

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

ANDRÉS CHAIT
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 June 30 2026

UNTIL July 30 2026

REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

2026 142857



FILED

Jun 30 2026

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by SAVANNAH RODRIGUEZ

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:

San Julian Bus Garage Electric Charging Stations (Phase 2) Project

Project Location – Specific:

The San Julian Bus Garage Electric Charging Stations (Phase 2) Project will be located on the southern portion of the approximately 2.4-acre San Julian Bus Garage site (Bus Garage). The Bus Garage is located at 1424 San Pedro Street in the Downtown neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. It is bound by Pico Boulevard to the north, San Pedro Street to the east, 15th Street to the south and San Julian Street to the west. The Bus Garage is located in an urbanized community primarily consisting of industrial facilities and wholesale commercial uses surrounding the Project area.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Los Angeles Unified School District (LA Unified or District) has committed to achieving 100% clean, renewable energy in its electricity sector by 2030 and in all energy sectors – including heating, ventilation, air conditioning, cooking and transportation – by 2040.¹

As part of that commitment, electrification opportunities have been identified to support current and future electric school bus procurement and deployment. The San Julian Bus Garage was selected to support the District's electric school bus fleet by extending electric school bus range through on-route charging. On-route charging allows electric school buses to

¹ LAUSD Board of Education Report. Resolution 018-19/20. <https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/1500/Board%20Resolution%20-%20100%20Percent%20Clean%20Energy%20-%202020.pdf>

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operate on extended routes by removing the need to return to a depot for extended times to charge. Moreover, the Project will support LAUSD's "White Fleet" of administrative and maintenance vehicles, which are also transitioning to electric.

Previously, Phase 1 occurred in the northern portion of the Bus Garage and included the installation of EV charging infrastructure to support the initial deployment of electric buses. The scope included new electrical utility infrastructure, installation of EV charging systems, and associated civil work, demolition, and site improvements. Phase 2 of the Project will occur on the southern portion of the site and consist of the following improvements and is depicted in Figure 1;

- Install 79 total EV charging stations, including 41 EV bus charging stations (Level 2) and 38 DC fast charging stations (Level 3), as well as associated equipment mounting, foundations, and system integrations.
- Install new underground electrical feeders and low voltage wiring. New distribution boards and distribution conduit may be above ground or below ground.
- Remove and cap existing natural gas dispensers as necessary, per California Electrical Code (CEC) requirement to separate from EV chargers.
- Relocate wheel stops, sealcoat, and restripe the parking lot as necessary.

The Board of Education (BOE) approved the Project's budget of \$3,460,704 on May 12, 2026. The Project will be implemented per all applicable State, federal, and local regulations, as well as all District Standards 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 2023.² 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 entire District at large who request access to the facilities and grounds 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 15268³]:
- ☐ 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*

Reasons why project is exempt:

² LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects" <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>. Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

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



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 utilize the existing Bus Garage site controlled by the District that is currently used for parking and transportation related services. The improvements at the Bus Garage will constitute operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing facilities involving no expansion of the 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 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 will utilize the existing Bus Garage site controlled by the District that is currently used for parking and transportation related services. The improvements at the Bus Garage would constitute 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. Therefore, the Project satisfies 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 removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

The Project will utilize the Bus Garage controlled by the District that is currently used for parking and transportation related services. Construction activities that may involve minor alterations to land include minor trenching and backfilling for installation of charging foundations for the new bus and EV chargers, and the new electrical services. All impacted surfaces would be restored. The Project will not remove healthy, mature, or 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 fully developed areas within a heavily urbanized area of Los Angeles.⁴ The Project site is not designated as biologically sensitive sites or locations and do not contain sensitive resources or habitat that will be impacted by the Project. The Project will be contained exclusively within the boundaries of the sites. The nearest Significant Ecological Area is the Whittier Narrows and the nearest sensitive environment is the Coastal

⁴ City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, accessed June 2026.



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California gnatcatcher habitat in the Montebello; both are located approximately 8.8 miles east of the San Julian Bus Garage.^{5,6} 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 site associated with the Project is an active bus maintenance yard that services several schools and other facilities. There will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor projects to keep it operational and to LAUSD standards. 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 not anticipated as part of the proposed scope of work. However, 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. 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).^{7,8}

The Project will include minor ground-disturbing activities at the Bus Garage during construction. 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. OEHS will 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.⁹ 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.¹⁰ Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1 of the Program EIR.¹¹

⁵ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal.

<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77>, accessed June 2026.

⁶ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?layers=c01bf32eee6d4768ac0a82470c810648>, accessed June 2026.

⁷ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on February 5, 2019.

⁸ LAUSD OEHS, "Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure", <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>.

⁹ LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t

¹⁰ 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

¹¹ *Ibid.*



Regarding vehicle travel impacts, the Project would not have an adverse impact. According to the Governor's Office of Planning & Research, replacement projects designed to improve the condition of existing transportation assets (e.g., transit systems) and do not add additional motor vehicle capacity would not likely lead to a substantial or measurable increase in vehicle travel, and therefore generally should not require an induced travel analysis.¹² 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 Angeles Crest State Scenic Highway, a 55.1-mile portion on State Route 2 (SR-2), which is located approximately 14.1 miles north of the San Julian Bus Garage.¹³ 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.¹⁴ 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.*

The San Julian Bus Garage is over 45 years old, meeting LA Unified's threshold for review as a potential historic resource and requiring evaluation for historic eligibility. LA Unified's Historic Preservation Specialist has determined that the site 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. Therefore, the Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

¹² State of California, Governor's Office of Planning & Research. *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA*. April 2018.

¹³ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed June 2026.

¹⁴ http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm, accessed June 2026.

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Prepared By:

Zulema Renteria
Environmental Planning Specialist

Phone and Email:

(213) 241-3432
zulema.renteria@LAUSD.net

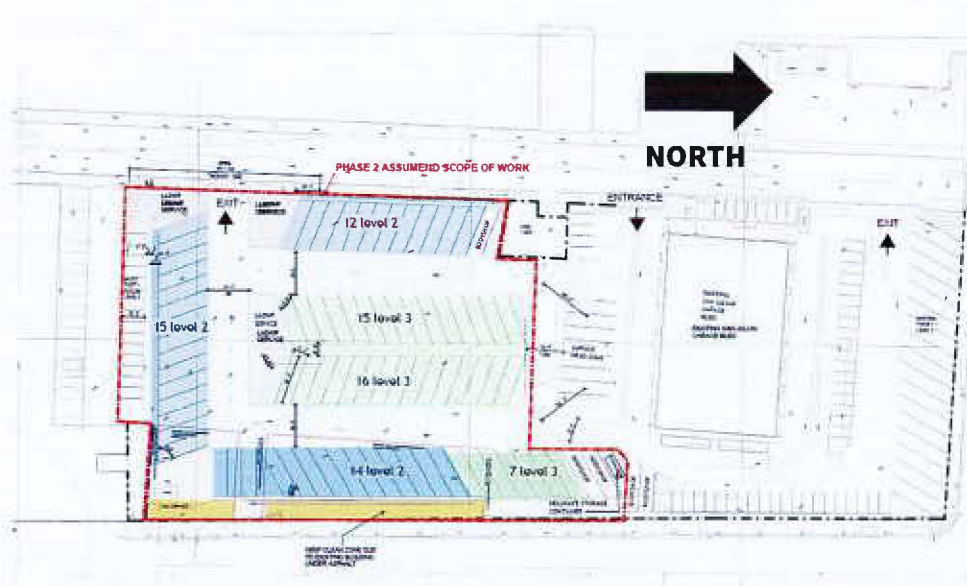
Signed by:

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

Date:

6/22/26

Figure 1. San Julian Bus Garage Site Plan



 **PROJECT AREA**