

COUNTY CLERK'S USE

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
200 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 395
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

(PRC Section 21152; CEQA Guidelines Section 15062)

Pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21152(b) and CEQA Guidelines § 15062, the notice should be posted with the County Clerk by mailing the form and posting fee payment to the following address: Los Angeles County Clerk/Recorder, Environmental Notices, P.O. Box 1208, Norwalk, CA 90650. Pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21167 (d), the posting of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to reliance on an exemption for the project. Failure to file this notice as provided above, results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.

PARENT CASE NUMBER(S) / REQUESTED ENTITLEMENTS

DIR-2023-5133-TOC-SPP-HCA

LEAD CITY AGENCY

City of Los Angeles (Department of City Planning)

CASE NUMBER

ENV-2023-5134-CE

PROJECT TITLE

1820 North Berendo Street

COUNCIL DISTRICT

4 – Raman

PROJECT LOCATION (Street Address and Cross Streets and/or Attached Map) Map attached.

1820 North Berendo Street

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Additional page(s) attached.

The demolition of an existing single-family dwelling and detached accessory structure; and the construction, use, and maintenance of one (1) 7,224-square-foot residential building comprised of seven (7) residential units and one (1) ADU. The proposed project includes the grading of about 250 cubic yards of earth. No protected trees are present on the project site.

NAME OF APPLICANT / OWNER:

Yu Kon Kim, Commun Associates (Applicant / Owner)

CONTACT PERSON (If different from Applicant/Owner above)

Matt Kim, Commun Associates (Representative)

(AREA CODE) TELEPHONE NUMBER

(213) 271-4633

EXT.

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check all boxes, and include all exemptions, that apply and provide relevant citations.)

STATE CEQA STATUTE & GUIDELINES

STATUTORY EXEMPTION(S)

Public Resources Code Section(s) _____

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION(S) (State CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15301-15333 / Class 1-Class 33)

CEQA Guideline Section(s) / Class(es) Section 15332 (Class 32)

OTHER BASIS FOR EXEMPTION (E.g., CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) or (b)(4) or Section 15378(b))

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:

Additional page(s) attached

Class 32. In-fill development meeting the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines 15332: (a) The project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as with the applicable zoning designation and regulations. (b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than five acres substantially surrounded by urban uses. (c) The project site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species. (d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality. (e) The site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services.

None of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 to the categorical exemption(s) apply to the Project.

The project is identified in one or more of the list of activities in the City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines as cited in the justification.

IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT STATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND THE PROJECT TO BE EXEMPT.

If different from the applicant, the identity of the person undertaking the project.

CITY STAFF USE ONLY:

CITY STAFF NAME AND SIGNATURE

Yamillet Brizuela *Yamillet Brizuela*

STAFF TITLE

City Planning Associate

ENTITLEMENTS APPROVED

Transit-Oriented Communities, Project Permit Compliance

DISTRIBUTION: County Clerk, Agency Record

Rev. 6-22-2021

**DEPARTMENT OF
CITY PLANNING**

COMMISSION OFFICE
(213) 978-1300

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EXECUTIVE OFFICES

200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-4801
(213) 978-1271

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JUSTIFICATION FOR CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION CASE NO. ENV-2023-5134-CE

The Department of City Planning determined that the City of Los Angeles Guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 and the State CEQA Guidelines designate the subject Project as Categorical Exempt under Section 15332 (Class 32), Case No. ENV-2023-5134-CE, and there is no substantial evidence demonstrating that an exception to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 applies.

Project Description

The proposed project includes the demolition of an existing single-family dwelling and detached accessory structure; and the construction, use, and maintenance of one (1) 7,224-square-foot residential building comprised of seven (7) residential units and one (1) ADU within Subarea A (Neighborhood Conservation) of the Vermont/Western Station Neighborhood Area Plan (SNAP) Specific Plan. The residential building will measure up to 39 feet and six (6) inches in overall height. The project site will include 863 square feet of usable open space and four (4) short-term bicycle parking spaces. The proposed project includes seven (7) automobile spaces on-site; however, pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 2097, the applicant is proposing no minimum required automobile parking spaces. As the proposed project includes the construction of a residential building and the site is located within half a mile of a major transit stop, the project qualifies for the parking reduction under the provisions of AB 2097. The number of units and size is not unusual for the vicinity of the subject site and is similar in scope to other existing multi-family dwellings in the area. Thus, there are no unusual circumstances that may lead to a significant effect on the environment.

CEQA Section 15300.2: Exceptions to the Use of Categorical Exemptions

The City has considered whether the Proposed Project is subject any of the five (5) exceptions that would prohibit the use of a categorical exemption as set forth in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. There are five (5) Exceptions which must be considered in order to find a project exempt under CEQA: (a) Cumulative Impacts; (b) Significant Effect; (c) Scenic Highways; (d) Hazardous Waste Sites; and (e) Historical Resources.

(a) Cumulative Impacts. *All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.*

The project is located at 1820 North Berendo Street within the Hollywood Community Plan and Vermont/Western Station Neighborhood Area Plan (SNAP) Subarea A (Neighborhood

Conservation). There are currently 10 projects dating back to September 7, 2017, which are either currently filed with the Department of City Planning or have received a Letter of Determination from the Department of City Planning but have yet to receive a Certificate of Occupancy from the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS). As such, there are projects within a quarter-mile of the same type and in the same place as the subject project at the time of filing.

PROJECTS WITHIN A QUARTER-MILE FROM THE SUBJECT SITE			
Address	Case Number	Date Filed	Scope of Work
1754 North Berendo Street	DIR-2017-3555-SPP	09/7/2017	New 4-unit residential building
1731-1733 North Berendo Street	DIR-2018-243-SPP	01/16/2018	New 4-unit residential building
4826 West Franklin Avenue	DIR-2018-4805-TOC-SPP / ADM-2018-2553-TOC	08/17/2018	New 7-unit residential building
1825 North New Hampshire Avenue	DIR-2018-6866-TOC-SPP	11/26/2018	New 21-unit residential building
1844 #1-7 North Alexandria Avenue	DIR-2019-5826-SPP	10/01/2019	New 4-unit residential building
1642-1666 North Vermont Avenue, 4646-4650 West Prospect Avenue, and 4685-4697 West Hollywood Boulevard	DIR-2019-6738-SPPA-SPP-TOC-SPR-HCA	11/12/2019	New 139-unit mixed-use project
4607 West Melbourne Avenue	DIR-2019-7415-SPP	12/12/2019	Extensive remodel of existing single-family residence
1727 North Kenmore Avenue	DIR-2021-10791-SPP-HCA	12/23/2021	New 2-unit residential building
1718-1724 North Vermont Avenue	DIR-2022-597-SPP	01/27/2022	New commercial building

1839-1845 North Kenmore Avenue	DIR-2022-8813-SPP-HCA / ADM-2022-8814-SLD-HCA	12/05/2022	6 new single-family residences
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According to SCAQMD, individual construction projects that do not exceed the SCAQMD's recommended daily thresholds for project-specific impacts would not cause a cumulatively considerable increase in emissions for those pollutants for which the Air Basin is in non-attainment. Interim thresholds were developed by DCP staff based on CalEEMod model runs relying on reasonable assumptions, consulting with AQMD staff, and surveying published air quality studies for which criteria air pollutants did not exceed the established SCAQMD construction and operational thresholds. Construction-related daily emissions at the project site would not exceed SCAQMD's regional or localized significance thresholds. Therefore, the project's contribution to cumulative construction-related regional emissions would not be cumulatively considerable and therefore would be less than significant. Construction of the project also would have a less-than-significant impact with regard to localized emissions.

As noise is a localized phenomenon and decreases in magnitude as the distance from the source increases, only projects and ambient growth in the nearby area could combine with the proposed project to result in cumulatively considerable noise impacts. These above-noted projects will begin construction and end construction at different timelines, with minor overlap between projects. Thus, the construction of these known projects will be staggered and therefore do not have the potential to cumulatively contribute to air quality, construction traffic, and noise levels.

- (b) Significant Effect.** *A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

As mentioned, the proposed project includes the construction of a residential building comprised of seven (7) units and one (1) ADU. All surrounding lots are developed with single- and multi-family buildings. The project proposes a FAR of 1.81:1 which is within the maximum 3:1 FAR otherwise permitted by Subarea A of the SNAP. The proposed residential building will be two (2) stories over one (1) story podium parking that is currently developed with buildings that range in height from one (1)- to four (4)-stories. In conjunction with the TOC Affordable Housing Incentive Program, the proposed building will not be unusual for the vicinity of the subject site and will be similar in scope to future residential buildings in the area that use the TOC Affordable Housing Incentive Program in exchange for affordable housing. Thus, there are no unusual circumstances which may lead to a significant effect on the environment.

- (c) Scenic Highways.** *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which 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.*

As it relates to development along a Scenic Highway, the only State Scenic Highway within the City of Los Angeles is the Topanga Canyon State Scenic Highway, State Route 27, which travels through a portion of Topanga State Park. State Route 27 is located approximately 16 miles to the west of the subject property. Therefore, the subject site will not create any impacts within a designated state scenic highway.

- (d) Hazardous Waste.** *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.*

In regards to Hazardous Waste sites, according to Envirostor, the State of California's database of Hazardous Waste Sites, neither the subject site nor any site in the vicinity, is identified as a hazardous waste site. As such, the project would not be developed on a site identified as a hazardous site pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

- (e) Historic Resources.** *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

The project site has not been identified as a historic resource by local or state agencies, and the project site has not been determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, the Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments Register, and/or any local register; and was not found to be a potential historic resource based on the City's HistoricPlacesLA website or SurveyLA, the citywide survey of Los Angeles. The Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources confirmed that the existing single-family dwelling and detached garage are not considered historic resources for the purposes of CEQA per an email dated October 3, 2023.

CEQA Determination – Class 32 Categorical Exemption Applies

A project qualifies for a Class 32 Categorical Exemption if it is developed on an infill site and meets the conditions as follows: (a) The project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as with the applicable zoning designation and regulations; (b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than five acres substantially surrounded by urban uses; (c) The project site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species; (d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality; and (e) The site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services.

- (a) The project is consistent with applicable general plan designation, applicable policies, and applicable zoning designations.**

The subject site is located within the Hollywood Community Plan and the Vermont/Western Station Neighborhood Area Plan (SNAP) Specific Plan. The site is zoned RD1.5-1XL and has a General Plan Land Use Designation of Low Medium II Residential. As shown in the case file, the project is consistent with the applicable Hollywood Community Plan designation and policies and all applicable zoning designations and regulations in conjunction with the TOC Affordable Housing Incentive Program.

- (b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site no more than five acres substantially surrounded by urban uses.**

The subject site is wholly within the City of Los Angeles, on a site that is approximately 0.16 acres. The surrounding area is characterized by level topography, improved streets, and residential uses. Surrounding properties located to the north, west, and south are improved with single-family and multi-family uses and zoned RD1.5-1XL. The surrounding properties to the west are improved with single-family and multi-family uses and zoned R3-1. Additionally, all of the surrounding properties are located within Subarea A of the Vermont/Western SNAP Specific Plan.

(c) The project has no value as a habitat for endangered species, rare, or threatened species.

The site was previously disturbed and surrounded by development and therefore is not, and has no value as, a habitat for endangered, rare, or threatened species. Moreover, a Tree Disclosure Statement, signed with the Owner's Declaration and verified by Shelley Sparks, Certified Arborist #WE-10883A, dated January 13, 2023, concluded that there are no protected trees or shrubs on-site.

(d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality.

The project will be subject to Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs), which require compliance with the City of Los Angeles Noise Ordinance, pollutant discharge, dewatering, stormwater mitigations, and Best Management Practices for stormwater runoff. These RCMs will ensure the project will not have significant impacts on noise and water. Furthermore, the City of Los Angeles Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Calculator resulted in the proposed project having a net increase of 32 daily vehicle trips and a net increase of 225 daily VMT. Based on the VMT Calculator, the project is not required to perform VMT analysis under the VMT standards. Therefore, no foreseeable cumulative impacts are expected. Interim thresholds were developed by DCP staff based on CalEEMod model runs relying on reasonable assumptions, consulting with AQMD staff, and surveying published air quality studies for which criteria air pollutants did not exceed the established SCAQMD construction and operational thresholds. Therefore, the project would not result in any significant effects related to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality.

(e) The proposed project has been reviewed by City staff and can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services.

The project site will be adequately served by all public utilities and services given that the construction of a residential building will be on a site that has been previously developed and is consistent with the General Plan. Therefore, the project meets all of the Criteria for the Class 32. As the project has been found to be categorically exempt from CEQA, the project is not anticipated to have a negative effect on the environment and no mitigation measures are required.