

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Pasadena Unified School District
351 S. Hudson Avenue, #130
Pasadena, CA, 91001

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

Project Title: Soil Removal/Replacement at Multiple District Properties

Project Location – Specific: Franklin ES, San Rafael ES, Longfellow Magnet School, Blair HS, Cleveland ES, Field ES, John Muir HS, Octavia Butler Magnet School, Wahington ES, Jefferson Children's and Teen's Center, and the District Education Center

Project Location – City: Pasadena and Altadena **Project Location – County:** Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) will remove and replace engineered soils and landscaped surfaces identified as containing fire derived contaminants (fire analytes) of potential concern that present an imminent health and safety threat to children and workers resulting from the Eaton Fire and Weather Event (Eaton Fire) of January 2025. Removal and replacement activities will occur at eleven District-owned properties, including Franklin ES, San Rafael ES, Longfellow Magnet School, Blair HS, Cleveland ES, Field ES, John Muir HS, Octavia Butler Magnet School, Wahington ES, Jefferson Children's and Teen's Center, and the District Education Center. The District will remove and replace approximately 8,000 cubic yards of impacted soil from the Affected Properties before mid-August 2026 to allow for reopening in time for the 2026-27 school year. The foregoing work will require the removal and reasonable replacement of trees and may require the removal and replacement of certain infrastructure such as planters or sprinkler/plumbing systems, as needed. The District will replace all of the foregoing with like materials or items.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Pasadena Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pasadena Unified School District

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:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The activities are statutorily exempt pursuant to PRC Section 21080(b)(3), Emergency Projects, as it is considered an emergency repair of facilities that have been destroyed or damaged by a wildfire. On January 7, 2025, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in Los Angeles and Ventura counties due to fire and windstorm conditions that caused multiple fires, including the Eaton Fire. The removal and replacement of in-kind landscaping and related features at affected PUSD facilities that have been identified as containing fire derived contaminants (fire analytes) of potential concern is a direct result of the Eaton Fire. The removal and replacement of impacted soils at the Affected Properties is deemed necessary and critical in order to maintain public educational services that are essential to public health, safety, or welfare. These emergency repairs include those that have required a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency. In this case, extensive soil testing at District properties and preparation of the resulting FRCA reports constitutes necessary planning efforts within a reasonable time. Therefore, the proposed project is statutorily exempt pursuant to PRC Section 21080 (b)(3).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Michael Dunning, Director, Facilities, M&O, and Transportation
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 626.396.5850

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: _____

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date: _____

02/07/2026

Title: Chief Human Resources Officer and Acting CBO

☐ 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 LCI CEQAnet: _____