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 November 04 2026

UNTIL December 04 2026

REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

2026 232996

FILED
Nov 04 2026

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

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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:
Shade Structures Project at Seven (7) Los Angeles Unified Campuses

Project Location – Specific:

1. Cantara Elementary School, 17950 Cantara Street, Reseda, California
2. Chase Elementary School, 14041 Chase Street, Panorama City, California
3. Hazeltine Elementary School, 7150 Hazeltine Avenue, Van Nuts, California
4. Reseda Elementary School, 7265 Amigo Avenue, Reseda, California
5. Roy Romer Elementary School, 6501 Laurel Canyon Boulevard, North Hollywood, California
6. Stagg Street Elementary School, 7839 Amestoy Avenue, Lake Balboa, California
7. Valerio Street Elementary School, 15035 Valerio Street, Van Nuys, California

Project Location – City:
Various

Project Location – County:
Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The projects (Project or Projects) at the seven LA Unified campuses (Campus or Campuses) will provide new shade structure(s) and associated landscape, path of travel upgrades, and hardscape improvements pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Board of Education authorized a total of $2,953,066 on June 12, 2026, for the Projects Cantara ES, Chase ES, Reseda ES, Stagg ES, and Valerio ES, and authorized $1,020,426 on December 16, 2025, for the Project at Hazeltine ES and Romer ES.

The Project will be individually designed on each of the Campuses. (See Site Plans attached.)

The table below describes the components of the Project proposed for each campus:

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School	1 Shade Structure	2 Shade Structures	Path of Travel Upgrades
Cantara ES		X	X
Chase ES		X	X
Hazeltine ES	X		X
Reseda ES		X	X
Romer ES		X	X
Stagg ES		X	X
Valerio ES		X	X

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 the LA Unified Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report for the School Upgrade Program (Subsequent PEIR).[1] 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 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures*
  - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land*
  - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 – Accessory Structures*
- ☐ Statutory Exemption:

Reasons why project is exempt:

Section 15301 Existing Facilities

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

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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.

All Projects will result in the installation of new shade structure(s) on the existing play yards as well as path of travel upgrades. The new shade structures will address unmet Campus needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment. All proposed Project components would involve minor alterations to existing Campuses and will occur within the area occupied by existing facilities at each Campus. Installation of the new shade structure(s) will not present a new or expanded use at the Campuses. Therefore, the Project fulfills 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 exterior of the structure.

All Projects will result in the installation of a new shade structure(s) on the existing play yards. The new shade structures will address unmet campus needs and provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment. Installation of new shade structure(s) will not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing Campuses. The shade structures would be characterized as new, small facilities or accessory structures as defined by Section 15303 (e) "Accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences." Therefore, the Projects meet 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 the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.

The Projects will include the installation of new shade structures and path of travel upgrades that involve minimal land disturbance. Installation will not involve major grading, excavation, or other significant alterations to land. Installation of the carport and shade structures will not result in the removal of any trees. Therefore, the Projects meet the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15304.

Section 15311 – Accessory Structures

Class 11 consists of construction or replacement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities, including, but not limited to, on-premises signs and small parking lots.

The Projects will include installation of new shade structures on the existing play yards. The new shade structures are consistent with the existing use of the Project areas and will enhance playground experience and support the primary educational and recreational use of the sites. The Projects will serve as supplementary facilities to enhance the functionality of the existing playground. Therefore, the Projects meet the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15311.

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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 sites are fully developed Campuses within urbanized communities.[3] The Campuses are not designated as biologically sensitive locations. The nearest significant ecological area (SEA) are the Hansen Dam, located approximately 2.6 miles to the northeast from Chase ES site.[4] The nearest critical habitat is the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher located approximately 3.75 miles northeast of Chase ES.[5,6] The Projects would occur entirely within the limits of the existing Campuses and within areas that are currently paved. As such, the Projects 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 Campuses are active school sites and they will likely have ongoing maintenance activities and minor alterations to keep them operational. There are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for any one of the Campuses. As the Projects would not result in any lasting impacts once construction is complete, the Projects would not contribute to cumulative impacts when considered with expected successive projects. Therefore, no cumulative impacts will result from the Projects 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 upgrades associated with the Projects are comparable to other modernizations and improvements that are being completed throughout the District under the School Upgrade Program. The removal of trees is not anticipated as part of the proposed scope of work. However, should the Projects 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. 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 (SC) of approval SC-BIO-3 of the Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects.[7]

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[3] City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, http://zimas.lacity.org/, accessed October 2026.
[4] United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html accessed October 2026.
[5] United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html accessed October 2026.
[6] Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed October 2026.
[7] LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," available at https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/domain/135/ceqa/2023_Standard_Conditions_UPDATE_Final.pdf .

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The Projects 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 pavement, soil sampling and testing has or will be conducted and a determination memorandum will be created for all Campuses prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. Excavated soil 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.[8] 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.[9] Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1.[10] Therefore, the Projects 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 Highway or SR-2, which is located approximately 12.3 miles east of Romer ES.[11] 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.[12] Therefore, the Projects 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.*

Of the seven Project sites, only Reseda ES has been determined to be eligible to be listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and is listed on the California Register of Historical Resources. The Project entails adding shade structures on the grounds of existing campus playgrounds that are not considered to be historic resources. The proposed modifications are limited to spaces that are not

[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," https://www.lausd.org/CEQA. Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.
[10] *Ibid.*
[11] Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, https://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html. Accessed October 2026.
[12] California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: https://dtsc.ca.gov/dtscs-cortese-list/ Accessed October 2026.

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considered character-defining as determined by the LAUSD's Historic Preservation Specialist and the Projects will comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation due to their compatibility and reversibility.[13] Therefore, the Projects will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Prepared By:

Zulema Renteria
Environmental Planning Specialist

Phone and Email:

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zulema.renteria@LAUSD.net

Signed by:

Date: 10/26/26

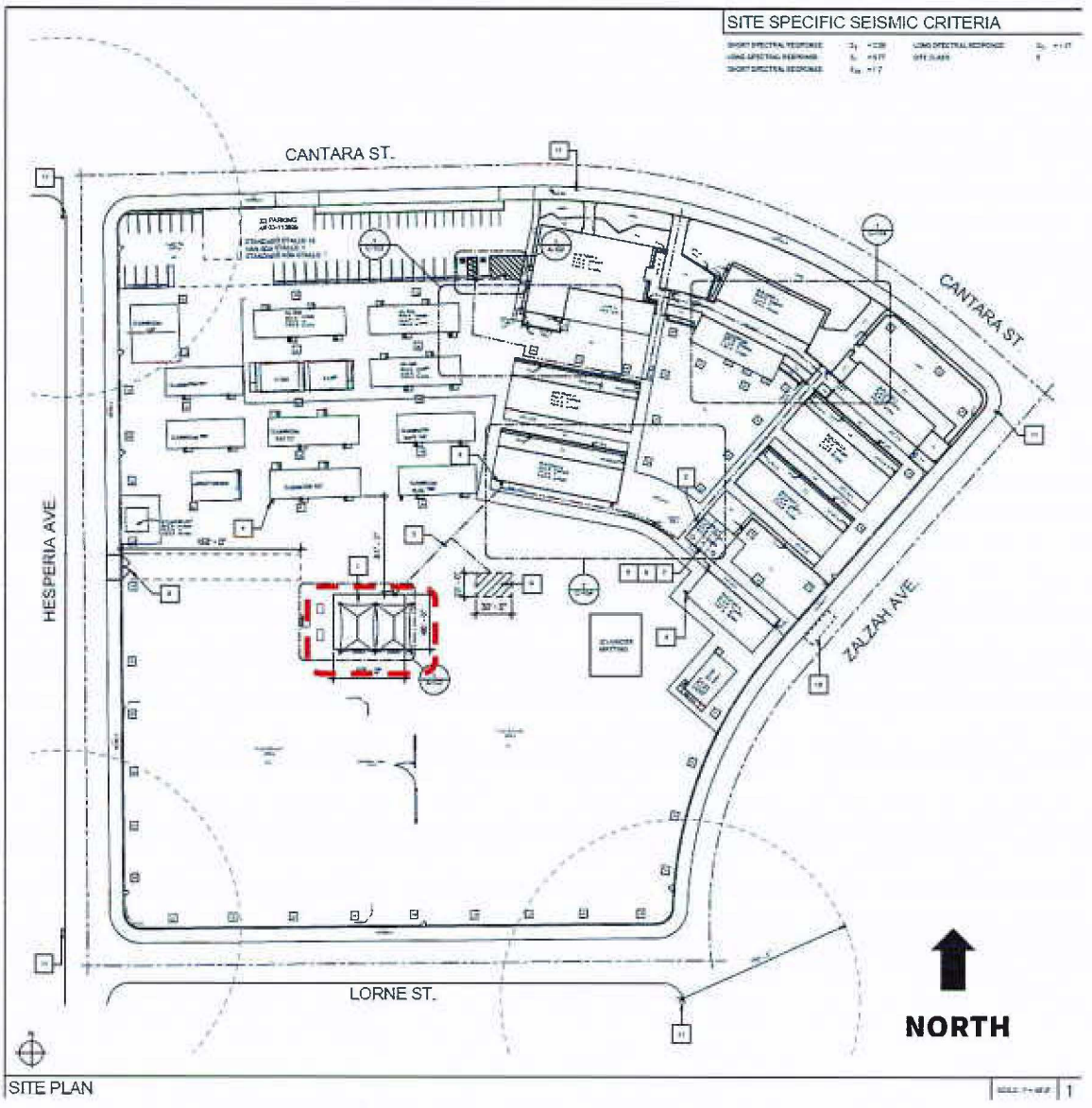
Carlos A. Torres,
CEQA Officer of the Los Angeles Unified School District

Attachment: Exhibit A – Site Plans

[13] LAUSD. 2020. Historic Resources Inventory. Los Angeles, CA, last accessed October 2026.

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EXHIBIT A – CANTARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



PROJECT SITE

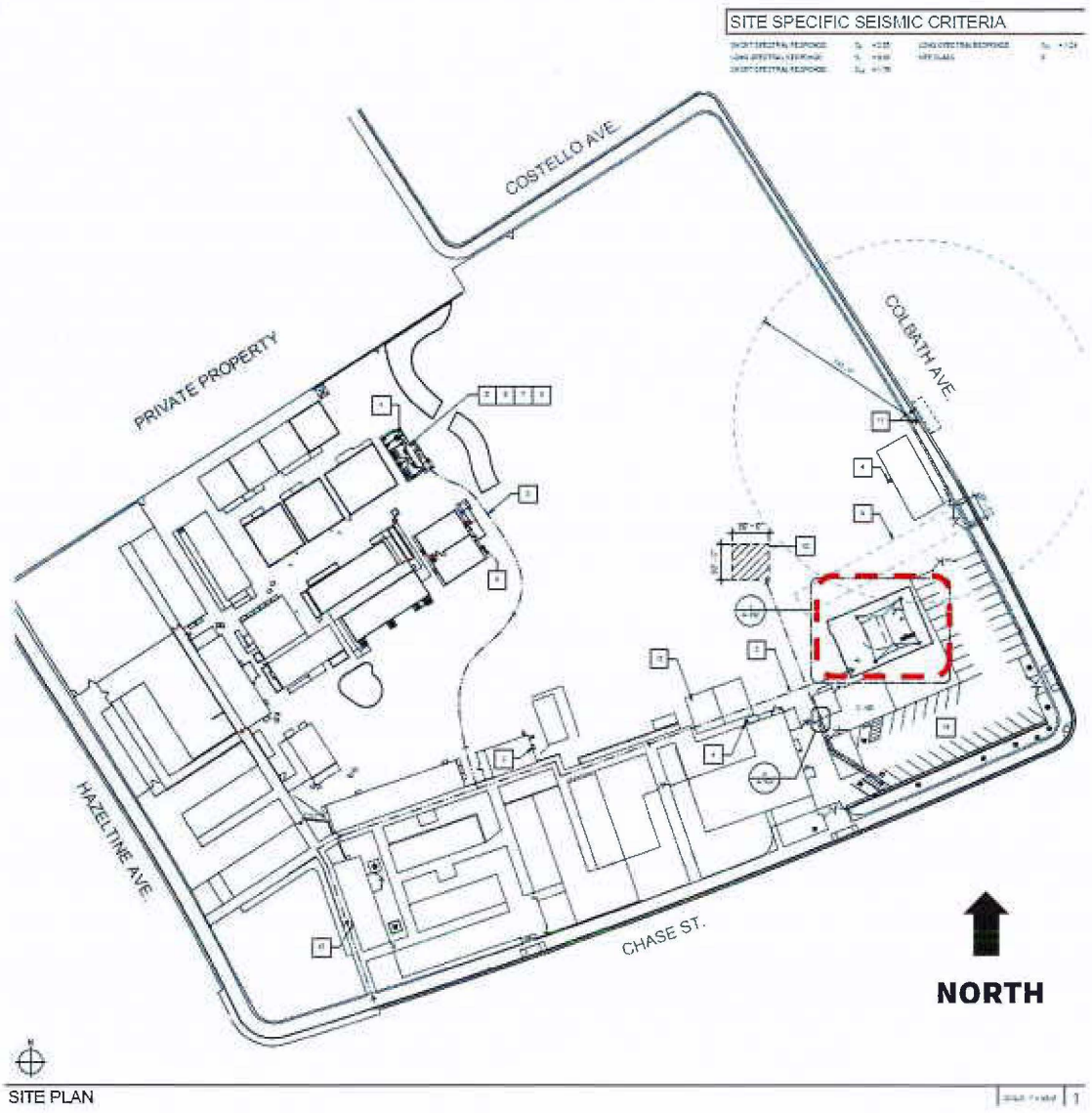
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EXHIBIT A – CHASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



SITE PLAN

PROJECT SITE

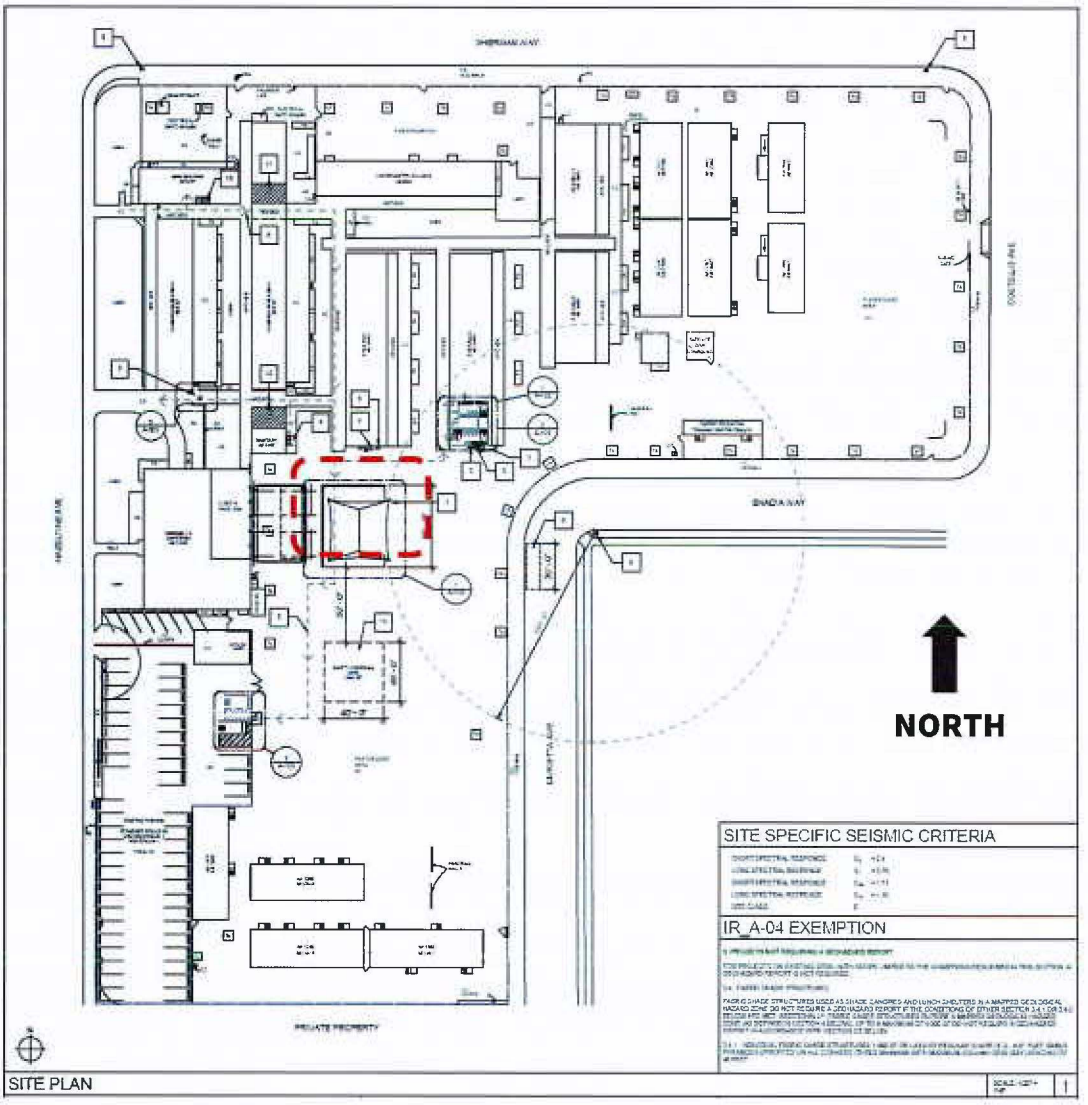
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EXHIBIT A – HAZELTINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



PROJECT SITE

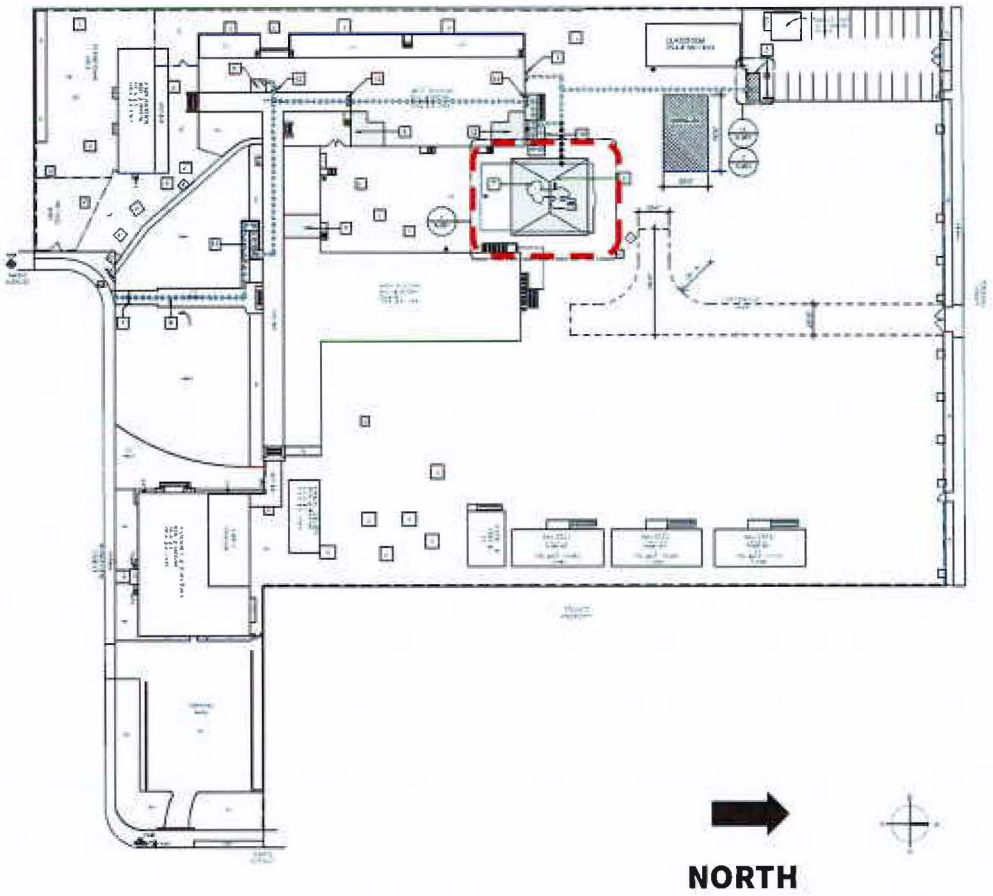
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EXHIBIT A – RESEDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)

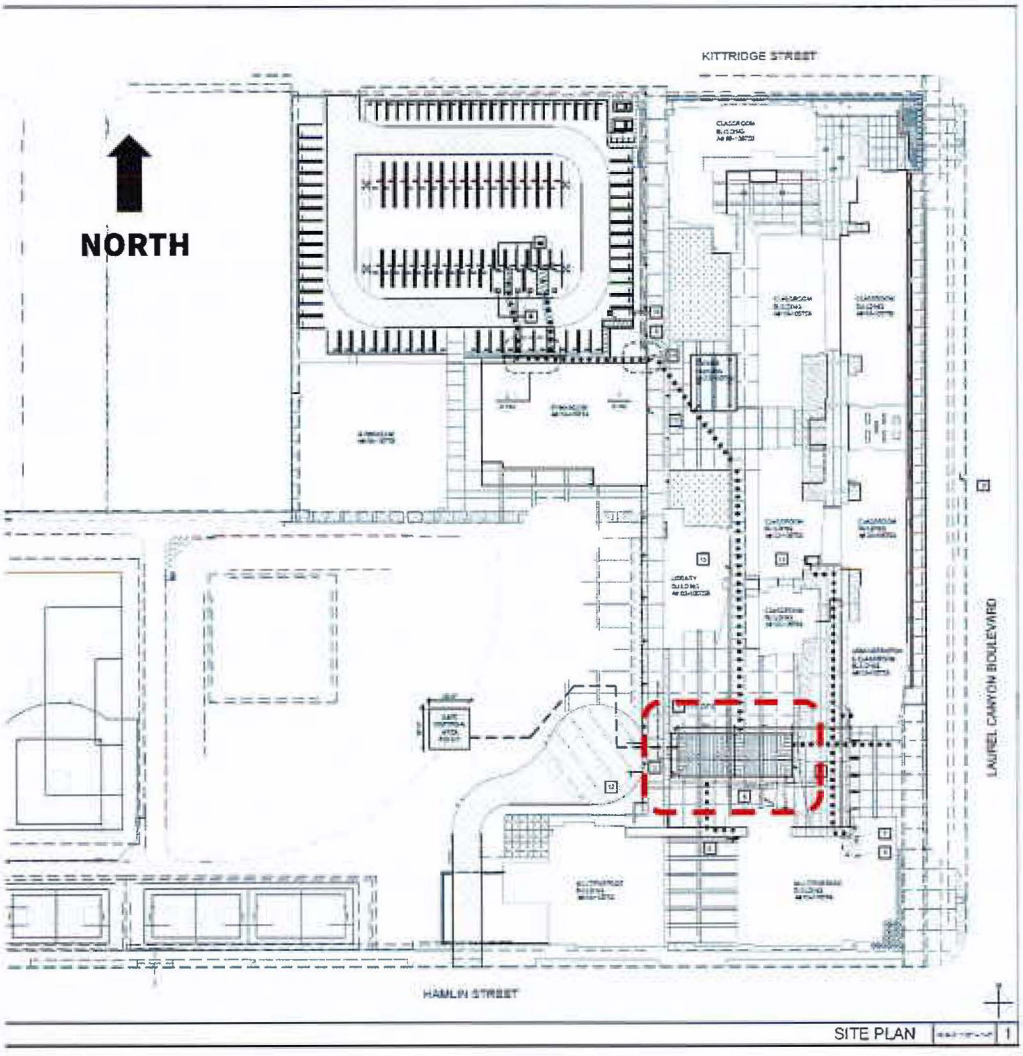


SITE PLAN

PROJECT SITE

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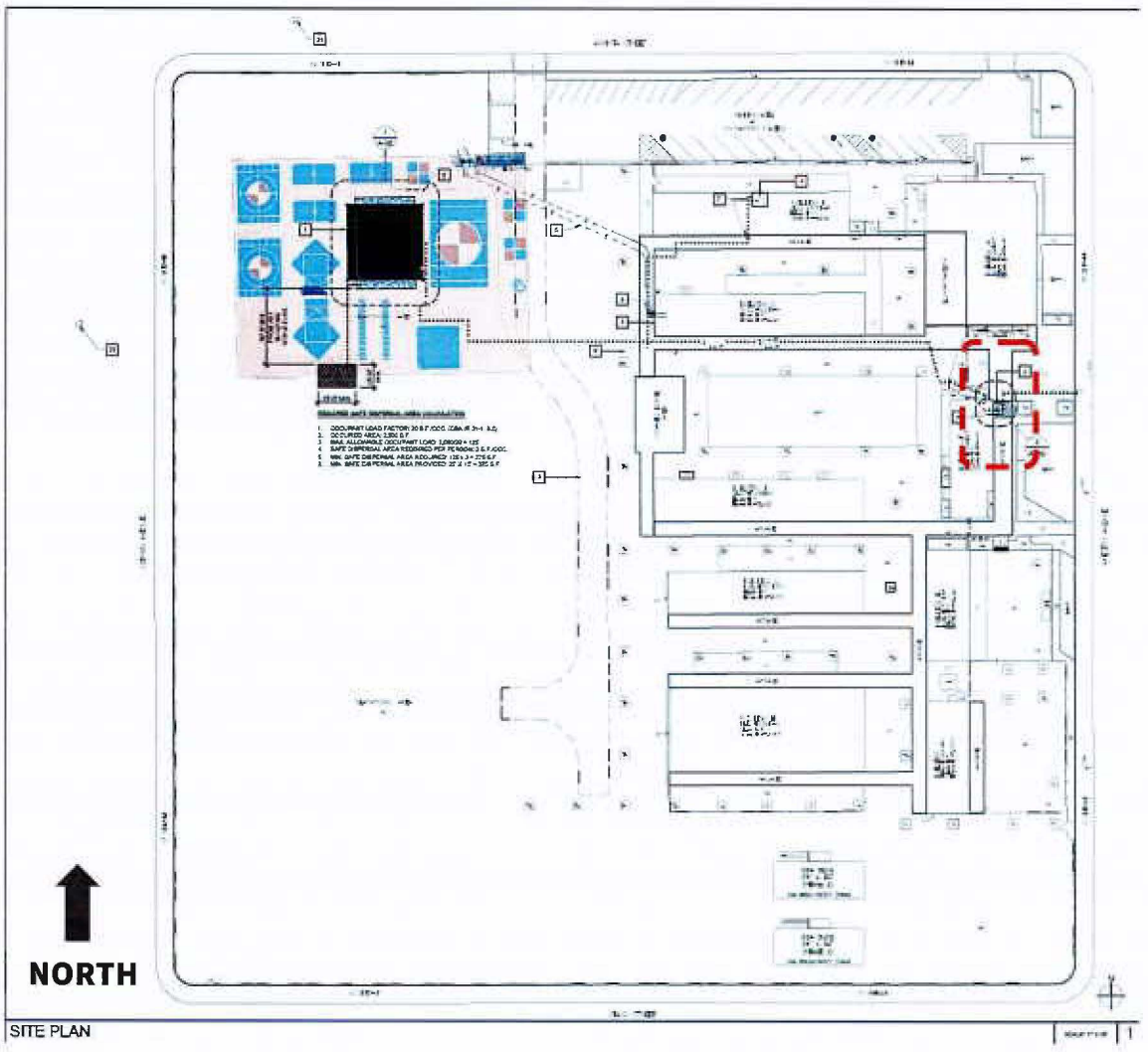
EXHIBIT A – ROMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



PROJECT SITE

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EXHIBIT A – STAGG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



PROJECT SITE

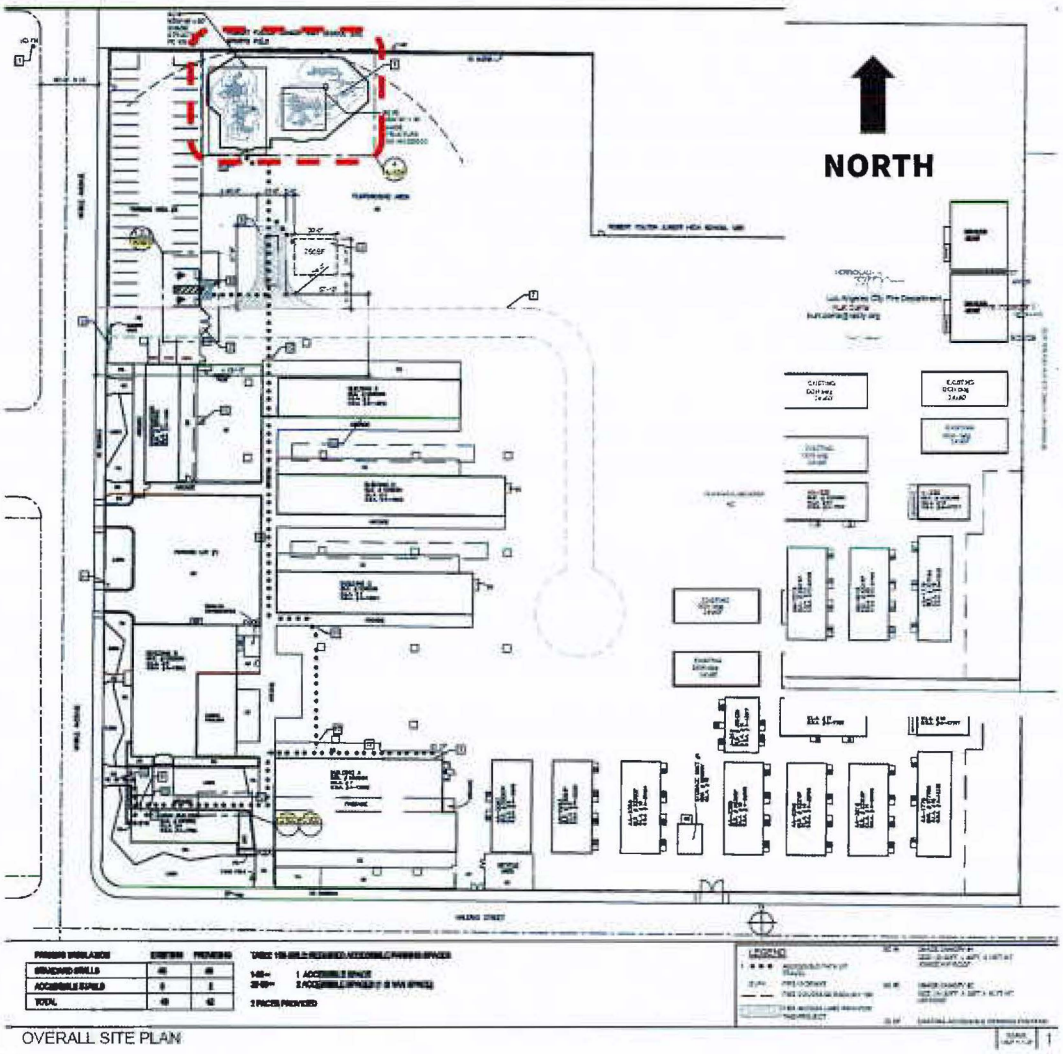
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EXHIBIT A – VALERIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE PLAN (not to scale)



PROJECT SITE