

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent of Schools

CARLOS A. TORRES
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

JENNIFER FLORES
Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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To: State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: LAUSD OEHS
333 South Baudry Avenue
21st Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Project Title:

Huerta Elementary School Synthetic Turf Replacement Project

Project Location – Specific:

The Huerta Elementary School Synthetic Turf Replacement Project (Project) will be located on the Huerta Elementary School (Huerta ES) campus. Huerta ES is located at 260 E. 31st St., Los Angeles, California 90011. The Project is located on the south and west side of the campus.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project involves replacing the two existing synthetic turf fields with new synthetic turf material. The Project will replace and install approximately 29,000 square feet of the synthetic turf that will take place on a construction area of approximately 31,000 square feet on campus. Specifically, the Project will entail replacing and regrading soil, installing approximately 530 linear feet (LF) of new perimeter drain, installing two new catch basins, installing approximately 720 LF of new nailer board, and installing 3 inches of base material. The Project will also export approximately 126 cubic yard of soil and regrade the site to address ponding issues. No trees are anticipated to be removed or replaced during construction. No increases in student enrollment, capacity, or intensity of use are proposed as part of this Project.

The Project will be implemented pursuant to all District Standards and Specifications,¹ as well as all applicable State, federal, and local regulations. The beneficiaries of the Project include Huerta ES students, faculty, staff, families, school

¹ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

Doc# 734226

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*Our Mission: To ensure a safe and healthy environment for students to learn, teachers to teach, and employees to work.
Our Vision: To eliminate all environmental, health, and safety risks at schools.*

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supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the athletic field 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 15268²]:
- ☐ 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*
- ☐ 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 include replacing the two existing synthetic turf field locations with new synthetic turf material, replacing and regrading soil, installing 530 LF of new perimeter drain, installing 2 new catch basins, installing 720 LF of new nailer board, and installing 3 inches of base. The Project will not generate growth or require the addition or construction of new or expanded facilities. The Project will not present a new or expanded use of the athletic field or campus. Therefore, the Project fulfills 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.

As previously noted, the Project will entail replacing approximately 29,000 square feet of the existing synthetic turf, export approximately 126 cubic yard of soil, and regrade the site to address ponding issues. The Project will also be installing 530 LF of new perimeter drain, installing 2 new catch basins, installing 720 LF of new nailer board, and installing 3 inches of base. No trees removals are anticipated. The Project is not designed to and will not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing athletic field or campus. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

Section 15300.2 – Exceptions

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

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Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, Exceptions, provides conditions under which categorical exemptions are inapplicable. Review of the Project indicates that it will not violate any of the exceptions, as described in the following section.

1. *The project will occur in certain specified sensitive environments or locations;*

The Project will occur on an existing campus that is located within an urban setting.³ The surrounding uses are residential and commercial. The campus has not been designated as a biologically sensitive site or location and does not contain sensitive resources or habitat that will be impacted by the Project. The nearest significant ecological areas are Puente Hills located approximately 9.6 miles to the east and Ballona Wetlands located approximately 9.6 miles to the west of the project site.⁴ The nearest critical habitat is designated as such for the coastal California gnatcatcher and is located approximately 9.6 miles east of the site.⁵ As such, the Project will not impact sensitive environments or locations.

2. *Cumulative impacts will be considerable because successive projects of the same type will occur at the same place over time;*

The Project will not be expected to result in significant cumulative environmental impacts. As an active school campus, it is anticipated that projects such as maintenance activities or upgrades will occur on the campus in the future. However, there are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for the campus. As it stands, the Project will not result in potentially significant impacts. 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 will 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 Project entails replacing approximately 29,000 square feet of the existing synthetic turf field with a new synthetic turf, replacing and regrading, installing new perimeter drain, installing new catch basins, installing new nailer board, and installing base material. The Project does not constitute an expansion of use. There will be minor ground-disturbing activities associated with the removal of the existing synthetic turf and the installation of the replacement synthetic turf that involves exporting approximately 126 cubic yards of soil and re-grading the Project site. The Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) will provide oversight to ensure that construction activities are conducted in compliance with the requirements of District Specification 01 4524,⁶ relevant provisions of South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1466, and other applicable environmental agency rules and requirements. Furthermore, as set forth in (SCs) SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, and SC-CUL-10 of the Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects as adopted by the Board of Education in February 2019,⁷ 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, archaeological, and tribal cultural resources), tanks or seepage pits or stained/odoriferous soils.⁸

³ City of Los Angeles. ZIMAS. Available at: <http://zimas.lacity.org/>. Accessed December 2018.

⁴ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed December 2018.

⁵ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed December 2018.

⁶ http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t

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, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015 and Standard Conditions of Approval.

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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 scenic highway;*

The Project site is located approximately 15.2 miles southwest of State Route 2 (SR 2), the nearest officially designated State scenic highway.⁹ The Project will not be visible from SR 2. Therefore, the Project will not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway that is officially designated as a 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 will occur on an existing school campus which is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.¹⁰ Therefore, the Project will not have an impact 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.*

Huerta ES opened in the year 2010 and does not meet the 45-year age criterion for consideration as a historic resource. Therefore, the Project does not have the potential to cause a substantial adverse change to a historic resource.

Prepared By:

Christine Lan
Assistant CEQA Project Manager

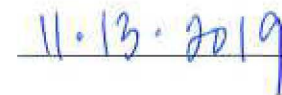
Signed by:


Gwenn Godek
CEQA Advisor of the Los Angeles Unified School District

Phone and Email:

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cp-y.lan@LAUSD.net

Date:


11.13.2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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⁹ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html. Accessed December 2018.

¹⁰ California Department of Toxic Substances Control, DTSC Databases. Available at: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/>. Accessed December 2018.