



*Posting Start Date (Above)*

*Posting End Date (Above)*

County Clerk of the Board Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
105 E. ANAPAMU STREET  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

**FROM:** CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
PLANNING DIVISION  
P.O. BOX 1990  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93102-1990

---

**Project Title:** Dwight Murphy Field Renovation  
**Project Applicant:** City of Santa Barbara, Parks & Recreation  
**Application Number:** PLN2018-00494  
**Assessor's Parcel Number:** 017-362-005  
**Land Use Zone:** P-R Park and Recreation /S-D-3 Coastal Overlay Zone  
**Projection Location (Specific):** 501 Ninos Drive  
**Project Location:** City of Santa Barbara / County of Santa Barbara

**Project Description:** The Dwight Murphy Field Renovation Project consists of the renovation of an existing 8.3-acre City park and includes the conversion of the existing grass regulation size soccer field to a multi-sport synthetic turf field; new 30,000-square-foot natural turf youth baseball field; new natural turf informal activity area; new 32,672-square-foot inclusive playground; new 5,067-square-foot fitness area; new 1,739-square-foot family picnic area with shade structure; new 194-square-foot trash and recycling enclosure; and new 444-square-foot prefabricated restroom facility. The project includes the demolition of the existing restroom/locker room facility, playground, ball field, and fitness area. Other amenities include pedestrian pathways, accessible pathways and entrances, a bus loading zone, gates, field and perimeter fencing, sport field lighting, pedestrian lighting, and street lights. The parking areas would be reconfigured. Onsite vehicular parking would increase from 128 spaces to 159 spaces, and 30 bicycle spaces would be provided. Parking within the right-of-way along the perimeter of the park would increase from 68 spaces to 93 spaces. Of the existing 75 trees onsite, 37 would be removed, 5 would be relocated, and 33 would be protected. A total of 125 new trees would be planted, which would result in an overall total of 163 trees for the project. Additional landscaping would be planted throughout the site. The project includes restoration of a portion of Sycamore Creek, consisting of the removal of non-native vegetation and the installation of new native plants and trees, including 10 California Sycamore and 10 Coast Live Oak trees. The project also includes improvements to vehicular circulation by preventing traffic from entering Park Road from Calle Puerto Vallarta, and reconfiguring the west parking lot.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Justin Van Mullem, Capital Projects Supervisor  
City of Santa Barbara, Parks & Recreation

**Lead Agency Contact:** Julia Pujo, Environmental Analyst  
Telephone: (805) 564-5470

**Exempt Status:** Exempt under CEQA Section § 15183

**Reason Why Project is Exempt:**

The 2011 Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan evaluated citywide environmental effects from forecasted General Plan build-out to year 2030. The proposed project is within the growth assumptions and scope of analysis of the Program EIR. No project-specific significant environmental impacts would result from the project, and potential minor effects would be addressed by project design and compliance with applicable ordinance provisions, regulations, and standard conditions of approval. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §21083.3 and CEQA Guidelines §15183 (Projects Consistent with a Community Plan or Zoning), no further environmental document is required for projects consistent with the General Plan for which a Program EIR was certified, when development policies and standards address environmental effects and no projectspecific impacts would result. City Council environmental findings adopted for the 2011 General Plan remain applicable for this project. The staff analysis and CEQA certificate of determination on file provides the finding that the project qualifies for the 15183 CEQA exemption determination. Some environmental issue areas analyzed by staff for the proposed project are provided below.

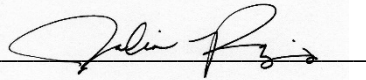
Biological Survey. A Biological Survey (MRS Environmental Inc., May, 16, 2021) was prepared to provide a biological assessment of the project site, including Sycamore Creek. The report includes recommendations for protection of nesting birds, protection of the creek from sedimentation, and shielding the creek from all project lighting. These recommendations have been incorporated into the project description and have been documented in the conditions of approval for the project. The report also recommended that the project reduce disturbance in the parking area directly adjacent to the creek by not changing the existing asphalt surface to pavers. This recommended change was made to the project.

Trees. Of the existing 75 trees onsite, a total of 37 would be removed. The trees to be removed are 13 Chinese elm, 7 Chinese flame, 1 Red gum, 1 Mexican fan palm, 7 Black acacia, 6 Holly oak, and 2 Cork oak. No trees to be removed are considered to be specimen trees. The five trees to be relocated are 4 Guadalupe palms and 1 Kentia palm. The 33 trees to be protected are 23 Mexican fan palms, 1 Flaxleaf paperbark, 1 Guadalupe palm, 1 Italian stone pine (requested to be protected by ABR), 6 Tipuana Tipu, and 2 Windmill palms. A total of 125 new trees would be planted, which would result in an overall total of 163 trees for the project. The new trees would consist of 11 focal/entry trees (including Coast Live Oak), 58 shade trees, and 56 accent trees. The proposed tree replacements exceed a 2:1 ratio. According to the City's Urban Forest Superintendent, the retention of the trees onsite and the proposed plantings would result in a net positive gain in habitat and biomass on the site.

Cultural Resources. A Phase I Archaeological Resources Report (Stone, September 2020) prepared for the project concluded that impacts to prehistoric and historic resources would be less than significant. The report was

accepted by the Historic Landmarks Commission on April 14, 2021. As recommended by the report, the standard condition of approval for unanticipated archaeological resources has been added to the project conditions of approval. Planning staff prepared a memo (Hernandez, October, 2018) to the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) stating that the Dwight Murphy Field does not meet the criteria to qualify as a historic resource and recommended that it be removed from the Potential Historic Resources List. HLC concurred with staff's recommendation and it was removed from the list. Hazardous Materials. Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessment reports (Rincon Consultants, Inc., April 24, 2020 and December 4, 2020) were reviewed by City staff and the Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services Division (EHS). Based on the results of the analysis, EHS recommended additional sampling adjacent to the railroad tracks to determine the extent of potential arsenic and lead contamination. Rather than conduct additional sampling, the project scope was revised to not include any ground disturbance in that area. No further analysis or remediation is required for the proposed project. Transportation. The proposed project would not result in a change of use, and would include enhancements to an existing use. The park is in a location where some visitors are anticipated to arrive by alternative modes, such as walking and biking, and is within one-half mile of a high priority transit stop (SBCAG RTP-SCS Figure 77). Therefore, no significant increase in Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) is anticipated.

Lead Agency Signature:



Julia Pujo, Environmental Analyst

Date:

November 17, 2021