Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

ANDRES 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 24 2026
UNTIL December 24 2026
REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

2026 248013
FILED
Nov 24 2026
Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by CYNTHIA ESTRADA

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:
Pomelo Community Charter Elementary School Playground and Campus Exterior Upgrades and Slope Remediation Project

Project Location – Specific:
The Pomelo Community Charter Elementary School Playground and Campus Exterior Upgrades Project (Project) will be located on the approximately 7.8-acre Pomelo Community Charter Elementary School campus (Pomelo ES or Campus). The Campus is located at 7633 March Avenue in the West Hills neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. It is bound by Posey Lane to the north, March Avenue to the east, Pomelo Drive to the south, and residences to the west. The Project will occur across campus. The Campus is located in an urbanized community primarily consisting of residential uses.

Project Location – City:
Los Angeles

Project Location – County:
Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Project will replace approximately 134,000 square feet of paving, including the main and kindergarten playground areas, that have exceeded its useful life. The scope of work includes solar reflective coating of the playgrounds; replacement of playground equipment; installation of a new shade structure; installation of an outdoor learning environment; greening and landscaping throughout the Campus; installation of privacy fencing; and exterior painting of buildings where needed. The Project also provides new trash enclosure upgrades, approximately 26,000 square feet of slope remediation to stabilize the sloped area along the site perimeter, and accessibility upgrades (Figure 1). The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education approved the Project's budget of $12,324,181 on August 22, 2023.

The Project will be implemented pursuant to all applicable State, federal, and local regulations, and all applicable Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD or District) specifications, standards, and/or guidelines, including those in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the updated Standard Conditions of Approval for

2026 248013
FILED
Nov 24 2026
Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by CYNTHIA ESTRADA

District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects (SCs) as adopted by the Board of Education in December 2023.[1] 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 the Project include Pomelo 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:
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 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 134,000 square feet of paving, including the main and kindergarten playground areas, that have exceeded its useful life. The scope of work includes solar reflective coating of the playgrounds; replacement of playground equipment; installation of a new shade structure; installation of an outdoor learning environment; greening and landscaping throughout the Campus; installation of privacy fencing; and exterior painting of buildings where needed. The Project also provides new trash enclosure upgrades, approximately 26,000 square feet of slope remediation to stabilize the sloped area along the site perimeter, and accessibility upgrades. Replacement of this paving will not present a new or expanded use of the Campus. 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.

[1] LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," 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.

2026 248013
FILED
Nov 24 2026
Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by CYNTHIA ESTRADA

As previously noted, the Project will replace approximately 134,000 square feet of paving, including the main and kindergarten playground areas, that have exceeded its useful life. The scope of work includes solar reflective coating of the playgrounds; replacement of playground equipment; installation of a new shade structure; installation of an outdoor learning environment; greening and landscaping throughout the Campus; installation of privacy fencing; and exterior painting of buildings where needed. The Project also provides new trash enclosure upgrades, approximately 26,000 square feet of slope remediation to stabilize the sloped area along the site perimeter, 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

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 and landscaping throughout the campus. The Project will also stabilize the sloped area along the site perimeter. The Project will not remove healthy, mature, scenic trees.[3] 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 urbanized communities.[4] 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 0.55 miles northwest of Pomelo ES and the nearest critical habitat is for the Braunton's milk-vetch located approximately 0.75 miles northwest of the Campus.[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 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.*

[3] A CEQA scenic tree is highly visible, prominent and possesses unique or distinctive aesthetic qualities due to its size, structure, unusual specimen, etc.
[4] City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, http://zimas.lacity.org/, 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, https://rpgis.isd.lacounty.gov/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=GISNET_Public.GIS-NET_Public, accessed October 2026.

2026 248013
FILED
Nov 24 2026
Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by CYNTHIA ESTRADA

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 procedure requires that all tree trimming and removals conducted on District property adhere to the procedures outlined in the District's Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure. District policy requires consultation with an arborist to determine if the trees are a protected native species. According to the Site Analysis conducted by a certified arborist, there are no protected native trees in the development zone.[7] Additionally, written approval from the school principal will be required before any trees can be removed.[8] 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).[9,10]

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 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.[11] 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.[12] Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1 of the SPEIR.[13] 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), which is located approximately 9.2 miles southeast of Pomelo ES.[14] 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*

---

[7] LAUSD, 2025, "Pomelo Community Charter Elementary School– Site Analysis of Select Campus Trees."
[8] LAUSD OEHS, "Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure", *https://www.lausd.org/ceqa*.
[9] LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023
[10] LAUSD OEHS, "Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure", *https://www.lausd.org/ceqa*.
[11] LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t
[12] 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
[13] *Ibid.*
[14] Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, https://rpgis.isd.lacounty.gov/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=GISNET_Public.GIS-NET_Public, accessed October 2026.

2026 248013
FILED
Nov 24 2026
Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by CYNTHIA ESTRADA

The Project is not located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.[15] 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.*

Pomelo ES is over 45 years old, meeting LAUSD's threshold for review as a potential historic resource and requiring evaluation for historic eligibility. LAUSD has identified Pomelo ES as eligible for listing as a historic resource per Section 18955 of the California State Historical Building Code (CHBC).[16] The scope of the Project focuses on non-contributing spaces outside the Campus' area of historic eligibility and would not affect the historic eligibility of the campus. Therefore, LAUSD's Historic Preservation Specialist has determined that the Project will not be expected to materially impair the significance of the historic resource and therefore will not be expected to cause a substantial adverse historic impact.

Prepared By:

Christy Wong
CEQA Project Manager/Contract Professional

Phone and Email:

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

Signed by:

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

Date:

11/12/26

[15] Department of Toxic Substance Control. https://dtsc.ca.gov/dtscs-cortese-list/, accessed October 2026.
[16] State of California. 2003. State Historical Building Code, Health and Safety Code, Division 13, Part 2.7, Section 18955. Available at: http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/AboutUs/shbsb/shbsb_health_safety.aspx. Also see California Building Standards Commission. 2014. California Code of Regulations, Title 24, California Historical Building Code, Section 8-101.2. Washington, DC. p. 4.

2026 248013
FILED
Nov 24 2026
Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by CYNTHIA ESTRADA

Figure 1. Site Plan

