LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLERK
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

2025 261892
FILED
Nov 20 2025

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by MARY JOANNE PUAINA

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

Ordinance No. 3172 - Temporarily Suspending the City of Whittier Parkway Tree Manual

Check Document being Filed:

- ○ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- ○ Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- ◉ Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- ○ Other (Please fill in type):

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office.For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

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CEQA Exemption Memorandum

To: Kyle Cason, City of Whittier

From: Jessica Ditto, Michael Baker International

Date: November 20, 2025

Subject: Ordinance No. 3172, Temporarily Suspending the City of Whittier Parkway Tree Manual – CEQA Exemption Memorandum

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This memorandum substantiates the use of a CEQA Exemption pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15301(c), 15060(c)(2), and 15061(b)(3) for the proposed temporary suspension of the City of Whittier Parkway Tree Manual (Ordinance No. 3172). This memorandum provides an overview of the project location and setting, background, project description, and CEQA exemption analysis.

CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(c), 15060(c)(2), and 15061(b)(3) state the following:

- 15301(c). Based on CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, "Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use."
    c) "Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and other alternations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes."

- 15060(c)(2). Based on CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c), "Once an application is deemed complete, a lead agency must first determine whether an activity is subject to CEQA before conducting an initial study. An activity is not subject to CEQA if:"
    2) "The activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment."

- 15061(b)(3). Based on CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b), "a project is exempt from CEQA if:"
    3) "The activity is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA."

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CEQA EXEMPTION ANALYSIS

City of Whittier Ordinance No. 3172 is exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c) because the ordinance allows for the maintenance of existing facilities. Further under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2), the adoption of the ordinance would not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is further and independently exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), in that it can be seen with certainty there is no possibility the adoption of this ordinance would have a significant effect on the environment. Accordingly, the following analysis is presented for informational purposes only.

Ordinance No. 3172 would not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Ordinance No. 3172 would suspend Municipal Code Section 12.40.100(D) and the provisions of the Parkway Tree Manual until June 30, 2026. The proposed suspension of Municipal Code Section 12.40.100(D) would allow City staff to conduct a comprehensive review and update of the Parkway Tree Manual and Municipal Code Chapter 12.40, which would result in streamlined processes related to City trees to better protect the City's urban forest and preserve public safety. Additionally, during the proposed suspension, the City Manager would exercise discretion based on the health of the tree and as recommended by the City designated certified arborist in determining whether a tree should be removed and replaced in a manner that comports with the purposes of the Parkway Tree Manual. Removed trees would be replanted with a minimum 15-gallon replacement tree, consistent with the Parkway Tree Manual, *Tree Preservation Guidelines*. Future activities that involve potential impacts to trees would continue to be subject to applicable existing local, State, and federal regulations. Ordinance No. 3172, in and of itself, would not result in any cumulative impacts or physical effects on the environment, including those to aesthetics, hazards and hazardous waste, biological resources, and historical resources. No changes in land use designations or zoning are proposed. Lastly, Ordinance No. 3172 would only apply to areas within the City's municipal boundaries.

Overall, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that Ordinance No. 3172 would have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, the project meets the criteria for an exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(c), 15060(c)(2), and 15061(b)(3) and is not subject to CEQA.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Los Angeles
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: (Public Agency): City of Whittier
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 900602
(Address)

Project Title: Ordinance No. 3172, Temporarily Suspending the City of Whittier Parkway Tree Manual

Project Applicant: City of Whittier

Project Location - Specific:
City of Whittier (Citywide)

Project Location - City: Whittier Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The proposed Ordinance No. 3172 would suspend Municipal Code Section 12.40.100(D) and the provisions of the Parkway Tree Manual until June 30, 2026. Municipal Code Section 12.40.100(D) and the Parkway Tree Manual contain extensive procedures governing tree inspections, removal, notice, hearing, and appeal requirements. During this period of suspension, City staff would conduct a comprehensive review of the Parkway Tree Manual and Municipal Code Chapter 12.40 for potential revisions as part of a comprehensive update associated with all liability policies. These revisions would be designed to promote efficiency by streamlining the processes related to City trees to better protect the City's urban forest and preserve public safety. Additionally, during this suspension period, the City Manager would exercise discretion based on the health of the tree and as recommended by the City designated certified arborist in determining whether a tree should be removed in a manner that comports with the purposes of the Parkway Tree Manual. The City would continue the practice of replacing trees that are removed (removed trees would be replanted with a minimum 15-gallon replacement tree).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Whittier

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Whittier

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. State type and section number: _____
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(c), 15060(c)(2), and 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:
City of Whittier Ordinance No. 3172 is exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c) because the ordinance allows for the maintenance of existing facilities. Further under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2), the adoption of the ordinance would not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is further and independently exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), in that it can be seen with certainty there is no possibility the adoption of this ordinance will have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Kyle Cason Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 562-567-9500

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

Signature: _____ Date: 11/20/25 Title: Director

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

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FILED
Nov 20 2025
Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by MARY JOANNE PUAINA

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED
ON November 20 2025
UNTIL December 22 2025
REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

Revised 2011

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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County of: Los Angeles
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

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13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 900602
(Address)

Project Title: Ordinance No. 3172, Temporarily Suspending the City of Whittier Parkway Tree Manual

Project Applicant: City of Whittier

ORIGINAL FILED
NOV 20 2025
LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

Project Location - Specific:
City of Whittier (Citywide)

Project Location - City: Whittier Project Location - County: Los Angeles

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- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
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Lead Agency
Contact Person: Kyle Cason Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 562-567-9500

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2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: 11/20/25 Title: Director

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____