefore the project would not contribute to regional air quality degradation. Additionally, the proposed Project does not pose a risk of exposing nearby sensitive receptors to Toxic Air Contaminants (TAC) or objectionable odors, as the activities are infrequent and short-term. In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, the proposed Project is estimated to generate approximately 1.7 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent per day, or 620 metric tons per year. These emissions are considered minor and do not conflict with state or local climate action plans, including the 2022 Scoping Plan, Connect SoCal 2024–2050 RTP/SCS, and the City of Los Angeles' Green New Deal. Furthermore, the proposed Project would not result in significant air quality impacts or exceed South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) thresholds. The proposed Project's Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC) emissions would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial emissions nor interfere with adopted GHG emissions reduction plans. Therefore, this exception has no application to the proposed Project.

Biological Resources

Based on the BRA (Appendix C) conducted by Rincon in July 2025, the proposed Project determined that no special-status plant species are expected to occur within the study area due to the highly urbanized and disturbed nature of the site, regular park maintenance, and lack of suitable habitat. Although 47 special-status plant species were identified in the regional database search, all were ruled out based on habitat incompatibility and absence during the December 2024 field survey. The BRA also confirmed that no critical habitat designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service occurs within or near the study area. Sensitive natural communities such as mulefat thickets and emergent freshwater marsh are present and considered regulated under state and federal jurisdiction. However, the project's activities are designed to avoid permanent impacts to these communities, and selective vegetation removal will be conducted by hand to maintain habitat quality. Echo Park Lake is classified as a federal and state jurisdictional aquatic feature. The lake contains both wetland and non-wetland waters, and the proposed project will require permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The BRA includes a delineation of these waters and confirms that the lake meets criteria for regulation under the Clean Water Act and California Fish and Game Code. Additionally, the BRA found that the project site is not located within any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) or Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) area. The BRA concluded that the proposed Project activities would not permanently reduce habitat accessibility or suitability for special status species, Birds of Conservation Concern, and migratory species throughout the study area. Temporary impacts related to noise, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions would be minimal and project implementation includes incorporating standard BMPs such as conducting a Worker's Environmental Awareness Training Program, conducting pre-construction Nesting Bird Surveys, and following Jurisdictional Resource Avoidance and Minimization protocols. These BMPs would ensure compliance with applicable standards and regulations related to wildlife and water quality. Furthermore, maintenance of the Echo Park Lake is the City's obligation per the City's Municipal Code Chapter 4, Open Space Maintenance Districts (City of Los Angeles 2025). The proposed Project would not result in significant effects on the environment due to

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unusual circumstances. Therefore, this exception has no application to the proposed Project.

Geology and Soils - Hillside Area

The Project site lies within a designated hillside grading area, an area that is regulated under the LAMC Sections 12.03, 12.21, 12.21.1, 12.23, and 12.27, which governs the development of hillside lots for new construction, additions, and remodeling. Specific requirements regarding height, front and side yards, fire protection, lot coverage, parking street access, sewer connections, and grading are all defined and enforced under the above-mentioned LAMC sections. Hilly portions of land in the City, including the northeast, northern city limits of the North Valley, Santa Monica Mountains to the west, Echo Park / Silver Lake, Griffith Park, Atwater Village, Mount Washington, Hollywood Hills in the center, Baldwin Hills and Playa del Rey / Playa Vista towards Los Angeles International Airport, and San Pedro to the southernmost limits are required to adhere to specific building codes and requirements.

The Project proposes to implement O&M activities to maintain existing facilities and wildlife habitat. Park maintenance projects are common in the City and throughout areas deemed to be within the hillside area, as such these activities are not unusual circumstances. The Project would not develop new hillside lots for new construction, additions, and remodeling. No new structures for human habitation will be constructed. Therefore, the proposed Project will not have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

Geology and Soils - Liquefaction Zone

The site lies within a designated liquefaction zone, an area mapped for "historic occurrence of liquefaction, or where local geological, geotechnical, and groundwater conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements," or where "previous occurrence of landslide movement, or local topographic, geological, geotechnical, and subsurface conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements," according to the California Earthquake Hazards Zone Application, released by the California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey. Portions of land in the City, including northern areas along the Santa Monica Mountains, areas along the central belt from Santa Monica to Lynwood, and areas in southern Los Angeles along San Pedro Bay, are designated to be susceptible to liquefaction.

The Project proposes to implement O&M activities to maintain existing facilities and wildlife habitat. No new structures for human habitation will be constructed. Park maintenance projects are common in the City and throughout areas deemed to be within the liquefaction area; as such, these maintenance activities are not unusual circumstances. The Project would not potentially result in or increase vulnerability to damage caused by liquefaction and there is no reasonable possibility that the Project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

Hazards & Hazardous Materials - Hazardous Waste

As of August 5, 2025, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) has not listed the project site or any contaminated sites near the project area (within 1000 feet). Additionally, as of August 5, 2025, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) (Geotracker database at https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/) has not listed the project site or any contaminated sites near the project area (within 1000 feet). Therefore, this exception has no application to this Project.

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Noise and Vibration

As described in Appendix A, Project Description, the sediment removal activity would include the use of heavy duty equipment such as loaders or backhoes. According to the Federal Highway Administration's Roadway Construction Noise Model, a loader would generate a noise level of 75 dBA at 50 feet and a backhoe would generate a noise level of 74 dBA at 50 feet (Federal Highway Administration 2006). The nearest sensitive receptors are residences approximately 100 feet to the east and west from where heavy-duty equipment may be operated for O&M activities, such as for sediment removal that occurs at the wetland areas. At a distance of 100 feet, a loader would generate a noise level of 69 dBA and a backhoe would generate a noise level of 68 dBA. The most applicable threshold for the use of heavy-duty equipment would be the City's construction noise threshold of 80 dBA L_{eq}. Therefore, O&M activities would not exceed the City's thresholds at the nearest sensitive receptors. Regarding vibration impacts, the Federal Transit Administration's vibration source level for a large bulldozer of 0.089 inches per second peak particle velocity (in/sec PPV) was used as a proxy for a loader and backhoe, (which is a conservative assumption) as a large bulldozer would be larger than the anticipated loaders and backhoes used on site (Federal Transit Administration 2018). O&M activities using heavy-duty equipment such as a loader or backhoe may occur as close as 80 feet to the boathouse when aquatic vegetation management activities occur at the wetland areas. Vibration levels are conservatively analyzed against the Federal Transit Administration's historical building damage threshold of 0.12 in/sec PPV. Vibration levels would be approximately 0.025 in/sec PPV at a distance of 80 feet, well below the Federal Transit Administration's historical building damage threshold of 0.12 in/sec PPV. The nearest sensitive receptors are located further from O&M activities than the boathouse and would be exposed to even lower vibration levels. Therefore, this exception has no application to the proposed Project.

4. Scenic Highway. The scenic highway exception finds that 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 Project site is not located near an officially designated State scenic highway (Caltrans 2025). The nearest officially designated State scenic highway is a segment of State Route 2, approximately 11.60 miles northeast and the nearest highway eligible for State scenic designation is a portion of State Highway 210, approximately 8.14 miles northeast of the Project site (California Department of Transportation 2025). The Project site would not be visible from either segment and proposed Project implementation would not impact a Scenic highway resource. Additionally, since the proposed Project consists of routine O&M activities that would not result in aesthetic changes to Echo Park Lake, no impacts to scenic resources would occur. Therefore, this exception is not applicable to the proposed Project.

5. Hazardous Waste Site. The hazardous waste exception applies when a project is located on a site listed as a hazardous waste site under Government Code Section 65962.5.

Proposed Project activities are not proposed to be located on a site that is included on a list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (DTSC, SWRCB 2025). Moreover, the proposed Project would not be affected by a site included on a list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the proposed Project.

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

In 2006, Echo Park Lake was designated as Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Number 836. The designation highlights the lakes' historical establishment in 1892, the iconic Lady of the Lake statue, and the historic boathouse (Historical Marker Database 2024). The proposed Project involves O&M activities, including aquatic vegetation management and sediment removal. As described in Appendix A, Project Description, sediment removal activity would include the use of heavy duty equipment such as loaders or backhoes which may be in operation as close as 80 feet to the boathouse when aquatic vegetation

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management occurs at the wetland areas. The use of this equipment has the potential to cause vibrational impacts. As summarized above under Section 2. Cumulative Impacts, vibration levels were analyzed using the Federal Transit Administration's historical building damage threshold of 0.12 in/sec PPV. Because vibration levels would be approximately 0.025 in/sec PPV at a distance of 80 feet, well below the Federal Transit Administration's historical building damage threshold of 0.12 in/sec PPV, no impacts are anticipated to occur to Echo Park Lake's designated historical resources.

Additionally, the proposed Project aligns with programs listed in the Silver Lake- Echo Park- Elysian Valley Community Plan, which aims to incorporate Echo Park Lake into future neighborhood conservation and historic preservation efforts (City of Los Angeles 2004). Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in an adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA and this exception does not apply to the proposed Project.

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