

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Los Angeles, Business Filings
P.O. Box 1208

Norwalk, CA 90650

From: (Public Agency): County of Los Angeles
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007

(Address)

Project Title: Natural History Museum of LA County Commons Replacement and Renovation Project

Project Applicant: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Project Location - Specific:

See Attachment A

Project Location - City: Los Angeles Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

On March 10, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the project and authorized the execution of a funding agreement and other actions to implement the project. The project involves the demolition of the existing Jean Delacour Auditorium and construction of up to a 130,802-square-foot addition (three additional floors and 91,496 square feet of net new space) to the Natural History Museum. Changes to the proposed project design have occurred since the original analysis and it is possible that a smaller, 75,000 square foot project (53,000 square feet of renovation and 22,000 square feet of new construction) would be built, at least initially. See Attachment A for more details about the project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Los Angeles County by its Board of Supervisors

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 32
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:


The project is consistent with the applicable general plan designations and policies; occurs within the City of Los Angeles limits on a project site of no more than five acres substantially surrounded by urban uses; has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species; has no significant environmental effects, and can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services. As described in Attachment A, none of the exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions, set forth in the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 are applicable.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Dawn McDivitt Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 213-763-3303

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature:  Date: 3/31/2020 Title: CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: **APR 01 2020**

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Attachment A

Project Location – Specific

The project is located at the Natural History Museum within Exposition Park in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles at 900 West Exposition Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project

The project involves the demolition of the existing Jean Delacour Auditorium and construction of up to a 130,802-square-foot addition (three additional floors and 91,496 square feet of net new space) to the Natural History Museum. Changes to the proposed project design have occurred since the original analysis and it is possible that a smaller, 75,000 square foot project (53,000 square feet of renovation and 22,000 square feet of new construction) would be built, at least initially. Other features of the project include:

- a multi-purpose, immersive theater;
- NHMLA office space, assembly space, and meeting rooms;
- exhibition galleries;
- a rooftop observation area with landscaping;
- a new entrance at the southwest corner of the Museum; and
- ticketing, gift shop, and ancillary spaces.

Construction will start in approximately July 2020 and would terminate in approximately March 2020. Documentation supporting the Exemption is available for review at the Natural History Museum.

Reasons why Project is Exempt

The project does not meet any of the exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2, as explained below:

- CEQA Guidelines Section 15302(a) – Location. This exception is specific to Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 and therefore does not apply to the project, which is exempt under Class 32.
- The project will improve an existing public museum and will not increase population growth or intensity of use that would result in cumulative impacts.
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15302(c) – Significant Effect. Section 5 of this Categorical Exemption documents impacts to environmental resource topics located in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. As described in Section 5 no environmental resource topic would result in a significant effect.
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15302(d) – Scenic Highway. As discussed in Section 5.1. Aesthetics, the project site is not located within or along a designated scenic highway, corridor, or parkway, and would not result in an impact to a scenic highway.
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15302(e) – Hazardous Waste Site. As discussed in Section 5.8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials, the project site is not located in the vicinity of a hazardous materials site.
- CEQA Guidelines Section 15302(f) – Historical Resources. As discussed in Section 5.5. Cultural Resources, the project would result in numerous substantial public benefits, with minor losses of some original but architecturally insignificant materials. It would not impact the adjacent National Register-listed Original Building or Rose Garden, or the nearby National Register-listed Coliseum. Therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.