Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

ANDRÉS E. 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 October 09 2026

UNTIL November 09 2026

REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

2026 215977

FILED
Oct 09 2026

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by NICOLE CORONA – BLANCO

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 Pedro Street Elementary School - Green Schoolyard Improvement

Project Locations – Specific:
The San Pedro Street Elementary School - Green Schoolyard Improvement (Project) is located at 1635 S. San Pedro Street in the Fashion District in the City of Los Angeles. It is bound by the I-10 freeway to the north, San Pedro Street to the east, Washington Boulevard to the south, and Trinity Drive to the west. The Project will occur on existing paved areas throughout the San Pedro Street ES campus (San Pedro Street ES or Campus). The Campus is in a heavily urbanized community adjacent to Downtown Los Angeles.

Project Location – City:
Los Angeles

Project Location – County:
Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The proposed Project (Project) replaces approximately 33,000 square feet of paving in two main playgrounds with green/natural surfaces that includes native/drought tolerant planting, natural grass playfields, trees and other shade elements, outdoor learning elements, landscaping with irrigation, decomposed granite and pavers, planting areas, restriping of sport courts, and accessibility improvements (Exhibit A). On December 12, 2023, the Board of Education approved an initial $75,000,000 of Green Schoolyard Upgrade projects on 15 sites including San Pedro Street ES. Approximately $5.4 million is budgeted for the Project.

The Project will be implemented per all applicable local and State regulations, as well as all District Standards and Specifications, such as those provided in LA Unified's Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report for the School Upgrade Program (Subsequent PEIR).[1] The purpose of the Project is to facilitate removal of portable classrooms pursuant to State and District policies and to provide outdoor

[1] LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR)," https://www.lausd.org/ceqa, adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

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learning experiences. The Project will not cause an increase in student capacity or enrollment and would not result in an increase in the intensity of use. The beneficiaries of the Project include students and staff at each of the respective schools and the community at large who may request access to the facilities and grounds of the Campuses 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 15268[2]]:
- ☐ Declared Emergency [PRC Section 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a)]:
- ☐ Emergency Project [PRC Section 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines Section15269(b)(c)]:
- ☒ Categorical Exemption (PRC Section 21084; CEQA Guidelines Sections 15300 -15333):
  - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 – Existing Facilities*
  - *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 replaces approximately 33,000 square feet of paving in two main playgrounds with green/natural surfaces that includes native/drought tolerant planting, natural grass playfields, trees and other shade elements, outdoor learning elements, landscaping with irrigation, decomposed granite and pavers, planting areas, restriping of sport courts, and accessibility improvements. The Project components will not present a new or expanded use of the Campus. Therefore, the Project constitutes minor alterations to an existing school site that results in no expansion of use and meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

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 the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.

The Project replaces approximately 33,000 square feet of paving in two main playgrounds with green/natural surfaces that includes native/drought tolerant planting, natural grass playfields, trees and other shade elements, outdoor learning elements, landscaping with irrigation, decomposed granite and pavers, planting areas, restriping of sport courts, and accessibility improvements. Removal of scenic trees

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

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will not be required as a part of the Project. Therefore, the Project meets 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 these Projects indicates that they would not violate any of the exceptions, as described below.

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

   The Project site is located within a fully developed campus within a heavily urbanized neighborhood of the Fashion District. The Campus is not designated as a biologically sensitive location. The nearest threatened or endangered species is the Coastal California gnatcatcher located approximately nine miles east of the Project site.[3] The nearest sensitive environment to the Project site is the Puente Hills Significant Ecological Area in Montebello located approximately nine miles east of the Project site.[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 to keep them 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 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, LA Unified'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.[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 (SC) of approval SC-BIO-3 of the Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects.

[3] United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html, accessed September 2026
[4] Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, https://rpgis.isd.lacounty.gov/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=GISNET_Public.GIS-NET_Public, accessed September 2026
[5] LAUSD OEHS, "Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure," https://www.lausd.org/ceqa

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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. All Project related ground disturbing activities would comply with SC-AQ-1, SC-AQ-2, SC-AQ-3, and SC-AQ-4. As the Project involves the removal of asphalt and concrete pavement, soil sampling and testing has or will be conducted and a determination memorandum will be created for the Campus prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. Excavated soils will only be reused onsite if they are placed beneath paved areas. 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.[6] Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11 and in District protocols, 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. Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1. 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 is the Angeles Crest State Scenic Highway, a 55.1-mile portion of State Route 2 (SR-2), which is located approximately 14.2 miles north of San Pedro Street ES.[7] Therefore, the proposed 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*

None of the Project sites are located on sites that are included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.[8] 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.*

San Pedro Street ES opened in 1866, meeting LAUSD's threshold for review as a potential historic resource and requiring evaluation for historic eligibility. The Campus' Main Building and South Building were constructed in 1927 and 1940 respectively and were identified as eligible for the California Register and local listing in a 2004 reconnaissance survey. LA Unified's Historic Preservation Specialist and Coordinator evaluated the Project and prepared a Secretary of the Interior Standards (SOIS) compliance review focused on the accessibility improvements that would

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

[7] Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, https://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html. Accessed September 2026

[8] California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: https://dtsc.ca.gov/dtscs-cortese-list/ Accessed September 2026

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replace and modify existing ramps that could affect the Main Building and South Building. The SOIS review determined that the Project will comply with the Secretary's Standard and therefore, the Project will have no impact to a historic resource.

Prepared By:

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CEQA Project Manager/Contract Professional

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Signed by:

Date: 10/5/26

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

Attachment: Exhibit A – Site Plan

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EXHIBIT A – SAN PEDRO STREET ES SITE PLAN (not to scale)

PROJECT SITE