

# Los Angeles Unified School District

## Office of Environmental Health and Safety

ANDRES E. CHAIT  
*Acting Superintendent*

CARLOS A. TORRES  
*Director, Environmental Health and Safety*

JENNIFER FLORES  
*Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety*

### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED

ON March 23 2026

UNTIL April 22 2026

REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

**2026 064197**



**FILED**  
Mar 23 2026

Dean C. Logen, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by LORENA WALDEZ

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

**From:** LAUSD OEHS  
333 S. Beaudry Avenue  
21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Project Title:**

Shade Structures Project at three (3) Los Angeles Unified Campuses

**Project Location – Specific:**

1. Fair Avenue Elementary School, 6501 Fair Avenue, North Hollywood, Calif.
2. Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte Elementary School, 4410 Orchard Ave, Los Angeles, Calif.
3. San Fernando Elementary School, 1130 Mott Street, San Fernando, Calif.

**Project Location – City:**

Various

**Project Location – County:**

Los Angeles

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The projects (Project or Projects) at the three LA Unified campuses (Campus or Campuses) will provide new shade structure(s) and associated landscape and hardscape improvements pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Board of Education authorized a total of \$817,504 on April 8, 2025, for the Projects at Fair Avenue ES and San Fernando ES and authorized \$321,377 on September 10, 2024, for the Project at LaMotte ES.

The Project will be individually designed on each of the three campuses (Campus or Campuses).

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

School	1 Shade Structure	2 Shade Structures	ADA Upgrades	Path of Travel Upgrades
Fair Avenue ES	X			X
LaMotte ES		X		

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*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.*



San Fernando ES	X		X	
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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).<sup>1</sup> 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)**

- Ministerial [Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines Section 15268<sup>2</sup>];
- 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.

All Projects will result in the installation of new shade structure(s) on the existing play yards. The new shade structure(s) will address unmet Campus needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment. All proposed Project components would involve minor alterations to existing Campuses and will occur within the area occupied by existing facilities at each Campus such as path of travel and ADA upgrades. Installation of the new shade structure(s) will not present a new or expanded use of the Campus. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Section 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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



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 Projects will result in the installation of a new shade structure(s) on the existing play yards. The new shade structure(s) will address unmet campus needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment. Installation of the new shade structure will not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing Campus. The shade structures 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 Projects meet 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 Projects will include the installation of new shade structure(s) that involve minimal land disturbance. Installation will not involve major grading, excavation, or other significant alterations to land. Installation of the carport and shade structures will not result in the removal of any trees. Therefore, the Projects meet 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 Projects will include installation of new shade structure(s) on the existing play yards. The new shade structures are consistent with the existing use of the Project areas and will enhance playground experience and support the primary educational and recreational use of the sites. The Projects will serve as supplementary facilities to enhance the functionality of the existing playground. Therefore, the Projects meet 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 sites are fully developed Campuses within urbanized communities.<sup>3</sup> The Campuses are not designated as biologically sensitive locations. The nearest significant ecological area (SEA) are the Verdugo Mountains, located approximately 2.5 miles to the northeast from Fair Avenue ES

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



site.<sup>4</sup> The nearest critical habitat is the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher located approximately 3.2 miles east of San Fernando ES.<sup>5,6</sup> The Projects would occur entirely within the limits of the existing Campuses and within areas that are currently paved. As such, the Projects 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 have ongoing maintenance activities and minor alterations 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 Projects would not result in any lasting impacts once construction is complete, the Projects would not contribute to cumulative impacts when considered with expected successive projects. Therefore, no cumulative impacts will result from the Projects 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.*

There are no known unusual circumstances that would have a significant effect on the environment. The upgrades associated with the Projects 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 Projects 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.<sup>7</sup>

The Projects 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

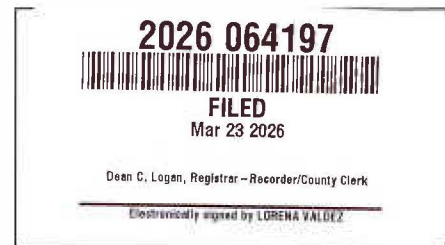
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<sup>4</sup> United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed February 2026.

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

<sup>6</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, [http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3\\_Public/Viewer.html](http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html), accessed February 2026.

<sup>7</sup> 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](https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/domain/135/ceqa/2023_Standard_Conditions_UPDATE_Final.pdf).



rules and requirements.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, the Projects 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 Angeles Crest Highway or SR-2, which is located approximately 11 east of Fair Avenue ES.<sup>11</sup> 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.

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.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, the Projects 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.*

Two campuses (Fair Avenue ES and San Fernando ES) 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 adding shade structures on the grounds of existing campus playgrounds that are not considered to be historic resources. The proposed modifications are limited to spaces that are not considered character-defining as determined by LAUSD's Historic preservation Specialist and the Projects will comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation due to their compatibility and reversibility. Therefore, the Projects will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Prepared By:

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Environmental Planning Specialist

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<sup>8</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", [http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file\\_id=219798234&show\\_all\\_versions\\_p=t](http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t)

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, [https://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3\\_Public/Viewer.html](https://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html). Accessed February 2026.

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



Signed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "CA Torres", written over a horizontal line.

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

Date:

A handwritten date "3/10/24" in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Attachment: Exhibit A – Site Plans

2026 064197

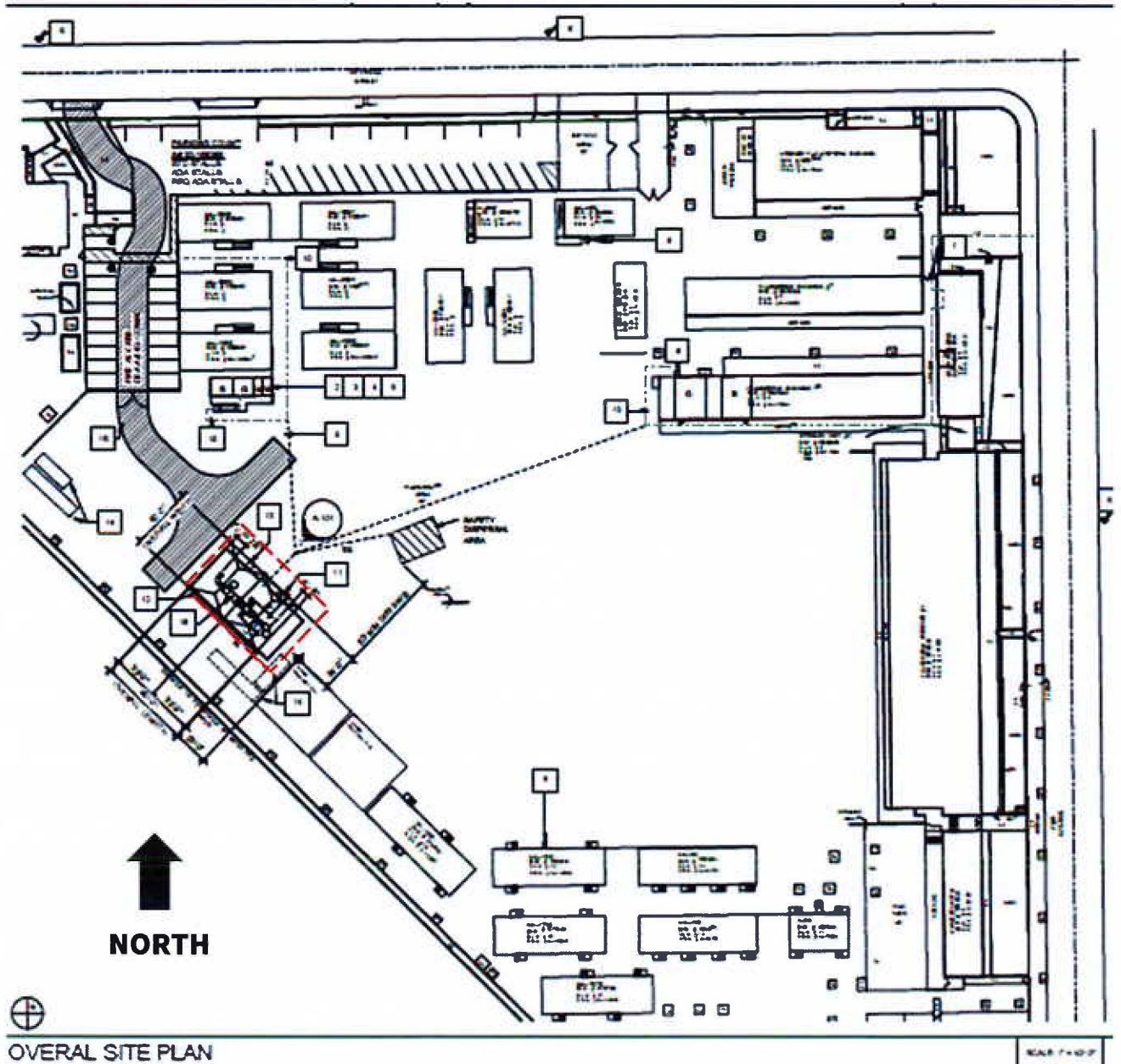


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Mar 23 2026

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

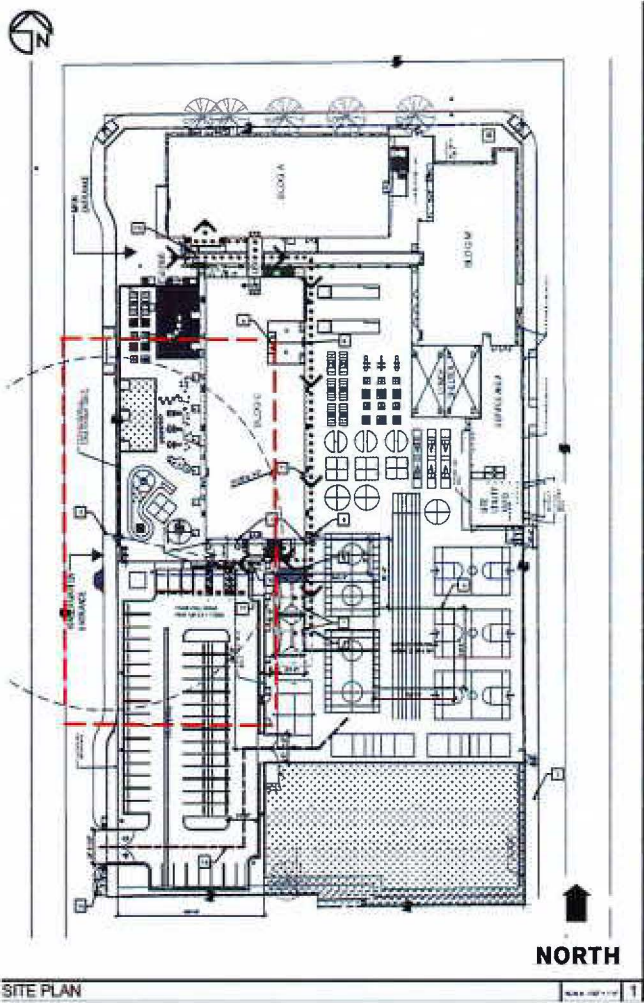
Electronically signed by LORENA VALDEZ

# EXHIBIT A – FAIR AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



 PROJECT SITE

EXHIBIT A – MARGUERITE POINDEXTER LAMOTTE ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



 PROJECT SITE

2026 064197

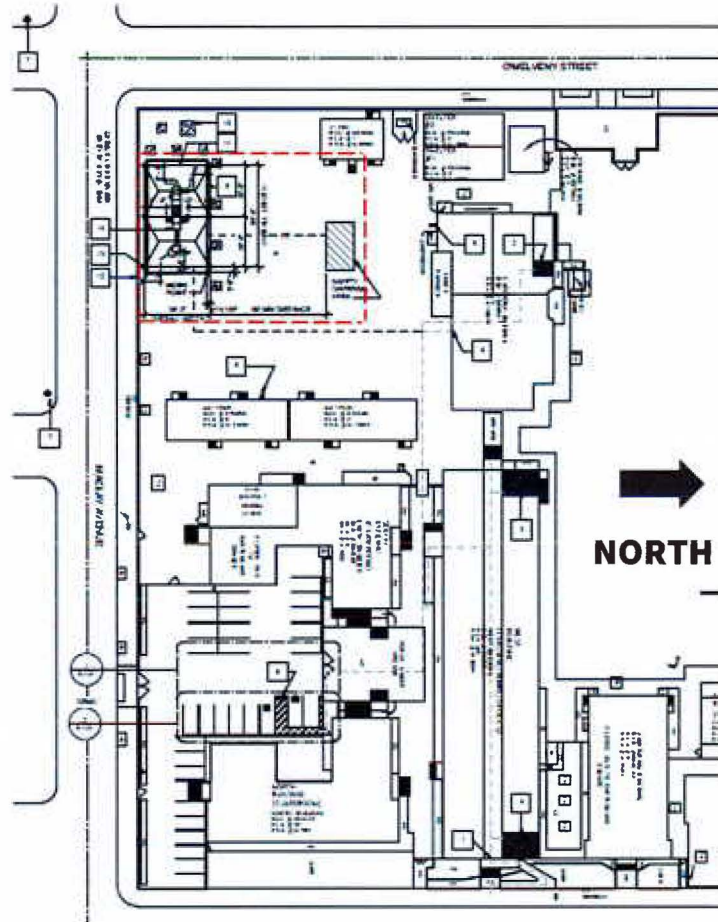


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Dean C. Logm, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

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# EXHIBIT A - SAN FERNANDO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



OVERALL SITE PLAN

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0" 1

 PROJECT SITE