

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

ALBERTO M. CARVALHO
Superintendent of Schools

CARLOS A. TORRES
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

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Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED
ON March 05 2026
UNTIL April 06 2026
REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

To: County Clerk and Registrar-Recorder
County of Los Angeles
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: LAUSD OEHS
333 S. Beaudry Avenue
21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Project Title:

Solar Photovoltaic Project at ten (10) Los Angeles Unified Campuses

Project Location – Specific:

1. Crenshaw High School, 5010 11th Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif.
 2. John Muir Middle School, 5929 South Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, Calif.
 3. Los Angeles High School, 4650 West Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, Calif.
 4. Markham Middle School, 1650 East 104th Street, Los Angeles, Calif.
 5. Pacoima Middle School, 9919 Laurel Canyon Blvd, Pacoima, Calif.
 6. San Miguel Elementary School, 9801 San Miguel Ave, South Gate, Calif.
 7. Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies (SOCES), 18605 Erwin St, Tarzana, Calif.
 8. South Gate Middle School, 3351 Firestone Blvd, South Gate, Calif.
 9. Sun Valley Magnet School, 7330 Bakman Ave, Sun Valley, Calif.
 10. Sutter Middle School, 7330 Winnetka Ave, Winnetka, Calif.
-

Project Location – City:

Various

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

On December 03, 2019, the LA Unified Board adopted the Clean Energy Resolution (“Resolution”), transitioning Los Angeles Unified schools to 100% clean, renewable energy resulting in healthier students and more sustainable, equitable communities. Pursuant to the Resolution, Measure US funds have been prioritized within the School Upgrade Program (SUP) under the category of need for “School Upgrades and Reconfigurations to Support Wellness, Health, Athletics, Learning, and Efficiency.” Projects to install photovoltaic (PV) panels, electrification, and electrical infrastructure fall under this SUP category of need. The installation of PV systems to generate electricity from solar power offers the District the opportunity to significantly offset its energy costs over the long term and to achieve its goals for environmental stewardship and clean energy.

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 21st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017 • Telephone (213) 241-3199

*Our Mission: To ensure a safe and healthy environment for students to learn, teachers to teach, and employees to work.
Our Vision: To eliminate all environmental health and safety risks at schools.*



The Project will be individually designed on each of the ten campuses (Campus or Campuses), but will include a mix of the following components:

- Rooftop Installations of Photovoltaic Solar Panels
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- Carport and Photovoltaic Shade Structures
- Landscape upgrades pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The table below describes the components of the Project proposed for each campus:

School	Rooftop Installs	Carport/Shade Structure Installs	ADA Upgrades	EV Charging
Crenshaw HS	X	X		X
John Muir MS	X	X		
Los Angeles HS	X			
Markham MS	X	X		X
Pacoima MS	X	X	X	X
San Miguel ES	X			
SOCES		X	X	X
South Gate HS		X		X
Sun Valley MS		X	X	X
Sutter MS		X	X	X

The Project will be implemented per all applicable local and State regulations, as well as all District Standards and Specifications, such as those provided in Los Angeles Unified's (LA Unified) Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report for the School Upgrade Program (Subsequent PEIR).¹ The Project will not cause an increase in student capacity or enrollment and would not result in an increase in the intensity of use. The beneficiaries of the Project include students and staff at each of the respective schools and the community at large who may request access to the facilities and grounds of the Campuses pursuant to the Civic Center Act (CA Ed. Code Sections 38130 - 38139).

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project:

Los Angeles Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Los Angeles Unified School District

Exempt Status: (check one below)

¹ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR)," <https://www.lausd.org/ceqa>, adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.



- ☐ Ministerial [Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines Section 15268²]:
- ☐ Declared Emergency [PRC Section 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a)]:
- ☐ Emergency Project [PRC Section 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(b)(c)]:
- ☒ Categorical Exemption (PRC Section 21084; CEQA Guidelines Sections 15300 -15333):
- *CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 – Existing Facilities*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 – Accessory Structures*
- ☐ Statutory Exemption:

Reasons why project is exempt:

Section 15301 Existing Facilities

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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

The Project will consist of the installation of rooftop PV panels, PV canopies and carports, EV charging stations and other minor alterations of existing public structures and mechanical equipment, including ADA upgrades. All proposed Project components would involve minor alterations to existing Campuses and will occur within the area occupied by existing facilities at each Campus. The Project components will not present a new or expanded use of the Campuses. Therefore, the Project constitutes minor alterations to existing school sites that result in no expansion of use and meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Section 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made to the exterior of the structure.

The installation of new PV canopies and carports, rooftop PV systems, EV charging stations and ADA upgrades constitutes the construction of new small structures. The solar arrays would be characterized as new, small facilities or accessory structures as defined by Section 15303 (e) "Accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences." Therefore, the Project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.-

Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land

Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.

The Project will include installation of carport and shade structures that involve minimal land disturbance. Installation will not involve major grading, excavation, or other significant alterations to land. Installation

² CEQA Guidelines can be found at California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 – Section 15387.



of the carport and shade structures will not result in the removal of any trees. Therefore, the Project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15304.

Section 15311 – Accessory Structures

Class 11 consists of construction or replacement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities, including, but not limited to, on-premises signs and small parking lots.

The Project will include installation of rooftop PV systems, PV canopy structures, carports and EV charging stations on existing school buildings and parking lots. The shade structures, carports and EV charging stations will benefit staff members and visitors that drive to the Campus, and the solar infrastructure will support energy conservation goals of the District. The Project will serve as supplementary facilities to enhance the functionality of the existing buildings and parking lots. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15311.

Section 15300.2 – Exceptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, Exceptions, provides conditions under which categorical exemptions are inapplicable. Review of these Projects indicates that they would not violate any of the exceptions, as described below.

1. *The projects would occur in certain specified sensitive environments or locations;*

The Project site is a fully developed Campuses within urbanized communities.³ The Pacoima MS site is not designated as biologically sensitive location. The nearest significant ecological area (SEA) is the Tujunga Valley/Hansen Dam, located approximately 1.4 miles to the east of the Project site.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher located approximately 2.1 miles northeast of the Project site.^{5,6} The Project would occur entirely within the limits of the existing Campuses and within areas that are currently paved. As such, the Project will not impact sensitive environments or locations.

2. *Cumulative impacts would be considerable because successive projects of the same type would occur at the same place over time;*

The Campuses are active school sites and there will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor Project to keep them operational. There are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for any one of the Campuses. As the Project would not result in any lasting impacts once construction of the Project is complete, the Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts when considered with expected successive projects. Therefore, no cumulative impacts will result from the Project and successive projects of the same type and at the same place over time.

3. *There is a reasonable possibility that the activity would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

³ City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, accessed February 2026.

⁴ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed February 2026.

⁵ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed February 2026.

⁶ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed February 2026.



There are no known unusual circumstances that would have a significant effect on the environment. The upgrades associated with the Project are comparable to other modernizations and improvements that are being completed throughout the District under the School Upgrade Program. The removal of trees is not anticipated as part of the proposed scope of work. However, should the Project be altered to include the removal of trees, LA Unified's Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) must be notified immediately. District policy requires consultation with an arborist to determine if the trees are a protected native species. Additionally, written approval from the school principal will be required before any trees can be removed. If tree removal is scheduled to occur between February 1 and August 31, a nesting bird survey would be performed prior to removal activities, per standard condition (SC) of approval SC-BIO-3 of the Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects.⁷

The Project will include minor ground-disturbing activities. These activities are not considered unusual circumstances for the classes of projects under which an exemption is claimed. All Project related ground disturbing activities would comply with SC-AQ-1, SC-AQ-2, SC-AQ-3, and SC-AQ-4. As the Project involves the removal of pavement, soil sampling and testing has or will be conducted and a determination memorandum will be created for all Campuses prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. Excavated soils will only be reused onsite if they are placed beneath paved areas. If construction or earthmoving activities require import or export of soils and materials, OEHS must be notified to provide oversight to ensure that these activities are conducted in compliance with the requirements of District Specification 01 4524, relevant provisions of South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1466, and other applicable environmental agency rules and requirements.⁸ Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11 and in District protocols, construction activities must be stopped immediately and OEHS notified upon discovery of subsurface features, such as buried resources (i.e., paleontological resources, archaeological resources), tanks or seepage pits, or stained/odoriferous soils.⁹ Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1.¹⁰ Therefore, the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

4. *The project 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 closest designated state scenic highway is the Topanga Canyon Road or Highway 27, which is located approximately 7.9 miles south of SOCES.¹¹ Therefore, the proposed Project will not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

⁷ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," available at https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/domain/135/ceqa/2023_Standard_Conditions_UPDATE_Final.pdf.

⁸ LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t

⁹ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report," <https://www.lausd.org/CEQA>. Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, https://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html. Accessed February 2026.



5. *The project is located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; or*

None of the Project sites are located on sites that are included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.¹² Therefore, the Project will have no impacts related to being located on a hazardous waste site.

6. *The project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.*

Five campuses (Muir MS, Markham MS, Pacoima MS, South Gate MS, and Sun Valley MS) have been determined to be eligible to be listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historical Resources. The Project entails landscaping and irrigation in areas on the grounds of existing campuses and removal of existing portable buildings that are not considered to be historic resources. The proposed modifications are limited to spaces that are not considered character-defining and will comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation due to their compatibility and reversibility. The Project was reviewed by LA Unified's Historic Preservation Specialist and Coordinator to ensure compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Secretary's Standards) and LA Unified's Design Guidelines and Treatment Approaches for Historic Schools (Guidelines). LA Unified's Historical Preservation Specialist and Coordinator has determined that the Project complies with the Secretary's Standards and LA Unified's Guidelines, meets the requirements specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(3), and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Therefore, the Project will not have the potential to adversely impact historical resources.

Prepared By:

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Environmental Planning Specialist

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Signed by:

Date:

2/23/26

Carlos A. Torres,
CEQA Officer of the Los Angeles Unified School District

Attachment: Exhibit A – Site Plans

¹² California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/dtscs-cortese-list/> Accessed February 2026.

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Mar 05 2026

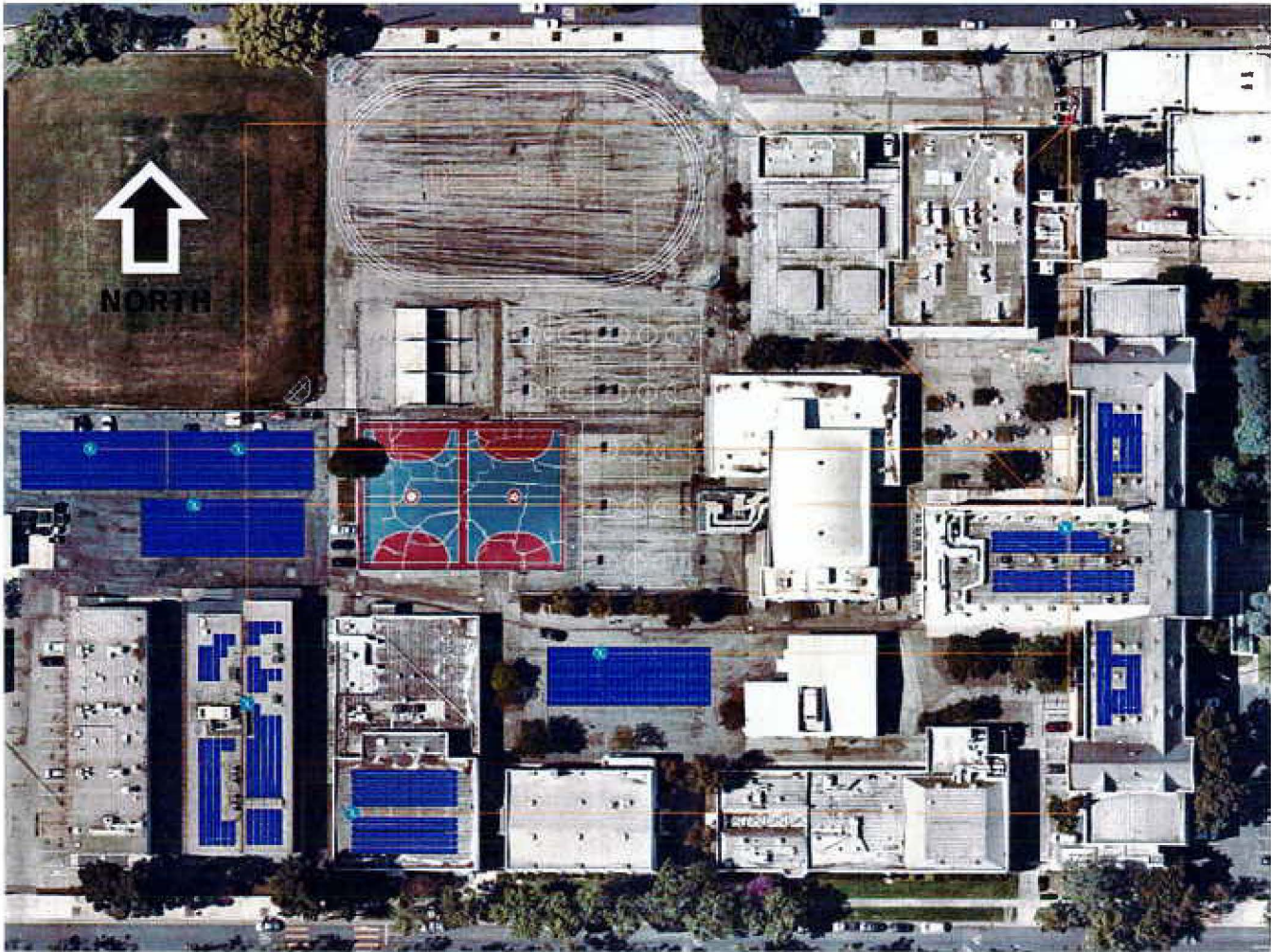
Deen C. Logen, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by CORYMEY MAFFITT

EXHIBIT A – CRENSHAW HIGH SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



EXHIBIT A – JOHN MUIR MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



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Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by COURTNEY MAFFETT

EXHIBIT A – LOS ANGELES HIGH SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



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Dann C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by COURTNEY MAFFITT

EXHIBIT A – MARKHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



EXHIBIT A – PACOIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



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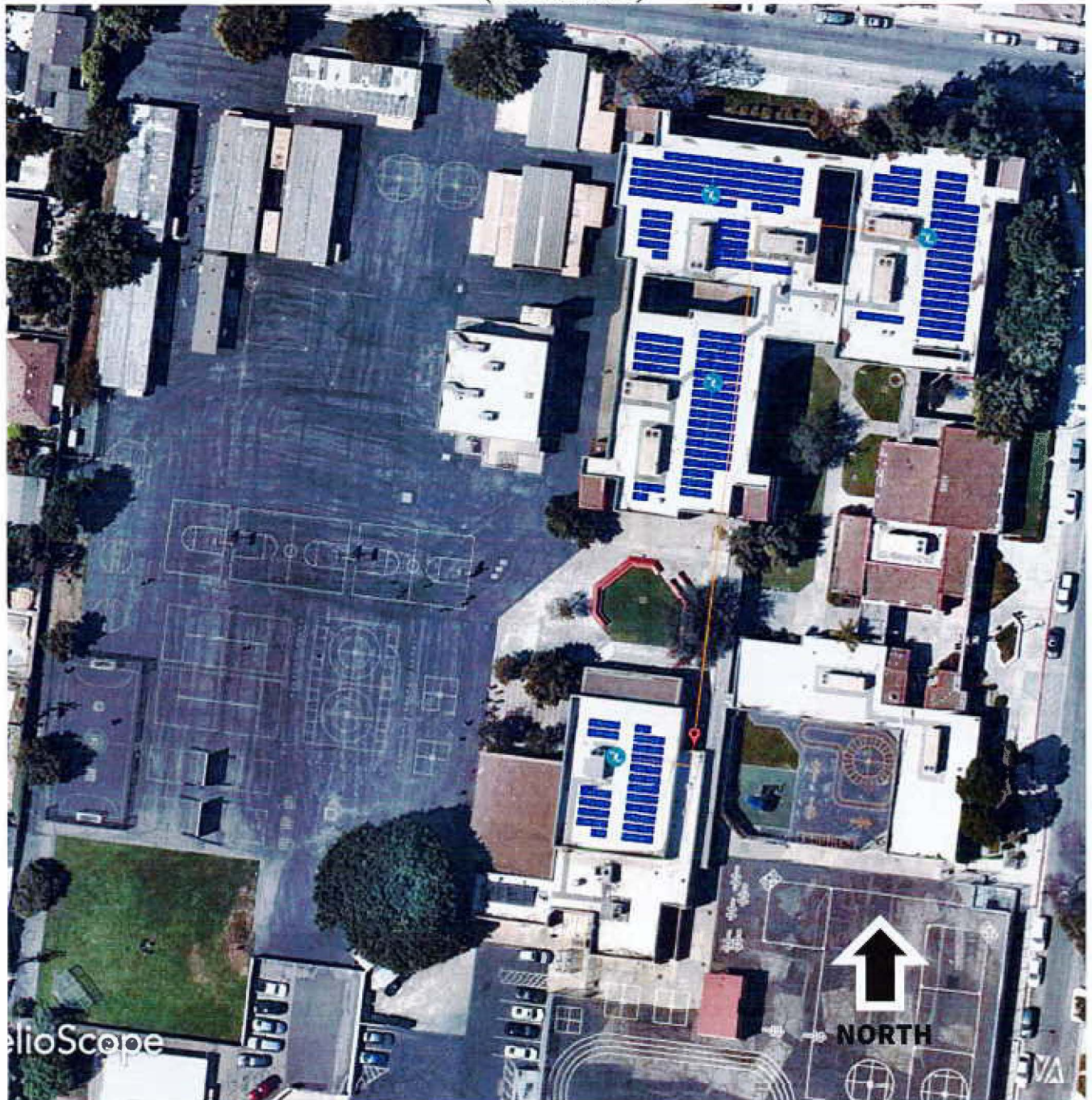
Mar 05 2026

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by CORTNEY MAFFITT

EXHIBIT A – SAN MIGUEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE PLAN

(not to scale)



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Electronically signed by COURTNEY MAFFITT

EXHIBIT A – SOCES SITE PLAN (not to scale)

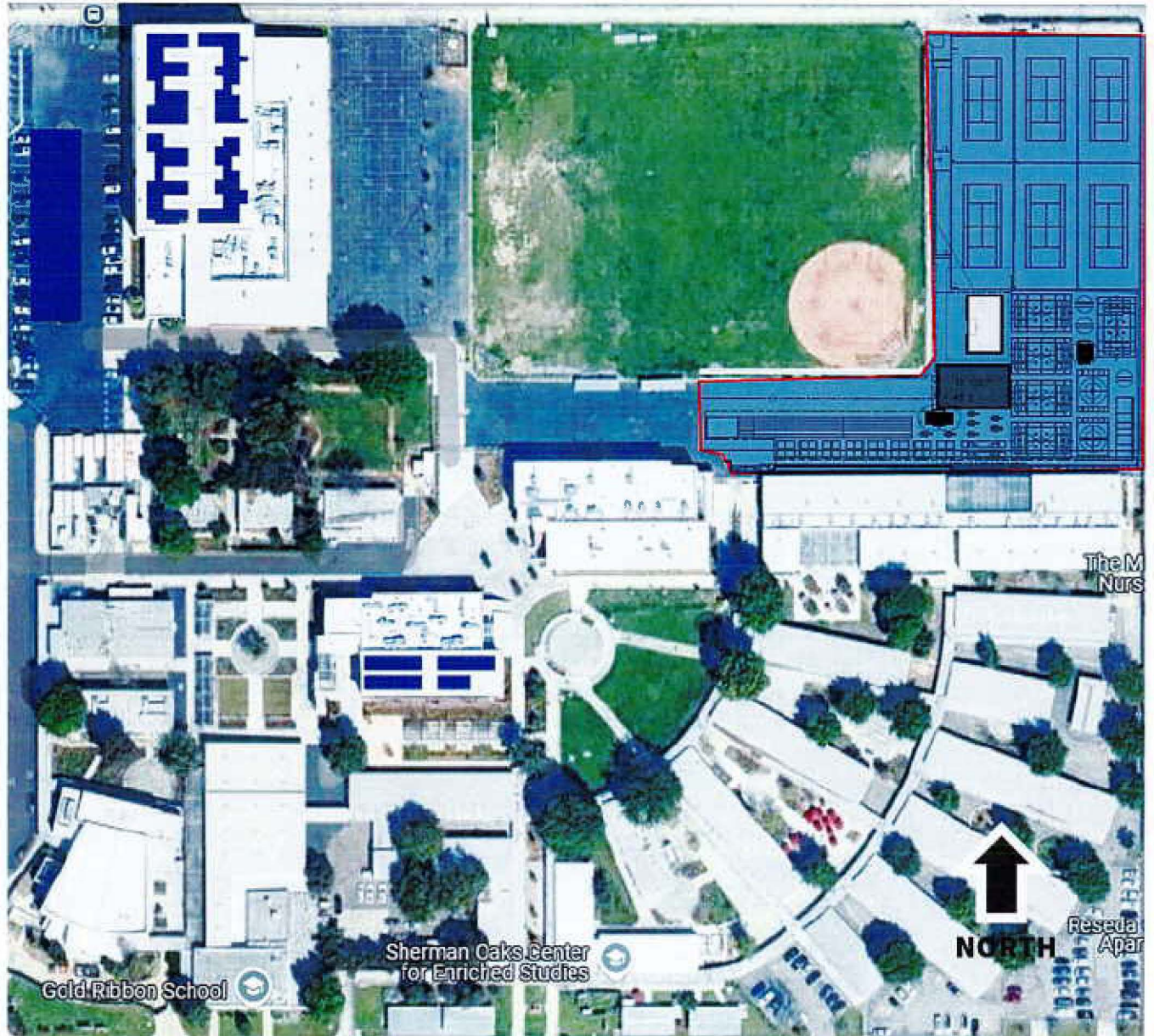


EXHIBIT A -SOUTH GATE MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



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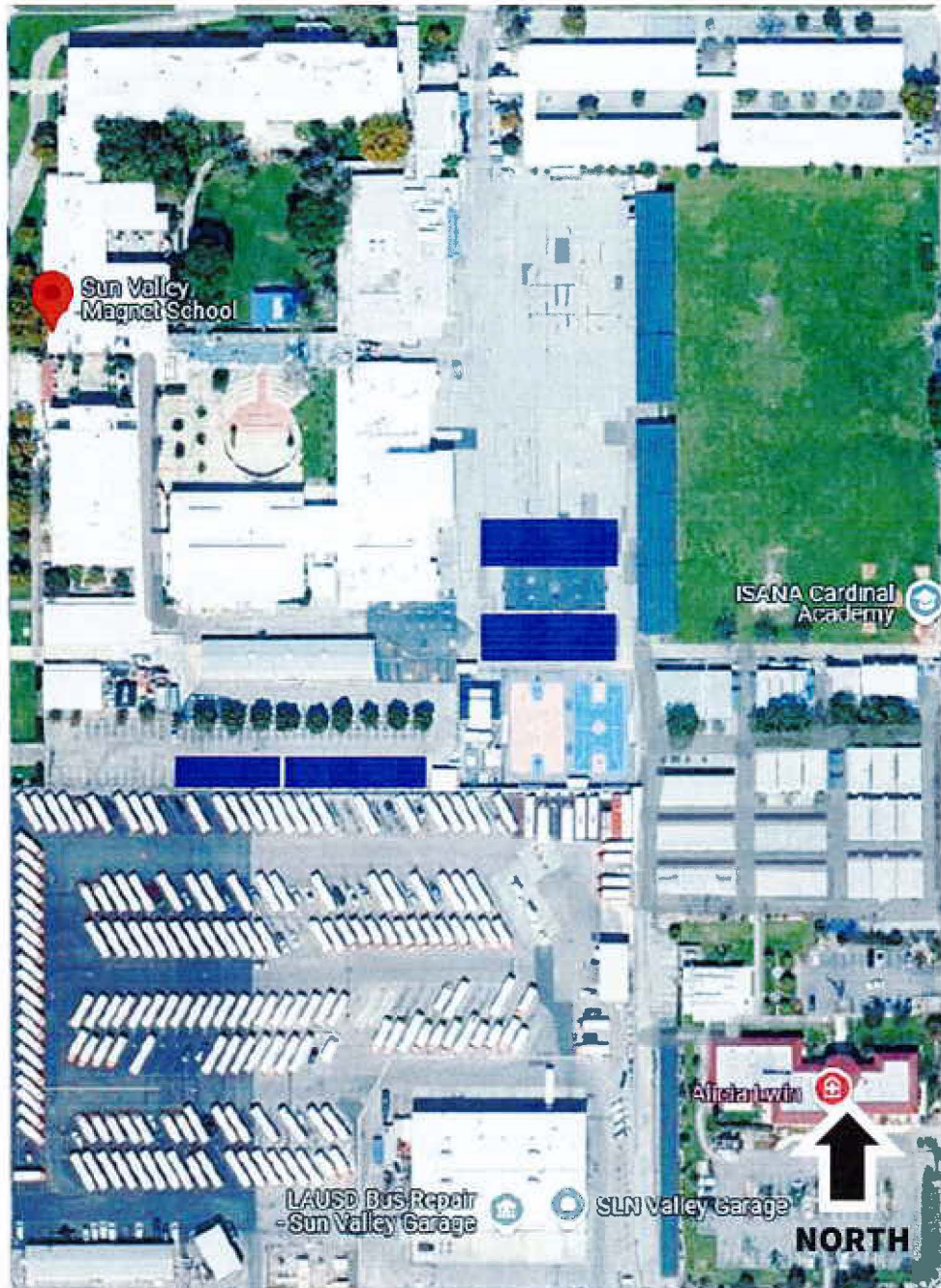


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Electronically signed by COURTNEY MEYER

EXHIBIT A – SUN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



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Deana C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by COURTNEY MAFFITT

EXHIBIT A – SUTTER MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)

