

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 May 19 2026

UNTIL June 18 2026

REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

2026 110510



FILED
May 19 2026

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by ISAURA CORREA

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:

Hart Street Elementary School Playground and Campus Exterior Upgrades Project

Project Location – Specific:

The Hart Street Elementary School Playground and Campus Exterior Upgrades Project (Project) will be located on the approximately 6.9-acre Hart Street Elementary School campus (Hart ES or Campus). The Campus is located at 21040 Hart Street in the Canoga Park Neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles. It is bound by Hart Street to the north, Independence Avenue to the east, Bassett Street to the south, and Variel Avenue to the west. The Campus is located in an urbanized community primarily consisting of residential uses. The Project will occur across the Campus.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project will replace approximately 96,000 square feet of paving in the main and kindergarten playgrounds with new paving. The scope of work includes solar reflective coating in playgrounds, replacement of playground equipment, an outdoor learning environment, greening and landscaping throughout the Campus, privacy fencing and exterior painting of buildings where needed. The Project will also provide infrastructure upgrades including a new trash enclosure and accessibility upgrades (Figure 1). The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education approved the Project's budget of \$11,157,825 on March 12, 2024.

The beneficiaries of the Project include Hart ES students, faculty, staff, families, school supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the playground pursuant to the Civic Center Act (CA Ed. Code Sections 38130 -38139).

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project:

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.



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 15268¹];
- 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 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land*
- 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 replace approximately 96,000 square feet of paving in the main and kindergarten playgrounds with new paving. The scope of work includes solar reflective coating in playgrounds, replacement of playground equipment, an outdoor learning environment, greening and landscaping throughout the Campus, privacy fencing and exterior painting of buildings where needed. The Project will also provide infrastructure upgrades including a new trash enclosure and accessibility upgrades. The Project would constitute operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public facilities involving no expansion of the facilities' use. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

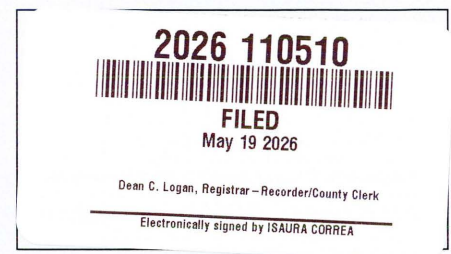
Section 15302 - Replacement or Reconstruction

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 replace approximately 96,000 square feet of paving in the main and kindergarten playgrounds with new paving. The scope of work includes solar reflective coating in playgrounds, replacement of playground equipment, an outdoor learning environment, greening and landscaping throughout the Campus, privacy fencing and exterior painting of buildings where needed. The Project will also provide infrastructure upgrades including a new trash enclosure and accessibility upgrades. The Project will not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing campus. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

Section 15304 - Minor Alterations to Land

¹ CEQA Guidelines can be found at California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 - Section 15387.



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

The Project will repave existing asphalt as well as provide solar reflective coating in playgrounds, greening, landscaping, and infrastructure upgrades throughout the campus. The Project will not remove healthy, mature, scenic trees. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15304.

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 site is a fully developed Campus within an urbanized community.² The Project site is not designated as a biologically sensitive site or location and does not contain sensitive resources or habitat that will be impacted by the Project. The Project will be contained exclusively within the boundaries of the Campus. The nearest significant ecological area is the Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills located approximately 2.4 miles northwest of Hart ES and the nearest critical habitat is Braunton's milk-vetch located approximately 3.8 miles northwest of the Campus.^{3,4} 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.⁵ 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

² City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, accessed February 2026.

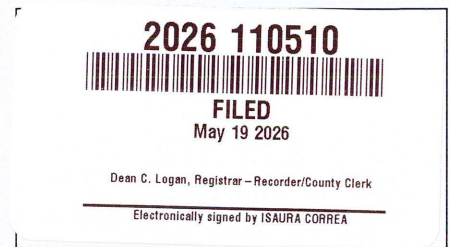
³ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed February 2026.

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

⁵ LAUSD OEHS, "Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure", <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>.

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://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>.



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 extent feasible per SC-USS-1 of the SPEIR.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 8 miles south of Hart ES.¹¹ The Project will not be visible from SR 27. Therefore, the Project would 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 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.*

Hart ES is over 45 years old, meeting LAUSD's threshold for review as a potential historic resource and requiring evaluation for historic eligibility. LAUSD's Historic Preservation Specialist has identified Hart ES as 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.

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

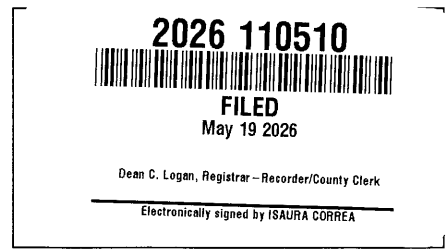
⁹ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

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

¹² http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm, accessed February 2026.

¹³ LAUSD OEHS, "LAUSD Historic Resources Inventory," accessed February 2026.



Prepared By:

Christy Wong
CEQA Project Manager/Contract Professional

Signed by:

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

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

Phone and Email:

(213) 241-3394
cp-christy.wong@LAUSD.net

Date:

A handwritten date "5/11/26" written in black ink over a horizontal line.

2026 110510



FILED
May 19 2026

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by ISAURA CORREA

Figure 1. Project Site Plan

