

# Los Angeles Unified School District

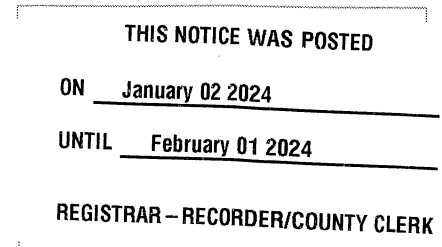
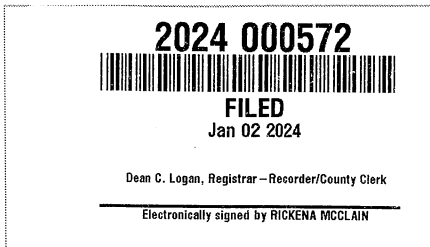
## Office of Environmental Health and Safety

ALBERTO M. CARVALHO  
Superintendent of Schools

CARLOS A. TORRES  
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

JENNIFER FLORES  
Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



To:  
County Clerk and Registrar-Recorder  
County of Los Angeles  
12400 Imperial Highway  
Norwalk, CA 90650

From:  
LAUSD OEHS  
333 S. Beaudry Avenue  
21st Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Project Title:**  
Evans Community Adult School – ADA Upgrades

**Project Location – Specific:**

The Evans Community Adult School ADA Upgrades Project (Project) will be located on the 2.92-acre Evans Community Adult School (Evans CAS) campus. The Evans CAS Campus (Campus) is located at 717 North Figueroa Street in the City of Los Angeles. It is bound by Interstate 110 to the North, Alpine Street to the Northeast, North Figueroa to the Southeast, and Sunset Street to the West and Southwest. The Campus is located in an urbanized community primarily consisting of commercial uses and multi-family residences.

**Project Location – City:**  
Los Angeles

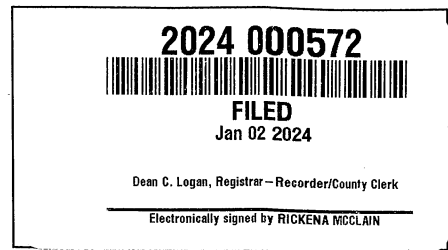
**Project Location – County:**  
Los Angeles

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The scope of the Project includes Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility upgrades to the first floor and the parking garage of the Classroom & Cafeteria Building, including path of travel upgrades, the removal of a walkway/bridge, and two restroom upgrades (Figure 1). The LAUSD Board of Education approved the Project's budget of \$588,853 on April 5, 2022.

The Project will be constructed per DSA-approved plans. The Project will be implemented per all applicable local and State regulations, as well as all District Standards and Specifications; such as those provided in LAUSD's Program Environmental Impact Report for the School Upgrade Program (Program EIR).<sup>1</sup> The primary purpose of the Project is to comply with current ADA access requirements. The Project would not cause an increase in student capacity or enrollment and would not result in an increase in the intensity of use. The beneficiaries of the Project include students and staff at Evans CAS and the community at large who may request access to the facilities and grounds of the Campus pursuant to the Civic Center Act (CA Ed. Code Sections 38130 - 38139).

<sup>1</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.



**Name of Public Agency Approving the Project:**

Los Angeles Unified School District

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Los Angeles Unified School District

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

- Ministerial [Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines Section 15268<sup>2</sup>]:
- Declared Emergency [PRC Section 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a)]:
- Emergency Project [PRC Section 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(b)(c)]:
- Categorical Exemption (PRC Section 21084; CEQA Guidelines Sections 15300 -15333):
  - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 – Existing Facilities*
  - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 – Accessory Structures*
- Statutory Exemption:

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

Section 15301 Existing Facilities

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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

The Project entails ADA accessibility upgrades, including path of travel modifications and restroom upgrades. The Project would involve minor alterations to an existing public structure and would occur within the area occupied by existing facilities at the Project site. The ADA Upgrades would not present a new or expanded use of the Project site. Therefore, the Project constitutes minor alterations to an existing school site that result in no expansion of use and meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Section 15311 Accessory Structures

Class 11 consists of construction or replacement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities, including, but not limited to, on premise signs and small parking lots.

The Project includes the construction or replacement of minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities, specifically the installation of ADA restroom upgrades and path of travel upgrades to the Classroom & Cafeteria Building. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15311.

Section 15300.2 – Exceptions

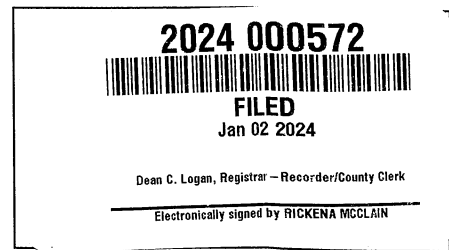
Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, Exceptions, provides conditions under which categorical exemptions are inapplicable. Review of the Project indicates that they would not violate any of the exceptions, as described below.

1. *The project would occur in certain specified sensitive environments or locations;*

The Project site is a fully developed Campus within an urbanized community.<sup>3</sup> The Project site is not designated as a biologically sensitive location. The nearest significant ecological area to the Project site is Griffith Park located approximately 4.35 miles northwest of Evans CAS and the nearest critical habitat is the Coastal California

<sup>2</sup> CEQA Guidelines can be found at California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 - Section 15387.

<sup>3</sup> City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, accessed November 2023.



gnatcatcher, located approximately 8.7 miles east of the Campus.<sup>4,5</sup> As such, the Project will not impact sensitive environments or locations.

2. *Cumulative impacts would be considerable because successive projects of the same type would occur at the same place over time;*

The Campus is an active school site and there will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor projects on the Campus to keep the school operational. As the Project would not result in any lasting impacts once construction of the Project is complete, the Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts when considered with expected successive projects.

3. *There is a reasonable possibility that the activity would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

There are no known unusual circumstances that would have a significant effect on the environment. The removal of trees is not anticipated as part of the proposed scope of work. However, should the Project be altered to include the removal of trees, LAUSD's Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) must be notified immediately. District policy requires consultation with an arborist to determine if the trees are a protected native species. All tree trimming and removal conducted on District property is required to adhere to the procedures described in the LAUSD OEHS Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, written approval from the school principal will be required before any trees can be removed. If tree removal is scheduled to occur between February 1 and August 31, a nesting bird survey would be performed prior to removal activities, per standard condition (SC) of approval SC-BIO-3 of the Program EIR.<sup>7</sup>

The Project may include minor ground-disturbing activities. These activities are not considered unusual circumstances under which an exemption is claimed. Nevertheless, consideration must be given to the management of pavement removal and excavated soils associated with earthwork activities for the Project. As the Project involves the removal of pavement, soil sampling and testing for characterization is required prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. If construction or earthmoving activities require import or export of soils and materials, OEHS must be notified to provide oversight to ensure that these activities are conducted in compliance with the requirements of District Specification 01 4524, relevant provisions of South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1466, and other applicable environmental agency rules and requirements.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-6, SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11 of the Program EIR, construction activities must be stopped immediately and OEHS notified upon discovery of subsurface features, such as buried resources (i.e., paleontological resources, archaeological resources), tanks or seepage pits, or stained/odoriferous soils.<sup>9</sup> Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1 of the Program EIR.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

4. *The project may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway;*

<sup>4</sup> United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html>, accessed November 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, [http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3\\_Public/Viewer.html](http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html), accessed November 2023.

<sup>6</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure," <https://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>

<sup>7</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <https://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>. Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

<sup>8</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", [http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file\\_id=219798234&show\\_all\\_versions\\_p=t](http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t)

<sup>9</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Environmental Impact Report," <https://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>. Adopted by the Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

The closest designated state scenic highway to Evans CAS is State Route 2 (SR2), which is located approximately 13.5 miles north of the Campus.<sup>11</sup> In addition, the Project would not result in the removal of historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or other scenic resources. Therefore, the Project would not result in damage to scenic resources or similar resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

5. *The project is located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; or*

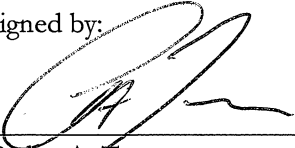
The Project site is not listed on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, the Project would have no impacts related to being located on a hazardous waste site.

6. *The project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

Evans CAS is a school site over 45 years old, meeting LAUSD’s threshold for review as a potential historic resource and requiring an evaluation for historic eligibility. LAUSD has identified Evans CAS as eligible for listing as a historic resource per Section 18955 of the California State Historical Building Code (CHBC).<sup>13</sup> The Auditorium Building on the Campus has been identified as eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources.<sup>14</sup> The scope of the Project is well outside the Campus’ area of historic eligibility and would not affect the historic eligibility of the Campus. Therefore, LAUSD’s Historic Preservation Specialist has determined that the Project will not be expected to materially impair the significance of the historic resource and therefore will not be expected to cause a substantial adverse historic impact.

Prepared By:  
  
Christy Wong  
CEQA Project Manager

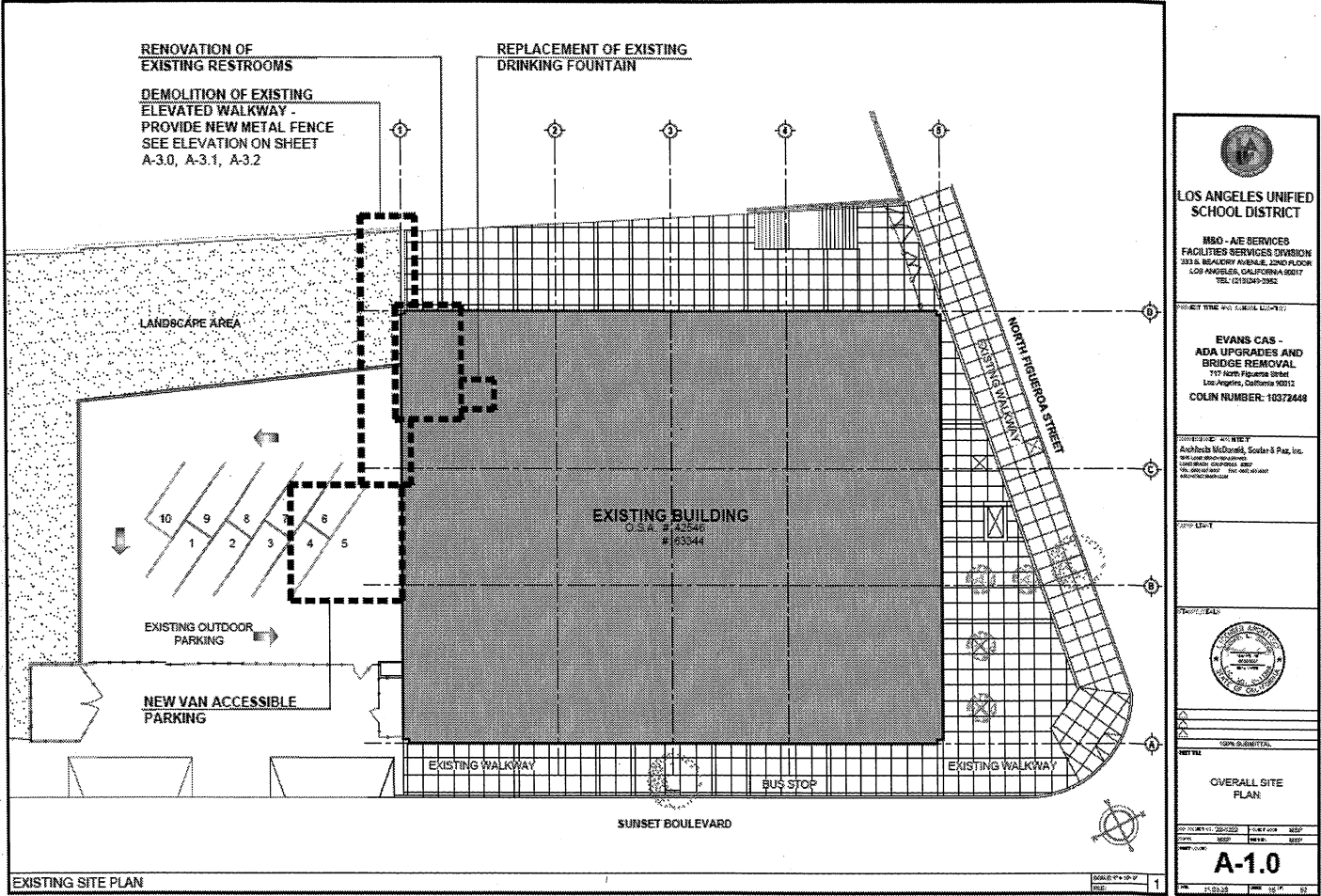
Phone and Email:  
  
(213) 241-3394  
cp-christy.wong@LAUSD.net


Signed by:  
  
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Carlos A. Torres,  
CEQA Officer of the Los Angeles Unified School District

Date:  
12/11/23  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>11</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, [http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3\\_Public/Viewer.html](http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html), accessed November 2023.  
<sup>12</sup> [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese\\_List.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm), accessed November 2023.  
<sup>13</sup> State of California. 2003. State Historical Building Code, Health and Safety Code, Division 13, Part 2.7, Section 18955. Available at: [http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/AboutUs/shbsb/shbsb\\_health\\_safety.aspx](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/AboutUs/shbsb/shbsb_health_safety.aspx). Also see California Building Standards Commission. 2014. California Code of Regulations, Title 24, California Historical Building Code, Section 8-101.2. Washington, DC. p. 4.  
<sup>14</sup> LAUSD OEHS. “LAUSD Historic Resources Database,” accessed November 2023.

Figure 1 – Site Plan



  
**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
 M&D - AE SERVICES  
 FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION  
 333 S. BEAUFORT AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR  
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017  
 TEL: (213) 240-3100


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**EVANS CAS - ADA UPGRADES AND BRIDGE REMOVAL**  
 717 North Figueroa Street  
 Los Angeles, California 90012  
 COLIN NUMBER: 18372448

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PROJECT NO: 22072022  
 SHEET NO: 001  
 DATE: 01/02/24  
 SCALE: AS SHOWN

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**OVERALL SITE PLAN**  
**A-1.0**