

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

ANDRES E. CHAIT
Acting Superintendent

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Director, Environmental Health and Safety

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Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED

ON April 28 2026

UNTIL May 28 2026

REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

2026 093069



FILED
Apr 28 2026

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by TINA TRAN

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

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

Project Title:

Carson High School Classroom Replacement Project

Project Location – Specific:

The Carson High School Classroom Replacement Project (Project) will be located on the approximately 30-acre Carson High School Complex campus (Carson HS or Campus). The Campus is located at 22328 South Main Street in the City of Carson. It is bound by East 223rd Street to the north, Dolores Street to the east, residences to the south, and South Main Street to the west. Eagle Tree Continuation High School (Eagle Tree Continuation HS) is located in the southwestern portion of the Campus. The Campus is located in an urbanized community primarily consisting of commercial uses, multi-family, and single-family residences. The Project will occur across Campus.

Project Location – City:

Carson

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project will remove aging relocatable buildings at Carson HS, which includes a total of 20 relocatable buildings, containing 37 classrooms and support spaces. The Project will construct a new two-story classroom building consisting of 30 classrooms, support spaces, and an administrative suite. The Project also includes improvements at Eagle Tree Continuation High School, including new modular buildings that contain six classrooms, support spaces, and an administrative suite, and the installation of a new lunch shelter. Additionally, the Project includes a new softball field facility to replace the existing softball field facility impacted by the Project development. Site improvements include new parking; utility upgrades; landscaping; trees; outdoor learning areas; hardscaping; fencing and gates; security enhancements; accessibility upgrades; and exterior painting of existing buildings and structures (Figure 1). The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education approved the Project's budget of \$145,644,050 on March 12, 2024.

The Project will be implemented per all applicable State, federal, and local regulations, as well as all District Standards

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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.



and Specifications; such as those provided in the updated Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects (SCs) as adopted by the Board of Education in December 2023.¹ 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 Carson HS 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).

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 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 15302 – Replacement or Reconstruction*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 153014 – Minor Additions to Schools*
- ☐ 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 remove aging relocatable buildings at Carson HS, which includes a total of 20 relocatable buildings, containing 37 classrooms and support spaces. The Project will construct a new two-story classroom building consisting of 30 classrooms, support spaces, and an administrative suite. The Project also includes improvements at Eagle Tree Continuation High School, including new modular buildings that contain six classrooms, support spaces, and an administrative suite, and the installation of a new lunch shelter. Additionally, the Project includes a new softball field facility to replace the existing softball field facility impacted by the Project development. Site improvements include new parking; utility upgrades; landscaping; trees; outdoor learning areas; hardscaping; fencing and gates; security enhancements; accessibility upgrades; and exterior painting of existing buildings and structures. The Project would constitute operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public structures involving no expansion of the

¹ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects" <https://www.lausd.org/ceqa>. Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

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



facilities' use. Therefore, the Project constitutes minor alterations to an existing school site that result in no expansion of use and meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Section 15302 - Replacement or Reconstruction

Class 2 consists of replacing or reconstructing existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

As previously noted, the Project will remove aging relocatable buildings at Carson HS, which includes a total of 20 relocatable buildings, containing 37 classrooms and support spaces. The Project will construct a new two-story classroom building consisting of 30 classrooms, support spaces, and an administrative suite. The Project also includes improvements at Eagle Tree Continuation High School, including new modular buildings that contain six classrooms, support spaces, and an administrative suite, and the installation of a new lunch shelter. Additionally, the Project includes a new softball field facility to replace the existing softball field facility impacted by the Project development. Site improvements include new parking; utility upgrades; landscaping; trees; outdoor learning areas; hardscaping; fencing and gates; security enhancements; accessibility upgrades; and exterior painting of existing buildings and structures. The Project will not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing Campus. Therefore, the Project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

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 structure.

The Project consists of site improvements including new parking; utility upgrades; landscaping; outdoor learning areas; hardscaping; fencing and gates; security enhancements; accessibility upgrades; and exterior painting of existing buildings and structures. These improvements constitute operation, repair, maintenance and minor alteration of an existing campus involving no expansion in enrollment or of the facilities' use. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.

Section 15314 – Minor Additions to Schools

Class 14 consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, whichever is less. The addition of portable classrooms is included in this exemption.

The Project entails the removal of 20 existing relocatable buildings containing 37 classrooms and the construction of a new two-story classroom building consisting of 30 classrooms on an existing campus. The Project also includes the replacement of relocatable buildings with new modular buildings consisting of the same student capacity at Eagle Tree Continuation HS. The Project will not increase the original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15314.

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 they would not violate any of the exceptions, as described below.

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



The Project will occur on an existing campus that is located within an urban setting.³ The surrounding uses are residential and commercial. The campus has not been designated as a biologically sensitive site or location and does not contain sensitive resources or habitat that will be impacted by the Project. The nearest significant ecological area (SEA) is Harbor Lake Regional Park which is located approximately 2 miles south of the Campus.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is designated as such for the coastal California gnatcatcher and is located approximately 4.6 miles southwest of the site.⁵ 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 Campus is an active school site and there will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor projects on the Campus to keep the schools operational. As the Project will not result in any lasting adverse impacts once construction of the Project is complete, the Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts when considered with expected successive projects.

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 removal of trees is anticipated as part of the proposed scope of work. 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 of Approval (SC) SC-BIO-3 of the Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR).^{6,7}

The Project may 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.⁸ Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-6, SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, SC-CUL-10, and SC-GEO-2 of the SPEIR, 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

³ City of Los Angeles. ZIMAS. Available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>. Accessed March 2026.

⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed March 2026.

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

⁶ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

⁷ LAUSD OEHS, "Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure", <http://www.lausd.org/ceqa>.

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," <http://www.lausd.org/ceqa>. Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.



extent feasible per SC-USS-1 of the Program EIR.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 to the Project site is State Route 27 (SR 27, Topanga Canyon Boulevard), which is located approximately 24 miles northwest of Carson HS.¹¹ The Project will not be visible from SR 27. Therefore, the Project will not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway that is officially designated as a 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 is not located on a site 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 historical resource.*

Carson HS is over 45 years old, meeting LAUSD's threshold as a potential historic resource and requiring evaluation for historic eligibility. LAUSD's Historic Preservation Specialist has evaluated Carson HS and determined that it is not eligible for federal, State, or local listing under any of the applicable criteria and is therefore not considered a historical resource pursuant to CEQA.¹³ Therefore, the Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Prepared By:

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Signed by:

Date:

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

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

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

¹² Department of Toxic Substances Control, "Hazardous Waste And Substances Site List (Cortese)"

https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search?cmd=search&reporttype=CORTESE&site_type=CSITES,FUDS&status=ACT,BKLG,COM&reporttitle=HAZARDOUS+WASTE+AND+SUBSTANCES+SITE+LIST+%28CORTESE%29, accessed March 2026.

¹³ LAUSD OEHS. 2026. LAUSD Historic Resources Database.

Figure 1. Project Site Plan

