

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From: California Department of Veteran Affairs
1227 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: West Los Angeles Veterans Home Easement Project

Project Location – Specific: 11500 Nimitz Avenue

Project Location – City: Los Angeles

Project Location – County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

CalVet proposes to grant an easement to the West LA Veterans Collective, LLC. The easement would be located on an existing service road at West Los Angeles Veterans Home (WLA Home). The WLA Home is located adjacent to the Veteran Affairs (VA) Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, West Los Angeles Campus (WLA-VA). The Collective desires to use a portion of WLA Home property for pedestrian and bicycle ingress and egress to and from the WLA-VA property to facilitate access to the "Big Blue Bus" transit stop located off campus. The Project consists of partial re-purposing of an existing service road to incorporate and maintain a Class I bike path and pedestrian walking path at the Project Site. The Project is specifically located on the west portion of the WLA-VA starting at MacArthur Avenue, along the existing service road to the south, ending at Gorham Avenue. The project is about 1,000 linear feet where the existing service road will be reconfigured/shared between maintenance and emergency vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The service road is about 20-foot-wide and proposed improvements include a painted 2-way Class 1 bike path and a pedestrian path. Including buffer between pedestrian/bicycle grade, the bike and pedestrian paths would each be about 10 feet wide. The service road will not be widened. Approximately 12,000 square feet of replacement or augmented landscaping and 10 trees will be installed in existing planter areas as part of the Project. Existing irrigation will be maintained and repaired, as necessary. Wayfinding and access (e.g., bike dismount) signage will be added where appropriate. The easement will grant public access and enable Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program funds used for WLA-VA Buildings 156 & 157 future actions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Veteran Affairs

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Michael Butler, Assistant Branch Chief, DGS

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption 14CCR Section 15301(c) Existing Facilities, road alterations bicycle facilities

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The project qualifies for CEQA categorical exemption under 14CCR Sec.15301(c) where alterations and additions to existing road is allowed for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes. The project involves negligible expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination and the State confirms that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of an exemption for this project. The VA issued a Record of Decision on September 3, 2019, for a PEIS (84 FR 30311-June 26, 2019) in compliance with NEPA to identify, analyze, and document consequences associated with implementation of the West LA VA Campus Master Plan, including future actions to Buildings 156 & 157. The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), as CEQA lead agency to fund the development of two affordable multifamily rental housing developments for West LA VA Campus (e.g., Buildings 156 & 157), adopted the PEIS as a CEQA-compliant EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15221. The LACDA certified that the VA PEIS was prepared and adopted consistent with CEQA procedural and substantive requirements.

Contact Person: Russell Atterberry

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Signature:

Russell Atterberry

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Signed by Lead Agency