

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County of Los Angeles
County Clerk
Environmental Filings
12400 Imperial Highway, Room 2001
Norwalk, California 90650

From: County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
Planning & CEQA Section
1000 South Fremont Avenue Unit #40
A-9 West, Third Floor
Alhambra, California 91803

Project Title: Kenneth Hahn Park
Japanese Garden Renovation Project

Project Location - Specific: Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area
4100 S La Cienega Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90056

Project Location - City: The unincorporated community of Ladera Heights – View Park – Windsor Hills

Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Doris Japanese Garden (Garden) is located in Kenneth Hahn Park's northwest corner and is a popular attraction where visitors enjoy the serene garden with its koi pond and city views. Its popularity has recently increased with the opening of the adjacent Park to Playa Trail and Bridge.

However, the Garden has not had a significant renovation in over a decade and its features, amenities and landscaping have outlived their useful lives. The wooden elements, including the thematic entrance gateway and bridge, have considerable weathering and termite damage; the pond has recurrent leaks and algae growth due to poor water aeration and circulation; the restroom building needs cosmetic and accessibility upgrades; the irrigation system needs replacement to improve efficiency and reliability; and the landscaping needs replacement to improve aesthetics consistent with the Japanese garden theme.

The proposed project will refurbish the Garden structures including the entryway and bridge; refurbish the pond and shoreline; provide accessibility and cosmetic improvements to the existing restroom building; update the existing irrigation system; and update the landscaping and related amenities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Los Angeles County

Name of Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Los Angeles County

Exempt Status (check one):

Article 19. Categorical Exemptions

- Categorical Section 15301
Class 1 (a)(b)(d)(h)
- Categorical Section 15304
Class 4 (a)(b)
- County CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption

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- Class 1 (c)(d)(e)(j)
- County CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption
- Class 4 (a)(c)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project is consistent with State Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA. The project is consistent with Section 15301 Class 1 which provides for repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public facilities. This includes but is not limited to Class 1 (a) for interior or exterior alterations, 1(b) for existing publicly owned utilities, 1(d) for restoration and rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, and 1(h) for maintenance of existing landscaping.

The project is also consistent with Section 15304 Class 4 which provides for minor alteration to land. This includes but is not limited to Class 4 (a) for grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent, and 4(b) for new gardening and landscaping.

The project is consistent with the County CEQA Guidelines. The project is consistent with Class 1 which provides for repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public facilities. This includes but is not limited to Class 1 (c) for restoration and repair of buildings, structures, equipment, 1(d) for interior or exterior alterations, 1(e) for existing publicly owned utilities, and 1(j) for maintenance of existing landscaping.

The project is also consistent with Class 4 which provides for minor alterations to land. This includes but is not limited to Class 4 (a) for grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent and 4(c) for new gardening or landscaping.

The proposed use of Classes 1 & 4 Categorical Exemptions does not include activities that are excepted from the exemptions as defined in Section 15300.2 (a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Specifically, the specified activities do not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern designated, precisely mapped, or officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The County has considered the cumulative impact of the proposed activities and determined that the cumulative impact of the specified activities will not result in significant impacts on the environment that would constitute an exception to Classes 1 & 4 Categorical Exemptions as described in Section 15300.2 (b) of the CEQA Guidelines.

The County has considered the potential for significant impacts on the environment resulting from the specified activities and determined that there are no unusual circumstances that would result in significant effects on the environment constituting an exception to Classes 1 & 4 Categorical Exemptions as described in Section 15300.2 (c) of the CEQA Guidelines.

The specified activities will not result in damage to scenic resources, such as trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings or similar resources or involve work within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway that would constitute an exception to Classes 1 & 4 Categorical Exemptions as described in Section 15300.2 (d) of the CEQA Guidelines and Section 21084 (c) of the CEQA Statutes.

The specified activities do not involve work on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code relating to solid and hazardous wastes and do not constitute an exception to Classes 1 & 4 Categorical Exemptions as described in the Section 15300.2 (e) of the CEQA Guidelines and Section 21084 (d) of the CEQA statutes.

The specified activities would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as specified in section 21084.1 of the CEQA Statutes and do not constitute an exception to

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Classes 1 & 4 Categorical Exemptions as described in Section 15300.2 (f) of the CEQA Guidelines and Section 21084.1 of the CEQA Statutes.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jui Ing Chien **(Area Code) Telephone/Ext.** (626) 588-5317

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, Jui Ing Chien



Date

Park Planner

Title