

Notice of Exemption 21-2020-217

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: Marin
3501 Civic Center Dr #234
San Rafael, CA 94903

From: (Public Agency): City of San Rafael
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

(Address)

FILED

NOV 18 2020

SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK

By *D. Lobato* Deputy

Project Title: Pickleweed Park Enhancements Project

Project Applicant: City of San Rafael

Project Location - Specific:

See attached

Project Location - City: San Rafael Project Location - County: Marin

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See attached

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of San Rafael

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of San Rafael

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: 15301; 15303; 15304(b,f); 15311(b)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Meets the requirements of 15301; 15303, 15304(b), 15304(f), and 15311(b), and has been reviewed to determine that no significant impacts would occur.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Paul Jensen Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 415-485-5064

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: *Paul Jensen* Date: 11/17/20 Title: Community Development Director

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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: _____

POSTED 11-18-20 TO 12-18-20



Pickleweed Park Enhancements Project

Public Works File No. 06.07.11

The following information supplements the Notice of Exemption for the Pickleweed Park Enhancements Project in San Rafael, California.

1.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

1.1 Project Title

Pickleweed Park Enhancements Project

1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address

City of San Rafael
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

1.3 Project Location

The Project Site is located at the Albert J. Boro Community Center at 50 Canal Street within the City of San Rafael, CA (see Attachment 1).

1.4 Project Description

The proposed project will install park enhancements to the soccer fields, public park, and surrounding community center by: 1) converting the existing grass soccer fields to an environmentally friendly synthetic turf; 2) installing a new basketball/sport court; 3) upgrading an existing playground for children under the age of five years old; 4) installing an outdoor parcours multi-station fitness/exercise area for adults; 5) renovating and/or replacing the existing restrooms located between the soccer fields and park; 6) installing a shade structure and/or gazebo in the existing picnic area; 7) installing new landscaping and irrigation in the park and surrounding walkways; 8) installing pedestrian-scale pathway lighting and security cameras; 9) and widening a small, existing asphalt surface parking lot. The proposed project will install a temporary sound-proofing wall along the eastern perimeter of the project site to reduce construction generated noise during the breeding season for California Ridgway's rail, accepted as February 1st through August 31st to ensure compliance with federal and state endangered species regulations. The proposed project will also install Best Management Practices (BMPs) to ensure the compliance with local and state requirements for erosion control measures. All necessary drainage improvements, bioswales, and other work to comply with Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) requirements is included in this project description to fully address drainage and runoff.

2.0 PROJECT EXEMPT PER CEQA GUIDELINES:

The project would be exempt from CEQA per Section 21000-21177, Public Resources Code; Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000-15387, California Code of Regulations due to the following exemptions.

2.1 Not an Exception to Categorical Exemptions per §15300.2

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA guidelines lists conditions that would deem a project as unqualified to be considered categorically exempt. These exceptions are listed below with the City's finding as to their applicability to this project.

- a) Location
 - i. The project is not located in any particularly sensitive environment as defined by federal, state, or local agencies.
- b) Cumulative Impact
 - i. The cumulative impact of the project is not significant.
- c) Significant Effect
 - i. There is no reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- d) Scenic Highways
 - i. The project is not located near an officially designated state scenic highway.
- e) Hazardous Waste Sites
 - i. The project is not located on a hazardous waste site.
- f) Historical Resources
 - i. Park enhancements identified in the project description would not influence any historical resources, since the area is previously disturbed and excavation would not extend below the depth of previously imported fill.

2.2 Categorical Exemption Class 1: Existing Facilities per §15301

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 existing or former use. The key consideration for this exemption is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use. The proposed project would construct minor alterations to existing public recreation infrastructure that involve a negligible or no expansion in use, including a) converting the existing grass soccer fields to an environmentally friendly synthetic turf; b) upgrading an existing playground for children under the age of five years old; c) renovating and/or replacing the existing restrooms located between the soccer fields and park; d) installing a shade structure and/or gazebo in the existing picnic area; e) installing new landscaping and irrigation in the park and surrounding walkways; f) installing pedestrian-scale pathway lighting and security cameras; g) and widening a small, existing asphalt surface parking lot. All of these proposed project activities would occur within existing recreational facilities and involve maintenance and improvements without a major expansion of existing use.

2.3 Categorical Exemption Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction per §15302

As stated in Section 15302 of the CEQA Guidelines, Class 2 of the Categorical Exemptions includes replacement or reconstruction of 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. The proposed project description includes enhancements to an existing facility, including a) resurfacing of an existing soccer field with synthetic turf; b) renovating and/or replacing the existing restroom structure located between the soccer fields and park and c) upgrading an existing playground for children under the age of five years old, all of which qualifies under this exemption. Section 15302(b). Subsection (b) allows for “replacement of a commercial structure with a new structure of substantially the same size, purpose, and capacity.”

2.4 Categorical Exemption Class 3: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures per §15303

As stated in Section 15303 of the CEQA Guidelines, Class 3 of the Categorical Exemptions includes construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities, or structures. The proposed project description includes accessory facilities to an existing structure (the Albert J Boro Community Center), including installation of a new, small outdoor basketball/sport court and a new exercise area for adults that qualify under this exemption.

2.5 Categorical Exemption Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land per §15304

As stated in Section 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines, Class 4 of the Categorical Exemptions includes 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 and agricultural purposes. The proposed project description includes enhancements to an existing facility, including converting a grass field to a synthetic turf as well as installing new landscaping/trees throughout the project limits, which qualify for exemption under Section 15304(b). Subsection (b) allows for “new gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire resistant landscaping.” Furthermore, the installation of underground irrigation and electrical conduit/conductors qualifies for exemption under Section 15304(f). Subsection (f) allows for “minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.” Most of proposed project improvements could be considered as qualifying under this exemption.

2.6 Categorical Exemption Class 11: Accessory Structures per §15311

As stated in Section 15311 of the CEQA Guidelines, Class 11 of the Categorical Exemptions includes construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities. The proposed project entails accessory structures and facilities at the location of an existing institutional facility, the Albert J Boro Community Center. The proposed project description includes enhancements to an existing facility, including widening a small, existing asphalt surface parking lot, which qualifies for exemption under Section 15311(b). Subsection (b) allows for “small parking lots.” Furthermore, the installation of underground storm drain pipe and electrical conduit/conductors qualifies for exemption under Section 15304(f). Subsection (f) allows for “minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.”

ATTACHMENT 1: VICINITY MAP



Exhibit 1 – Albert J. Boro Community Center located at 50 Canal Street



- LEGEND**
- 1** MULTI-USE FIELD WITH SYNTHETIC TURF, LINED FOR VARIOUS SPORTS
 - 2** BASKETBALL/SPORT COURT
 - 3** PLAY STRUCTURE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5
 - 4** FITNESS EQUIPMENT FOR ADULTS
 - 5** RENOVATED RESTROOM WITH COMMUNITY MURAL
 - 6** SHADED SEATING
 - 7** DROUGHT RESISTANT LANDSCAPING, BIDSWALES, TREES, AND OTHER BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPING
 - 8** GAZEBO
 - 9** ADDITIONAL PARKING
 - 10** ADDITIONAL LIGHTING AND SECURITY CAMERAS FOR IMPROVED SECURITY

Exhibit 2 – Conceptual Enhancements at Albert J. Boro Community Center located at 50 Canal Street