

ORIGINAL FILED

OCT 01 2020

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 BUREAU OF ENGINEERING
 1149 S. BROADWAY, 7th FLOOR
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015
 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
 NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
 (Articles II and III – City CEQA Guidelines)

2020100320

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Oct 16 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

This form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, California, 90650, and the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21080.27(c) and 21152(b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21167(d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval of the project.

LEAD CITY AGENCY AND ADDRESS: City of Los Angeles c/o Bureau of Engineering 1149 S. Broadway, MS 939, Los Angeles, CA 90015	COUNCIL DISTRICT 02
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PROJECT TITLE: Alexandria Park Pallet Shelter Project (Valley Plaza Park – Proposed CD2 Pallet Housing Project)	LOG REFERENCE 20-0841
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PROJECT LOCATION: 6099 Laurel Canyon Blvd., in the North Hollywood area of the North Hollywood - Valley Village Community Plan Area in the City of Los Angeles, CA 91606 - Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 2334-002-900, see *Figure 1 – Project Site Location*. **T.G. 532 - G7**

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT The proposed project consists of the construction of a new homeless shelter at a Recreation and Parks site that includes pallet shelters that are small, detached, pre-fabricated cabins assembled on site with beds for up to 175 individuals. The project will provide hygiene trailers with restrooms, showers, lavatories, drinking fountains; and designated seating areas for food services for people experiencing homelessness. The nature of this project is to serve the local homeless community within the vicinity of the project. The purpose of the project is to provide emergency shelter for homeless families to help bridge their transition from living on the streets to finding services and, ultimately, living in transitional and/or permanent housing. The project includes approximately 96 pallet shelters; 83 (166 occupants) with double beds, nine with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant single beds; three pallets for staff, and one pallet for storage, both with no beds. The project site is approximately 57,240-square feet (sf) and is currently developed as a city park. The project includes beds in crisis and bridge housing for up to 175 people experiencing homelessness. Project beneficiaries include the homeless community, the public and local businesses. A third-party service provider will operate the project for the City and it is anticipated that a lease or similar operating and/or funding agreement may be executed. (Please see the attached narrative for more details).

On September 9, 2020, the Los Angeles City Council determined this action was exempt from CEQA and approved the project..

CONTACT PERSON: Maria Martin **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 213-485-5753

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)	<u>CITY CEQA GUIDELINES</u>	<u>STATE CEQA GUIDELINES</u>	<u>CA PUBLIC RESOURCE CODE</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATUTORY		15269(c)	21080(b)(4); 21080.27
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governor's Executive Order No. N-32-20 (March 18, 2020) suspending CEQA "for any project using Homeless Emergency Aid Program funds, Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program funds, or funds appropriated in Senate Bill 89"			

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION: This project is statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) as a specific action necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency as also reflected in CEQA Guideline Section 15269(c); Public Resources Code section 21080.27 (AB 1197) applicable to City of Los Angeles bridge homeless shelters; and, because the project uses "Homeless Emergency Aid Program funds," it is exempt under Governor's order N-32-20, AB 1197 codified at Public Resources Code section 21080.27 exempts the project as an emergency homeless shelter. (see attached narrative)

IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT OF EXEMPTION FINDING

SIGNATURE: Maria Martin	TITLE: Environmental Affairs Officer Environmental Management Group	DATE: 9/25/2020
FEE: \$75.00	RECEIPT NO.	REC'D BY
		DATE

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EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

The proposed project includes the construction of a new homeless shelter site at a Recreation and Parks owned site that will provide emergency shelter, hygiene, storage, and food services to people experiencing homelessness. The project site is located on a parcel comprised of one lot in the North Hollywood area of the North Hollywood - Valley Village Community Plan Area in the City of Los Angeles Council District 2 (CD 02), 6099 Laurel Canyon Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 2334-002-900, see *Figure 1 – Project Site Location*. The project site is on an irregularly shaped approximately 57,240-sf City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks owned parcel that is currently (City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning, 2020) used as City park, for passive recreation.

The project includes the construction of a new homeless pallet shelter site at a Recreation and Parks owned site that includes beds for up to 175 individuals. Pallet shelters are small, detached, pre-fabricated cabins made of aluminum and composite materials that will be assembled on site. The project includes approximately 96 pallet shelters; 83 with double beds and nine with ADA single beds, three pallets for staff, and one pallet for storage. The shelter will be operated consistent with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) program requirements for bridge shelters including, but not limited to, LAHSA's Scope of Required Services and Program Standards (LAHSA, 2019-2020). A third-party service provider will operate the project for the City and it is anticipated that a lease or similar operating and/or funding agreements may be executed with the service provider, County, and/or LAHSA.

The site will also include hygiene trailers with restrooms, showers, lavatories, drinking fountains; and designated seating areas for food services. It will also include a paved road, outdoor lighting, and fencing for people experiencing homelessness in furtherance of providing the emergency shelter developed under this project. The project includes beds for up to 175 persons experiencing homelessness.

Site preparation will require grading, removal of some small trees, and trimming of existing large trees. The existing trees will be incorporated in the project design.

The proposed project site is zoned OS with an Open Space land use designation. The project site is irregularly shaped and is located between the Interstate 170 Hollywood Freeway to the west and a commercial retail shopping center to the east. The north and south boundaries abut open space uses that are owned by the City and therefore are considered public institutional facility uses. The site is located just west of the intersection of Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Erwin St. It is generally located between Laurel Canyon Blvd. to the east, Erwin St. to the south, Victory Blvd. to the north and by the Interstate 170 Hollywood Freeway to the west. The 170 Hollywood Freeway is separated from the site by a large concrete-lined public flood control conveyance facility for the Central Branch Tujunga Wash. As shown in Figure 1, below, the property is an infill site, with parcels that surround the site on the north, south, east, and west that are used as public institutional facility, park, flood control uses, and retail/commercial uses. The site is located with an urban area on a site that is currently developed as a publicly owned park used for passive recreation that is considered a public institution facility. The site is located on the western boundary of a commercial shopping center with businesses that include The Valley Park Commercial Office Center directly to the east of the site, retail strip malls with frontage along Laurel Canyon Blvd and Victory Blvd. north and east of the project site, a retail shopping mall with frontage along Erwin St. and Laurel Canyon Blvd. directly southeast of the project site, and Laurel Grove Park to the west (across the 170 Hollywood Freeway) from the site, (City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning, 2020).

**Figure 1
Project Site Location Map**



I. PROJECT HISTORY: HOMELESS SHELTER CRISIS AND EMERGENCY

A. Homelessness Imposes a Loss of, or Damage to, Life, Health, Property, and to Essential Public Services in the City

Homelessness presents a danger of loss or damage to the health and property of the people of the City and an undue burden on essential public services. Homeless persons constitute approximately 0.78 percent of the City's population (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2018).

In 2018, homeless persons constituted 13.5 percent of LAFD's total patient transports to a hospital, meaning a homeless person is 17 percent more likely to require emergency hospital transportation than the general population (LAFD Battalion Chief and Paramedic Douglas Zabilski, 2019). Studies have shown that individuals identified as homeless utilize health care services more frequently than comparable non-homeless individuals of the same age, gender, and low-income status, particularly high-cost services such as ER visits and psychiatric hospitalizations (Hunter, 2017) (Hwang SW, 2013).

Los Angeles County's Chief Executive Officer reported the County spent \$965 million on health, law enforcement, and social services toward individuals experiencing homelessness in fiscal year 2014–2015 (Wu, 2016). Consistent with that report, a 1998 study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that homelessness was associated with substantial excess costs per

hospital stay in New York City, with homeless patient staying in the hospital 36 percent longer per admission on average than other patients (Salit, Hospitalization Costs Associated with Homelessness in New York City, 1988).

Homelessness also causes significant danger to the health and lives of persons who are homeless. Homeless individuals living in the City are frequent crime victims. In 2018, LAPD reported 2,965 instances where a homeless individual was a victim of a serious crime, including homicide, rape, aggravated assault, theft, and arson (also known as “Part 1 Crimes.”) (Commander Dominic H. Choi, 2019). This compares to 1,762 such crimes in 2017, a 68 percent increase (*Id.*). This dramatic increase in Part 1 Crime statistics may be due to more rigorous LAPD data collection methodologies, but is consistent with the increasing incidence of homelessness documented in June of 2019 detailed below (*Id.*).

Overall, in 2018, the LAPD reported 6,671 instances in total where a homeless individual was a Part 1 Crime victim and/or suspect, among the 31,285 estimated homeless individuals throughout the City (*Id.*). This means that in 2018 there was approximately one Part 1 Crime per every 4.68 homeless individuals in the City. By comparison, for the same year LAPD reported 129,549 total Part 1 Crimes Citywide among an estimated population of 4,054,400 City residents, or approximately one Part 1 crime per every 31.29 City residents. Accordingly, the rate of Part 1 crimes among homeless individuals in 2018 was approximately seven times higher than the rate among the City population as a whole (*Id.*).

On October 4, 2018 and again on February 6, 2019, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health identified an outbreak of endemic flea-borne typhus in downtown Los Angeles among persons experiencing homelessness. On September 19, 2017, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health declared a Hepatitis A virus outbreak among persons who are homeless and/or use illicit drugs in the County. Likewise, a January 2018 report from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health reported that data from the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Corner’s showed that a significant number of deaths in the homeless population were caused by treatable conditions such as arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease, pneumonia, diabetes, cancer, cirrhosis, severe bacterial infections and other conditions (Choi, 2019). As noted more recently by the Board of Supervisors for the County of Los Angeles on October 29, 2019:

Mortality rates for people experiencing homelessness are much higher than those for the general population, have risen in the County over the past five years, and are expected to increase again for 2019. A recent analysis by the County’s Department of Public Health on mortality rates and causes of death among people experiencing homelessness shed critical light on this issue and provided sobering data on recent trends. The overall mortality rate, which accounts for increases in the total homeless population over the 6-year period from 2013 to 2018, increased each year from 1,382 per 100,000 to 1,875 deaths per 100,000, with the total number of deaths among people experiencing homelessness increasing each year from 536 in 2013 to 1,047 in 2018. The leading causes of death included coronary heart disease (22%) and unintentional drug and alcohol overdose (21%), indicating that there are opportunities for interventions to prevent premature deaths (Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor Solis, 2019) (Department of Public Health, 2019).

These significant adverse health impacts suffered by the homeless in the City and County of Los Angeles are consistent with the impacts identified by a well-established body of expert social science studies that document the significant adverse health and welfare impacts experienced by homeless persons in the United States and in other countries, which the homeless in the City and County experience as well. Some of that research has documented the following impacts upon homeless persons:

Mortality Rates. A study of the mortality rates of sheltered homeless people in New York City between 1987 and 1994 documented that homeless men died at a rate more than twice that of other residents of New York, and that homeless women died at a rate more than 3.7 times greater than other New York residents (Barrow, Susan M., PhD, Daniel B. Herman, DSW, Pilar Cordova, BA, and Elmer L. Struening, PhD, 1999). A study conducted between 1985 and 1988 in Philadelphia found that the mortality rate among homeless persons in Philadelphia was nearly four times greater than for the general population (Hibbs, Jonathan R., MD, et. al., 1994). A review of five years of data between 2000 and 2005 in Glasgow, Scotland found that homelessness is, itself, is an independent risk factor for death, distinct from other specific causes (Morrison, 2009).

Access to Healthcare. A 2003 nationwide survey of homeless persons documented that homeless adults reported substantial unmet needs for multiple types of health care (Baggett, Travis P., MD, MPH, James J. O'Connell, MD, Daniel E. Singer, MD, and Nancy A. Rigotti, MD, , 2010). The report found 73 percent of the respondents reported at least one unmet health need, including an inability to obtain needed medical or surgical care (32%), prescription medications (36%), mental health care (21%), eyeglasses (41%), and dental care (41%) (*Id.*).

AIDs Impacts. A study of San Francisco residents diagnosed with AIDS from 1996 through 2006 and reported to the San Francisco Department of Public Health demonstrated that homeless persons with HIV/AIDS have greater morbidity and mortality, more hospitalizations, less use of antiretroviral therapy, and worse medication adherence than HIV infected persons who are stably housed (Schwarcz, Sandra K, Ling C Hsu,, Eric Vittinghoff, Annie Vu, Joshua D Bamberger and Mitchell H Katz, 2009).

Cancer Impacts. A study of 28,000 current and formerly homeless individuals in Boston documented that homeless men saw a significantly higher cancer incident rate than expected compared to the general Massachusetts general population, and that homeless women and men experienced significantly higher cancer mortality rates than the Massachusetts general population (Baggett, Travis P et al., 2015).

B. Unexpected and Unabated Dramatic Surge in Homelessness

A 2017 Rand Corporation study reported the County of Los Angeles as having the highest rate in the United States of unsheltered individuals who experience homelessness (Hunter, Sarah B., Melody Harvey, Brian Briscoe, and Matthew Cefalu, 2017). The impacts of homelessness upon the homeless and upon the community, in terms of the danger to or loss of life, property, health and burden on public services is exacerbated in the City due the very size of the City's homeless population. The homeless shelter crisis and the rise in homelessness are the type of emergency situations that led the State to adopt AB 1197, an urgency statute addressing homelessness that was deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety and for the critical necessity to address the shelter and homeless crisis within the City of Los Angeles.

The City of Los Angeles (the City) City Council declared a homeless shelter crisis pursuant to Government Code Section 8698, et seq. on April 17, 2018 (The Honorable M. Bonin & M. O'Farrell , 2019), which is currently in effect (The Honorable M. Bonin & M. Harris-Dawson, 2019). Following significant investment of resources by both the County and City, the 2018 Homeless Count showed progress in reducing homelessness, documenting a 5.5 percent overall decrease in the number of persons experiencing homelessness in LA County (LAHSA, 2020).

Table 1 - 2018 Homeless Count Data Summary presents the data revealed by the 2018 Homeless Count concerning the City of Los Angeles, as documented in the 2018 Data Summary in Table 1 (LAHSA, 2020).

Table 1 2018 Homeless Count Data Summary		
	Number of Individuals	Change from 2017
Sheltered Homeless	8,398	6% Decrease
Unsheltered Homeless	22,887	5.3% Decrease
Total Homeless Persons	31,285	5.5% Decrease

Despite these efforts and the initial progress shown in 2018, the revised 2019 Homeless Count, released July 22, 2020, unexpectedly documented a dramatic increase in the number of individuals experiencing both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness in (LAHSA, 2020) *Table 2 - 2019 Homeless Count Data Summary* presents the data revealed by the 2019 Homeless Count concerning the City of Los Angeles, as documented in the 2019 Data Summary as shown in Table 2 (LAHSA, 2020):

Table 2 2019 Homeless Count Data Summary (Revised 07/20/20)		
	Number of Individuals	Change from 2018
Sheltered Homeless	8,944	6.5% Increase
Unsheltered Homeless	26,606	16.2% Increase
Total Homeless Persons	35,550	13.7% Increase

LAHSA recently published its 2020 Homeless Count, released in July 20, 2020, which shows that the homelessness emergency in the City of Los Angeles continues unabated. The documented number of individuals experiencing both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness dramatically increased yet again, as shown in *Table 3 - 2020 Homeless Count Data Summary* (LAHSA, 2020).

Table 3 2020 Homeless Count Data Summary		
	Number of Individuals	Change from 2019
Sheltered Homeless	12,438	39% Increase
Unsheltered Homeless	28,852	8.4% Increase
Total Homeless Persons	41,290	16.1 % increase

C. Emergency Related to COVID-19 Pandemic Impacting Homeless Community

In addition to the crisis of growing homelessness, the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting homeless persons. On March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency for the State of California (Governor Gavin Newsom, 2020), and the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles declared a local emergency related to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the local population (Mayor Eric Garcetti, 2020). The City is facing an unprecedented emergency at the current time due to the sudden occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this emergency is particularly concerning for the imminent threat it poses to the City's homeless population.

On March 11, 2020, the State Department of Health issued guidance for protecting homeless Californians from COVID-19, which noted the following:

“We know that individuals experiencing homelessness are at greater risk of having an untreated and often serious health condition. This vulnerable population also has a higher risk of developing severe illness due to COVID-19,” said Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency. “It is important that we act now to protect this population and the compassionate people who serve them.” (Corey Egel, 2020)

The homeless often live unsheltered, unprotected from the elements and in close contact and proximity to other individuals in the homeless community. As noted above, the homeless population is substantially more prone to underlying health conditions. The State Department of Public Health additionally states that populations “with compromised immune systems, and people with certain underlying health conditions like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example, seem to be at greater risk of serious illness.” (California Dept. of Public Health, 2020) Thus, exposure to COVID-19 in the homeless population is an imminent concern for the damage it will cause on these susceptible individuals.

On March 12, 2020, the Governor's Executive Order No. N-25-20 noted the “need to secure numerous facilities to accommodate quarantine, isolation, or medical treatment of individuals testing positive for or exposed to COVID-19.” (Governor Gavin Newsom, 2020) On March 18, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. N-32-20 (Governor Gavin Newsom, 2020), which further noted imminent impacts to the homeless, as follows:

[T]he emergency of COVID-19 necessitates a more focused approach, including emergency protective measures to bring unsheltered Californians safely indoors, expand shelter capacity, maintain health and sanitation standards and institute medically indicated interventions, and add new isolation and quarantine capacity to California's shelter and housing inventory to slow the spread of the pandemic....

The Governor has stated that “[p]eople experiencing homelessness are among the most vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19,” and “California is deploying massive resources to get these vulnerable residents safely into shelter, removing regulatory barriers and securing trailers and hotels to provide immediate housing options for those most at risk. Helping these residents is critical to protecting public health, flattening the curve and slowing the spread of COVID-19.” (California Governor, Press Release (Governor Gavin Newsom, 2020)

On March 19, 2020, the Governor issued a stay-at-home order directing residents to stay home or at their place of residence. (Governor Gavin Newsom, 2020) It noted “in a short period of time, COVID-19 has rapidly spread throughout California, necessitating updated and more stringent guidance from federal, state, and local public health officials.” (Governor Gavin Newsom, 2020) Similar local Safer-at-Home orders followed (County of Los Angeles Public

Health Department, 2020) (Mayor Eric Garcetti, 2020). The City's Safer at Home order particularly noted the following:

City of Los Angeles officials and contracted partners responsible for homelessness outreach shall make every reasonable effort to persuade such residents to accept, if offered, temporary housing or shelter, as the Health Officer of the County of Los Angeles recommends that sheltering individuals will assist in reducing the spread of the virus and will protect the individual from potential exposure by allowing the individual access to sanitation tools.

(Mayor Eric Garcetti, 2020)

In the United States District Court Central District of California case of *LA Alliance for Human Rights Et Al. vs. the City of Los Angeles, Et al.* Case No. CV 20-02291 DOC (The Honorable Judge David O. Carter, 2020), concerning homelessness, the Court entered a May 2020 injunction that had ordered the City of Los Angeles in partnership with the County of Los Angeles, to protect a particular subset of persons experiencing homelessness, finding they are exposed to severely heightened public health risks as a result of where they live. (The Honorable Judge David O. Carter, 2020) Although the Court vacated that order on June 18, 2020, in favor of a homeless shelter agreement between the City and County, the Court retained its right to re-impose the May 2020 injunction. The Court's May 2020 findings concerning the emergency situation faced by homeless persons, therefore, is relevant to understanding the emergency situation.

The Injunction found that the combined risks of health impacts from living near freeways and the on-going Covid-19 pandemic constitute an emergency. The Court found that it is unreasonably dangerous for humans to live in areas which have deleterious health impacts and can shorten a homeless person's life expectancy by decades. These locations near freeways, for example, could be contaminated with lead or other carcinogenic substances and also increase the danger that a homeless person will be struck by a vehicle or injured in the event of an earthquake or crash. Camps in these locations can also burden the general public—for example, by posing potential hazards to passing motorists, or by making sidewalks and other rights-of-way inaccessible to individuals with disabilities.

The Court further found that providing housing for persons experiencing homelessness will help stop the spread of COVID-19 persons experiencing homelessness and will also help reduce the likelihood that the disease will spread throughout the greater Los Angeles community

Taken together, the unexpected and dramatic increase in homelessness in the City and County of Los Angeles identified first in 2019, continues unabated in 2020, which is now exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic posing a critical emergency situation in the City of Los Angeles. This situation presents documented dangers to health, life, property and a burden on public resources which presents an emergency as defined by CEQA as explained below. Furthermore, the State has created two additional CEQA exemptions applicable in the City of Los Angeles concerning homelessness and homeless shelters.

II. THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM FURTHER CEQA REVIEW

A. The Project is Exempt Pursuant to the Emergency CEQA Statutory Exemption (PRC Section 21080(b)(4))

Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(4) provides that CEQA does not apply, to "specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency." Public Resources Code section

21060.3 defines Emergency as, “a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services.” Section 21060.3 further provides that Emergency, “includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements, as well as such occurrences as riot, accident, or sabotage.”

Finally, 14 California Code of Regulations (Governor's Office of Planning and Research, 2018) Section 15269, “Emergency Projects,” provides examples of emergency projects exempt from the requirements of CEQA, including the following:

(c) Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term, but this exclusion does not apply

(i) if the anticipated period of time to conduct an environmental review of such a long-term project would create a risk to public health, safety or welfare, or

(ii) if activities (such as fire or catastrophic risk mitigation or modifications to improve facility integrity) are proposed for existing facilities in response to an emergency at a similar existing facility.

The project is a specific action necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency – the conditions arising from a sudden and unexpected dramatic rise in the City’s already dangerously large homeless population, now adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic for all of the reasons set forth above in Part II (Project History). The Project, therefore is exempt from CEQA environmental review pursuant to Section 21080(b)(4).

B. The Project is Exempt under the Governor’s Executive Order No. N-32-20, Suspending CEQA

On March 18, 2020, Governor Newsom signed and issued Executive Order No. N-32-20 (Governor Gavin Newsom, 2020) suspending CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines’ requirements “for any project using Homeless Emergency Aid Program funds, Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program funds, or funds appropriated in Senate Bill 89, signed on March 17, 2020.” The Governor noted that “strict compliance with the various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay appropriate actions to prevent and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.” Because this project uses Homeless Emergency Aid Program funds,” it is exempt from CEQA under the Governor’s suspension order.

C. The Project is Exempt Pursuant to AB 1197 Codified at PRC Section 21080.27

Assembly Bill 1197 (Santiago, 2019) was signed into law on September 26, 2019, which adopted Section 21080.27 of the California Public Resources Code (PRC) and created a statutory exemption for compliance with CEQA for emergency shelter projects located within the City of Los Angeles. The intent of AB 1197 is to help the City of Los Angeles address its homeless crisis and is an urgency statute that is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety and for the critical necessity to address the shelter and homeless crisis. AB 1197 took immediate effect on September 26, 2019 in order to

address the unique circumstances faced by the City of Los Angeles and to expedite the development of emergency homeless shelters. As noted in the following sections, this shelter project complies with the requirements in AB 1197, and thus the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to AB 1197 (PRC § 21080.27).

1. City of Los Angeles Declaration of a Shelter Crisis

Public Resources Code, section 21080.27(a)(2) requires that emergency shelters be approved during a shelter crisis under Government Code, section 8698.2. The City of Los Angeles City Council declared a homeless shelter crisis pursuant to Government Code Section 8698, et seq. on April 17, 2018 (The Honorable M. Bonin & M. O'Farrell , 2019), which is currently in effect (The Honorable M. Bonin & M. Harris-Dawson, 2019)

2. The Project Meets the Definition of a Low Barrier Navigational Center in Government Code Section 65660

Under AB1197, emergency shelters must meet the definition of “Low Barrier Navigational Center” in Government Code Section 65660, which defines Low Barrier Navigation Center as a “Housing First, low-barrier, service-enriched shelter focused on moving people into permanent housing that provides temporary living facilities, while case managers connect individuals experiencing homelessness to income, public benefits, health services, shelter and housing. The City builds these emergency shelters pursuant to its “A Bridge Home” program, and this Project is part of the A Bridge Home program. That program is described as follows:

Service-Enriched Shelter with Case Managers Connecting to Services. The requirements are met by this project for a “service-enriched shelter focused on moving people into permanent housing that provides temporary living facilities, while case managers connect families experiencing homelessness to income, public benefits, health services, shelter and housing.” This project provides temporary housing through pallet shelters site, the lease and the operation of a shelter, with case managers staffing the facility that provide connections to these homeless family services and assistance for the occupants. This is one of the fundamental purposes of this shelter project. For example, the project’s programs include Trauma Informed Care policies and procedures that involve understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. Trauma Informed Care also emphasizes physical, psychological and emotional safety for both families and providers, and helps families rebuild a sense of control and empowerment. Trauma Informed services take into account an understanding of trauma in all aspects of service delivery and place priority on the trauma survivor’s safety, choice, and control. Trauma Informed Care services create a culture of nonviolence, learning, and collaboration.

The A Bridge Home program shelters are operated by service providers coordinated with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). This A Bridge Home will be operated on a property owned by the City of Los Angeles. The intention of this emergency A Bridge Home project is to provide persons experiencing homelessness with some stability, so that they can more easily maintain contact with housing navigation and/or case management services to facilitate safe and supportive housing placement.

Per LAHSA’s 2019-2020 Bridge Housing Scope of Required Services (SRS), service providers that oversee an A Bridge Home shelter must provide case management services and develop a Housing Stability Plan with each person. A Bridge Home program implements a case management and service plan known as Housing-Focused Case Management and Support Services (HFCMSS). HFCMSS includes but is not limited to: support with completing housing

applications, accompanying the individual to housing appointments and/or leasing appointments, and other support associated with the housing placement process. The primary objective of HFCMSS is to extend support to individuals through an individualized case management relationship that will ultimately translate to increased housing stability. The HFCMSS offers services to connect individuals to permanent housing. Case Managers present at the shelter make rapid connections to a broad continuum of resources and permanent housing, emphasizing a short-term stay in the Bridge Housing bed.

HFCMSS connects families to a Housing Navigator who assists individuals to gain access to permanent housing through referrals to housing programs (such as RRH, Permanent Supportive Housing, affordable housing, etc.). A case manager is assigned to an individual when the person enters the program and then helps the participant establish a connection to a Housing Navigator. A Housing Navigator assists individuals with Housing Navigation services. Housing Navigation services are available to individuals to support their housing placement goals and must be focused on assisting the participant in identifying and accessing permanent housing within the general ninety (90) days of the A Bridge Home stay. Housing Navigation services may be provided onsite or offsite, and may also require participants' to be accompanied to off-site appointments.

Case management must be conducted on a regular and routine basis and must be routinely documented. The content and outcome of case management meetings with individuals are entered into a housing management information system with case notes that are tracked in the system. Housing-focused case management sessions are dedicated to assessing and reassessing needs, educating individuals on community resource opportunities, developing Housing Stability Plans, scheduling appointments, and providing necessary follow up to ensure housing stability plans are progressing on schedule and needs are adequately being addressed.

As noted in LAHSA's 2019-2020 Program Standards, supportive services for the shelters focus on the income, resources, skills and tools needed to pay rent, comply with a lease, take reasonable care of a housing unit, and avoid serious conflict with other tenants, the landlord, and/or the police. The Program Standards also require service providers to utilize and maintain referral networks with specific lists of health services and public benefit services for connecting occupants to those benefits. Thus, the project is a service-enriched shelter focused on moving individuals into permanent housing that provides temporary living facilities, while case managers connect individuals experiencing homelessness to income, public benefits, health services, shelter and housing.

Housing First. The Project is a "Housing First" shelter pursuant to Government Code Section 65660. Also, in being such a Housing First shelter, the project complies with Chapter 6.5 of Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (commonly referred to as the Housing First Law) as required by Government Code Section 65662 (discussed further below). "Housing First" means the evidence-based model that uses housing as a tool, rather than a reward, for recovery from homelessness, and that centers on providing or connecting people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Housing First providers offer services as needed and requested on a voluntary basis and that do not make housing contingent on participation in services.

Housing First also includes time-limited rental or services assistance, so long as the housing and service provider assists the recipient in accessing permanent housing and in securing longer-term rental assistance, income assistance, or employment. In the event of an eviction, programs shall make every effort, which shall be documented, to link tenants to other stable, safe, decent housing options. Exit to homelessness should be extremely rare, and only after a

tenant refuses assistance with housing search, location, and move-in assistance. If resources are needed to successfully divert an individual from entry into the homelessness system, a referral must immediately be made to a CES Diversion/Prevention program. In order to identify other permanent housing options, service providers continue to have such problem solving conversations with the individual while residing in Bridge Housing. More broadly, the project includes a housing and services plan and housing-focused case management, both with an orientation towards supporting individuals to exit to safe and stable housing. This project meets the above-noted Housing First requirements.

The A Bridge Home program shelters are operated by service providers coordinated through LAHSA. All service providers must comply with LAHSA's Scope of Required Services, Program Standards, and Facility Standards. Per LAHSA's 2019-2020 Program Standards, all eligible participants are to be served with a Housing First approach. LAHSA's CES for Families' Principles and Practices that were approved by the CES Policy Council on August 23, 2017 shall be used to guide the development of systems-level policy and to ensure transparent and accountable decision-making with privately owned Service Providers who enter into a partnership with LAHSA. The basic underlying principle of LAHSA's System Components is that access to housing is the primary need for its program participants. Services are voluntary and not required to enter into a shelter. Individuals will not be rejected or exited from participation in Bridge Housing due to any unnecessary barriers.

The City's A Bridge Home program is intended to be a Housing First program focused on quickly moving individuals experiencing homelessness into permanent housing and then providing the additional supports and services each person needs and wants to stabilize in that housing. The basic underlying Housing First principle is that individuals are better able to move forward with their lives once the crisis of homelessness is over and they have control of their housing. The City's shelters developed under the A Bridge Home program, including this emergency shelter project, provide a safe, low barrier, housing-focused, and homeless services support in a twenty-four (24) hour residence to help individuals who experience homelessness that meet the above-noted requirements for Housing First. One of the core components of the Housing First model is that longer-term housing accepts referrals directly from shelters. The City's shelters, including this project, are primarily focused on connecting, transitioning, and referring homeless individuals into such permanent housing as quickly as possible in the Housing First model, and accepting occupants through the crisis response system. The intention of this emergency "A Bridge Home" shelter project is to provide participants with some stability, so that they can more easily maintain contact with housing navigation and case management services and facilitate safe and supportive housing placement. Services in the City's shelters, including this project, are never mandatory and cannot be a condition of obtaining the housing intervention. This project will provide temporary housing, case managers and Housing Navigators staffed at the facility or offsite who provide connections to homeless services for the occupants. Based on the above-noted information, the project's emergency shelter meets the Housing First requirements relative to AB 1197.

Low Barrier. "Low Barrier" means the shelters use best practices to reduce barriers to entry, including but not limited to, the presence of partners (if it is not a population-specific site, such as for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault, women, or youth); pets; storage for possessions; and privacy (such as partitions around beds in a dormitory setting or in larger rooms containing more than two beds, or private rooms). The City's shelters, including this project, meet these requirements.

The project provides approximately 96 pallet shelters which allows for presence of partners. This project is pet friendly. Participants are allowed to bring their pets to the shelter and live

with them inside their pallet shelter. There is no pet play area onsite. The project has storage within each room for personal possessions. The project is designed to provide privacy to participants by providing each individual or couple with their own room. Each site has a bathroom and private living quarters. Therefore, the project is managed and designed to allow the privacy of participants and is a pet friendly facility for participants who choose to be accompanied by their pets.

The project uses low barrier best practices that reduce barriers to entry. They include the allowance for presence of partners, pet friendly facilities, storage areas for possessions, and management and design for individuals' privacy. All of the City's Bridge Home program emergency shelters, including this project, meet these requirements. Therefore, none of the noted conditions would preclude access to the project, and the project is considered bridge housing that is "low barrier" within the meaning of Government Code Section 65660 and AB 1197.

In sum, based on the above-noted information, which is additionally explained and provided with additional details in the documents from LAHSA cited in the Reference section to this document, the project meets the definition of Low Barrier Navigation Center set forth in Government Code Section 65660.

3. The Project Complies with Government Code Section 65662

Under AB1197, emergency shelters must meet the four requirements identified in Government Code Section 65662(a) through (d), which are each discussed in turn in this section.

Connecting to Permanent Housing through a Services Plan. Government Code Section 65662(a) requires that Low Barrier Navigation Centers offer services to connect families to permanent housing through a services plan that identifies services staffing. This project meets that requirement. As noted above, the project includes housing-focused case management sessions that involve developing Housing Stability Plans/Housing and Services Plans, scheduling appointments, and providing necessary follow up to ensure housing stability plans are progressing on schedule and needs are adequately being addressed. This is required in LAHSA's Scope of Required Services.

The Housing Stability Plan is the family's service plan that summarizes the participant's housing goals, services needed, what will be provided, actions that need to be taken (by staff and the participant), and referrals that need to be made. Case managers develop the services plan in coordination with the individual right after intake and assessment, track the plan in a homeless management information system, and revise the plan as the person's situation changes and steps are completed or revised accordingly.

Individuals are assisted with a range of activities that address the stated goals of the individual in the Housing Stability Plan, including but not limited to:

- Accessing personal identification (For quick referral to permanent housing)
- Accessing certification of the current income (For quick referral to permanent housing)
- Mainstream Benefits
- Substance Abuse services
- Mental Health Services
- Health Services
- Vocational Services
- Employment Services

- Educational Support
- Legal Services
- Life Skills Development
- Independent Living Program for Youth
- Transitional Housing Program for Youth
- CES and CoC Rapid Re-Housing Program
- Housing Navigation Assistance
- CoC Permanent Supportive Housing
- LA County Department of Health Services, Housing for Health or Housing and Jobs Collaborative
- LA County Department of Health Services, Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services Team
- LA County Department of Mental Health, Countywide Housing Assistance Program
- Veterans Administration Housing Programs
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) Housing
- Crisis Housing for Unaccompanied Youth
- Youth Family Reconnection Program

Progress and problems implementing the plan are reviewed and updated frequently.

Coordinated Entry System. Government Code Section 65662(b) requires Low Barrier Navigation Centers to be linked to a coordinated entry system allowing staff and co-locating staff to conduct assessments and provide services to connect individuals to permanent housing. This is required by LAHSA's Scope of Required Services and Program Standards. Thus, all City of Los Angeles homeless shelters, including this project, are linked to the Los Angeles County Coordinated Entry System, a centralized or coordinated assessment system designed to coordinate program participant intake, assessment, and referrals. The residents are prioritized through the coordinated entry system in the Los Angeles County Coordinated Entry System for safe and supportive housing resources. The City's A Bridge Home program collaborates with Los Angeles County Case Entry System and provides case management services to program participants through a Housing Stability Plan. A Bridge Home case managers must develop a Housing Stability Plan in coordination with the participant right after intake and assessment. The Housing Stability Plan must be tracked in a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) along with the date of completion.

The A Bridge Home program collaborates with Los Angeles County Case Entry system Housing Navigators and case managers from other outside agencies to provide case management services to program participants. Los Angeles County Coordinated Entry System case managers work with participants and assist by facilitating services appointments; and then eventually help them find permanent housing.

Compliance with Welfare and Institutions Code. Government Code Section 65662(c) requires Low Barrier Navigation Centers comply with Chapter 6.5 of Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, which specifies the Housing First requirements. As noted above, the City's A Bridge Home shelters, including this project, are Housing First shelters, and thus they comply with this requirement.

Homeless Management Information System. Government Code Section 65662(d) requires Low Barrier Navigation Centers to have a system for entering stays, demographics, income, and exit destination through a local Homeless Management Information System designed to coordinate program participant intake, assessment, and referrals. These are required by LAHSA's Scope of Required Services and Program Standards. The City's A Bridge Home

emergency shelters use such a system in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). In 2001, Congress directed the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to ensure the collection of more reliable data regarding the use of homeless programs. HUD required all Continuum of Care applicants to demonstrate progress in implementing a Homeless Management System (HMIS). LAHSA led a regional planning process, encompassing three Continuums of Care - Los Angeles, Glendale, and Pasadena. This process resulted in the selection of a system that would not only satisfy the HUD mandate, but would also provide the Los Angeles Continuum with a means to measure the effectiveness of programs serving homeless families. Presently, the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LACoC) is part of a collaborative called the Los Angeles HMIS Collaborative. The LA HMIS Collaborative consists of three Continuums of Care (CoC): Los Angeles, Glendale, and Pasadena.

HMIS is a web-based application that is designed to collect information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons. The system allows agency users and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to use collected information for informed programmatic decision-making. Participating agencies collect and input standardized client-level and demographic data into the system, including client/household demographic details; relationships within a family and household; client/household income; client/household documents; case management and services; housing placements; and progress for housing retention. The HMIS includes a focus on Outcomes Management that sets and measures milestones and target achievements of clients and program performance.

Housing Stability Plans are tracked in a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) along with the date of completion. Case managers complete a Monthly Update with the family to assess progress towards achieving the goals defined in the Housing Stability Plan. All services must be tracked and information is provided to families in HMIS with the goal of the individuals achieving housing stability and sustainability upon exit from the program. Exit destination information is also collected. Accordingly, the project meets the HMIS requirements.

In sum, based on the above-noted information, which is additionally explained in more detail in the documents from LAHSA cited in the Reference section to this document, the project meets the requirements set forth in Government Code Section 65662.

4. The Project is in a Qualified Location Under AB 1197

AB 1197 requires that the site be located in "either a mixed-use or nonresidential zone permitting multifamily uses or infill site...." (PRC § 21080.27(a)(2).) The project is considered an infill site because the site has been developed with, and its perimeter is surrounded by, qualified urban uses.

The site is located in an urban area on a site that has been previously developed as a city park, which is a qualified public institutional urban use. The proposed project site is zoned OS with an Open Space land use designation. The site is an irregular shaped parcel that is located just west of the intersection of Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Erwin St. It is generally located between Laurel Canyon Blvd. to the east, Erwin St. to the south, Victory Blvd. to the north and by Interstate 170 Hollywood Freeway to the west. The 170 Hollywood Freeway is separated from the site by a large concrete-lined public flood control conveyance facility for the Central Branch Tujunga Wash. The property is an infill site, with parcels that surround the site on the north, south, east, and west that are zoned commercial and open space. These parcels are used as a park - a public institutional facility, a flood control use, and retail/office/commercial uses. The site is located on the western boundary of a commercial shopping center with businesses that

include The Valley Park Commercial Office Center directly to the east of the site, retail strip malls with frontage along Laurel Canyon Blvd and Victory Blvd. north and east of the project site, a retail shopping mall with frontage along Erwin St. and Laurel Canyon Blvd. directly southeast of the project site, and Laurel Grove Park to the west (across the 170 Hollywood Freeway) from the site. Therefore the Project site is considered a qualified location under AB 1197.

5. The Project Involves Qualified Funding Under AB 1197

AB 1197 and Public Resources Code Section 21080.27(a)(2)(A)-(D) exempt emergency shelter projects from CEQA which have at least a portion of the funding from qualified sources. The project is funded, at least in part, through the State of California Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program grant. Therefore, the project is consistent with the funding requirements of AB 1197. Because these funding sources are qualified funding sources under Public Resources Code Section 21080.27(a)(2)(A), the funding requirement under AB 1197 is met.

6. The City's Actions Qualify under AB 1197 as Actions in Furtherance of Providing Emergency Shelters in the City of Los Angeles

AB 1197 and Public Resources Code Section 21080.27(b)(1), exempt from CEQA "any activity approved by or carried out by the City of Los Angeles in furtherance of providing emergency shelters or supportive housing in the City of Los Angeles." This project involves an emergency shelter, as described above, which is located in the City of Los Angeles. The City will provide the funding for LAHSA and a qualified service provider to enter into a contract to lease and operate the emergency shelter. Therefore, the City's actions are in furtherance of providing emergency shelters in the City of Los Angeles, and qualify for exemption from CEQA under AB 1197.

7. AB 1197 Conclusion

Based on the above-noted information, the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.27

III. Bibliography

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Attachment

Project Site Plan