COUNTY CLERK'S USE

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUREAU OF ENGINEERING

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**LEAD CITY AGENCY AND ADDRESS:**
City of Los Angeles c/o Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA)
1149 S. Broadway, 4th Floor, MS 550
Los Angeles, CA 90015

**PROJECT TITLE:** Sidewalk Repair Program - 3628 W 59TH PL - 90043

**PROJECT LOCATION:** 3628 W 59TH PL, LOS ANGELES CA 90043.

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 8

**DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:** The Sidewalk Repair Program - 3628 W 59TH PL - 90043 (Project) consists of the repair of existing sidewalks pursuant to the City of Los Angeles' obligations under the *Willits* Settlement Agreement (U.S. Dist. Court Case No. CV10-05782 CBM [RZX]). The scope of work is limited to the removal of the specific Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access barrier(s) and adjacent work for the purpose of barrier removal, as identified by requestor/resident with a disability, in accordance with the applicable accessibility requirements, including those required by the ADA. The beneficiaries of the Project include the public and local businesses. The Project includes the removal of 1 street trees: at Site 10724 at 3628 W 59TH PL. Needs to be removed as part of the sidewalk repair which would require a separate discretionary approval by the StreetsLA, Urban Forestry Division or the Board of Public Works. Please see the project description continuation in the narrative for more details.

The Bureau of Engineering conditionally approved the Project on July 8, 2026, contingent on approval of the tree removals by StreetsLA. StreetsLA determined the project was exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approved the tree removals on August 05, 2026.

**EXEMPT STATUS:**
STATE CEQA GUIDELINES: Categorical Exemption Sec. 15301(c), Sec. 15332
CITY CEQA GUIDELINES: Categorical Exemption Art. III, Sec. 1 Class 1 Cat. 3
* See Public Resources Code Sec. 21080 and set forth State and City guidelines provisions.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:** This Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15301(c), Existing Facilities, and Section 15332, In-Fill Development Projects. Additionally, the Project is exempt pursuant to Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines Article III, Section 1, Class 1, Existing Facilities, Category 3. None of the limitations set forth in State CEQA Guidelines 15300.2 apply (see attached narrative).

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** City of Los Angeles
**NAME OF DIVISION OR DEPARTMENT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Bureau of Engineering

**CONTACT:** Hector Banuelos **PHONE:** (213) 216-4846 **EMAIL:** hector.banuelos@lacity.org

**SIGNATURE:**

David Miranda
Urban Forestry Division Manager
StreetsLA

Date August 05, 2026.

Submission of this form is optional. The form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, California, 90650, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21167(d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval of the project. DISTRIBUTION: (1) STATE CLEARINGHOUSE; (2) COUNTY CLERK; (3) AGENCY RECORD

# CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

## I. DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT, CONTINUED

Unless otherwise stated, the proposed Project will be designed, constructed and operated following all applicable laws, regulations, ordinances and formally adopted City standards including but not limited to:

- Willits Sidewalk Repairs – Regulatory Compliance Measures and Best Practices (saved on file with the Bureau of Engineering)
- Los Angeles Municipal Code
- Bureau of Engineering Standard Plans
- Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction "Greenbook"
- Work Area Traffic Control Handbook
- Additions and Amendments to the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction

## II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### A. Basis for Categorical Exemption

Class 1 (CEQA Guidelines 15301), "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 existing or former use" and includes "[e]xisting…streets, sidewalks, gutters…and similar facilities." The Willits sidewalk repairs, which repair existing City sidewalks and may include minor additions to existing sidewalks such as curb ramps that result in negligible or no expansion of use, fit squarely into the CEQA Class 1 category.

Class 32 (CEQA Guidelines 15332) "consists of project characterized as in-fill development meeting the following: (a) the project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as with applicable zoning designation and regulations; (b) the proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than five acres substantially surrounded by urban uses; (c) the project site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species; (d) approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality; and (e) the site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services." The Willits sidewalk repairs qualify for the Class 32 Categorical Exemption as the Project is developed on an infill site (previously developed for qualified urban uses) or adjacent to qualified urban uses, and meets the conditions described in this section (*Willits* Sidewalk Repairs, Technical Memorandum No. 4: In-Fill Development Project Analysis for Purposes of CEQA Guidelines 15332, saved on file with the Bureau of Engineering).

### B. Consideration of Potential Exceptions to use of a Categorical Exemption

The State CEQA Guidelines (CCR Sec 15300.2) limit the use of categorical exemptions in the following circumstances:

**1. Location.** Exemption Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may be significant in a particularly sensitive environment. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

Not applicable to Class 1 and Class 32.

**2. Cumulative Impact.** This exception applies when, although a project may not have a significant impact, the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

No successive projects of the same type (sidewalk repair) in the same place (specific site) are anticipated (*Willits* Sidewalk Repairs, Technical Memorandum No. 3: Supplemental Cumulatively Considerable Analysis for purposes of CEQA Guidelines 15300.2(b) saved on file with the Bureau of Engineering). Therefore, this exception is not applicable to this Project.

**3. Significant Effect.** This exception applies when, although the project may otherwise be exempt, there is a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

No unusual circumstances are present (*Willits* Sidewalk Repairs, Technical Memorandum No. 1: Finding of No Unusual Circumstances for Purposes of CEQA Guidelines 15300.2(c) and *Willits* Sidewalk Repairs, Technical Memorandum No. 2: Biological Resources Analysis - Sidewalk Repair Program - 3628 W 59TH PL - 90043, saved on file with the Bureau of Engineering). Therefore, this exception is not applicable to this Project.

**4. Scenic Highway.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which 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 project sites are not located in a state scenic highway. Therefore, this exception is not applicable to this Project.

**5. Hazardous Waste Site.** This exception applies when a project is located on a site listed as a hazardous waste site under Government Code Section 65962.5.

The Project sites have been checked and are not located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (Project Checklist, saved on file with the Bureau of Engineering). Therefore, this exception is not applicable to this Project.

**6. Historical Resources.** This exception applies when a project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The Project sites have been checked and are not located on sites that have historical resources, or will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource (Project Checklist, saved on file with the Bureau of Engineering). Therefore, this exception is not applicable to this Project.

## III. REFERENCES

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (State CEQA Guidelines), available from http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/

California Department of Toxic Substances Control. Envirostor. Available from www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). *California State Scenic Highway System Map*. Available from

https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa

City of Los Angeles, *City Environmental Quality Act Guidelines* available from https://planning.lacity.org/EIR/CEQA_Guidelines/City_CEQA_Guidelines.pdf

City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning. ZIMAS. Available from http://ZIMAS.lacity.org

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering. NavigateLA. Available from https://navigatela.lacity.org/navigatela/.

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, Willits Sidewalk Repairs Project Checklist, revised December 2, 2025.

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, *Willits Sidewalk Repairs – Regulatory Compliance Measures and Best Practices*, February 2023.

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, *Willits* Sidewalk Repairs, Technical Memorandum No. 1: Finding of No Unusual Circumstances for Purposes of CEQA Guidelines 15300.2(c).

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, *Willits* Sidewalk Repairs, Technical Memorandum No. 2: Biological Resources Analysis - Sidewalk Repair Program - 3628 W 59TH PL - 90043.

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, *Willits* Sidewalk Repairs, Technical Memorandum No. 3: Supplemental Cumulatively Considerable Analysis for purposes of CEQA Guidelines 15300.2(b).

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, *Willits* Sidewalk Repairs, Technical Memorandum No. 4: In-Fill Development Project Analysis for Purposes of CEQA Guidelines 15332.

Los Angeles Municipal Code

Public Resources Code, Div. 13, Sections 21000-21189 (CEQA), available from http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/