

# Los Angeles Unified School District

## Office of Environmental Health and Safety

ANDRES CHAIT  
*Acting Superintendent of Schools*

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

JENNIFER FLORES  
*Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety*

### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED  
ON April 08 2026  
UNTIL May 08 2026  
REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

2026 077320  
  
FILED  
Apr 08 2026  
Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk  
Electronically signed by LAMIESHA MCGUIFF

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

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

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**Project Title:**  
Ocean Charter School – Solar Photovoltaic Project

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**Project Location – Specific:**

The Ocean Charter School – Solar Photovoltaic Project will be located on the approximately 2.1-acre Ocean Charter School campus (Ocean Charter or Campus). The Campus is located at 12870 Panama Street in the Del Rey neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. It is bound by Panama Street to the north, Culver Boulevard to the east, Culver Boulevard to the south and Alla Road to the west. The Campus is located in an urbanized community primarily consisting of single-family residences located along Panama Street and Alla Road. Commercial land uses are located on Culver Boulevard.

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**Project Location – City:**  
Los Angeles

**Project Location – County:**  
Los Angeles

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

The Project will include the installation of 466 solar panels (270 kW) on the roofs of the existing gymnasium and classroom buildings. Supporting infrastructure for the solar panels will be integrated to enhance site sustainability. The Board of Education (BOE) approved the Project's budget of \$918,000 on January 26, 2026.

The Project will be implemented pursuant to all applicable State, federal, and local regulations and all applicable Los Angeles Unified School District (LA Unified or District) specifications, standards, and/or guidelines, including those in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the updated Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects (SC) as adopted by the Board of Education on December



2023.<sup>1</sup> LAUSD's SCs, design guidelines, and best management practices are designed to be incorporated into the Project design in order to avoid or limit potential adverse impacts associated with the District's projects. The beneficiaries of this Project are the students, faculty, staff, families, school supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the facilities and grounds of the Campus pursuant to the Civic Center act (CA Ed. Code Sections 38130-38139).

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**Name of Public Agency Approving the Project:**

Los Angeles Unified School District

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**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Los Angeles Unified School District

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**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 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 roof installation of solar panels and other minor alterations of existing public structures and mechanical equipment. The project involves no expansion of the facility's use at this time. It therefore fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

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 roof installation of solar panels on the existing buildings. 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 building rooftops. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15311.

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<sup>1</sup> LA Unified OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District, Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education of December 12, 2023.

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



Section 15300.2 – Exceptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, Exceptions, provides conditions under which categorical exemptions are inapplicable. Review of the Project indicates that it will not violate any of the exceptions, as described in the following section.

1. *The project will occur in certain specified sensitive environments or locations;*

The Project site is a fully developed Campus within an urbanized area of Los Angeles in the neighborhood surrounded by residential communities and commercial entities on all sides. The site is not designated as a biologically sensitive location. The nearest significant ecological area (SEA) is the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve SEA located approximately 0.2 miles south of the Project site.<sup>3</sup> The nearest critical habitat is the Western Snow Plover habitat located approximately 5.2 miles northwest of the Project site.<sup>4,5</sup> As such, the Project will not impact sensitive environments or locations.

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

The Campus is an active school site and there will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor projects on the Campus to keep the school operational. There are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for the Campus. 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 will 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 Project does not include removal of trees. Should the Project be altered to include the removal of trees, LAUSD'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. All tree trimming and removal conducted on District property is required to adhere to the procedures described in the LAUSD OEHS Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</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 March 2026.

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

<sup>5</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 March 2026.

<sup>6</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure," <https://www.lausd.org/ceqa>

<sup>7</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.

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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. Nevertheless, consideration must be given to the management of pavement removal and excavated soils associated with earthwork activities for the Project. As the Project involves the removal of pavement, soil sampling and testing for characterization is required prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. 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.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-6, SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-10, and SC-GEO-2, 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 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 to the Project site is the Topanga Canyon State Scenic Highway, a 0.5-mile portion of State Route 27 (SR-27), which is located approximately 10 miles northwest of the Campus.<sup>11</sup> The Project will not result in the removal of historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or other scenic resources. Therefore, the 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*

The Project site is not located on any sites that are included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.<sup>12</sup> 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.*

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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, [http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3\\_Public/Viewer.html](http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html), accessed March 2026.

<sup>12</sup> California Department of Toxic Substances, [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese\\_List.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm), accessed March 2026.



Ocean Charter was established in 2003. The LAUSD Historic Preservation Specialist determined that Ocean Charter is ineligible as a historic resource.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, the Project would have no impact to a historic resource.

Prepared By:

Zulema Renteria  
Environmental Planning Specialist

Phone and Email:

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zulema.renteria@LAUSD.net

Signed by:

Date:

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

Attachment: Exhibit A – Site Plan

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<sup>13</sup> LAUSD. 2020. Historic Resources Inventory. Los Angeles, CA, last accessed March 2026.

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**EXHIBIT A – OCEAN CHARTER SITE PLAN (not to scale)**



 **PROJECT SITE**