

Los Angeles Unified School District

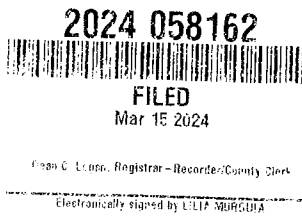
Office of Environmental Health and Safety

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



THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED
ON March 15 2024
UNTIL April 15 2024
REGISTRAR - RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

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:

McBride Special Education Center - CTC West / Grand View ES Campus Improvement Project

Project Location – Specific:

The McBride Special Education Center - CTC West / Grand View ES Campus Improvement Project (Project) will be located on the 12.26 acre site shared by Grand View Elementary School and McBride Special Education Center (Campus), located at 3960 Centinela Avenue in Los Angeles. It is bound by commercial uses to the north, Grand View Boulevard. to the east, Mitchell Avenue to the south, and Centinela Avenue to the west.

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

This Project will provide facilities improvements to support the relocation of the Career and Transition Center West (CTC West), currently located at Fairfax HS, to existing available space on the McBride SEC portion of the Campus. To accommodate the relocated CTC West program, the Project includes the construction of a new lunch shelter with approximately 3,000 square feet, renovation of classrooms and restrooms, and upgrades to site fencing/gates and storm/sewer infrastructure (see Figure 1).

The Project will also consolidate the Grand View ES uses on the Campus and create a boundary between McBride SEC/CTC West and Grand View ES. To support the consolidation of Grand View ES, the Project will upgrade existing classrooms to support relocated elementary grade classes; address uncertified/deteriorated relocatable buildings; remove two classrooms in relocatable buildings; install one new modular building with two classrooms, restrooms, and storage space to support students with extensive needs; and upgrade outdoor areas with green landscaping. The scope of work also upgrades portions of the Grand View ES north parking lot; provides chain-link fencing and gates between McBride SEC/ CTC West

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 21st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017 • Telephone (213) 241-3199 • Fax (213) 241-6816

Our Mission: To ensure a safe and healthy environment for students to learn, teachers to teach, and employees to work.

Our Vision: To eliminate all environmental health and safety risks at schools.

2024 058162



FILED
Mar 15 2024

Deen C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by LILIA MURGUIA

and Grand View ES; improves associated landscape, hardscape, and utilities; and ensures compliance with ADA, DSA, CEQA, DTSC, or other Local, State, and Federal requirements. The Project has an estimated budget of \$16,912,842.

The Project will be constructed per DSA-approved plan sets. 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 Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR) for the School Upgrade Program.¹ The primary purpose of the Project is to support the relocation of CTC West from Fairfax HS to McBride SEC and consolidate programs at Grand View ES. The Project will not cause an increase in student capacity or enrollment and will not result in an increase in the intensity of use of the campus. The beneficiaries of the Project include students and staff at Grand View ES and McBride CTC, and the community at large who may request access to the facilities and grounds of the campuses pursuant to the Civic Center Act (CA Ed. Code Sections 38130 - 38139).

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 15268²]:
- 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 15302 – Replacement or Reconstruction*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures*
- Statutory Exemption:

Reasons why project is exempt:

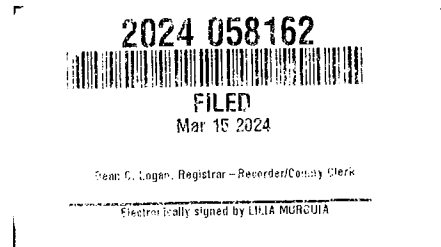
Section 15301 Existing Facilities

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 will result in the relocation of CTC West from Fairfax HS to the McBride SEC. The Project will result in the construction of a new lunch shelter, renovation of classrooms and restrooms, and fencing to separate the McBride CTC West campus from the Grandview ES campus. No new or expanded use of the Campus would occur. Therefore, the Project constitutes minor alterations to an existing school site that results in no expansion of use and meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

¹ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>. Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

² CEQA Guidelines can be found at California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 – Section 15387



Section 15302 - Replacement or Reconstruction

Class 2 consists of replacing or reconstructing 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.

As previously noted, this Project includes the construction of a new lunch shelter, renovation of classrooms and restrooms, and fencing to separate the McBride CTC West campus from the Grandview ES campus. The Project will not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing Campus. Therefore, the Project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

Section 15303 - New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

Class 3 consists of replacing or reconstructing 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.

As previously noted, this Project includes the construction of a new lunch shelter, renovation of classrooms and restrooms, and fencing to separate the McBride CTC West campus from the Grandview ES campus. The Project will not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing Campus. Therefore, the Project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

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 it would not violate any of the exceptions, as described below.

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

The Project site is a fully developed campus within an urbanized community.³ The Project site has not been designated as a biologically sensitive location. The nearest threatened or endangered species is the Snowy Plover located approximately 3.7 miles southwest of the Project site. The nearest sensitive environment to the Project site is the Ballona Wetlands, located approximately 1.3 miles southwest of the campus.^{4,5} As such, the Project will not impact sensitive environments or locations.

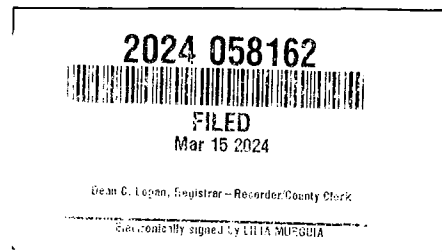
2. *Cumulative impacts would be considerable because successive projects of the same type would occur at the same place over time;*

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

³ City of Los Angeles Planning Department, *Zoning and Information Management System*, <http://zimas.lacity.org/>, accessed February 2024.

⁴ United States Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> accessed February 2024.

⁵ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed February 2024.



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 upgrades associated with the Project is comparable to other modernizations and improvements that are being completed throughout the District under the School Upgrade Program. 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. 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 Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects as adopted by the Board of Education in February 2019.⁶

The Project will include minor ground-disturbing activities. These activities are not considered unusual circumstances for the classes of projects under which an exemption is claimed. All Project related ground disturbing activities would comply with SC-AQ-1, SC-AQ-2, SC-AQ-3, and SC-AQ-4. As the Projects involve the removal of pavement, soil sampling and testing has or will be conducted and a determination memorandum will be created prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. Excavated soils will only be reused onsite if they are placed beneath paved areas. As it is anticipated that construction or earthmoving activities will require the import and 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.⁷ Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-6, SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11 of the 2023 SPEIR, 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.⁸ Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1 of the 2023 SPEIR.⁹ Therefore, the Project will 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;*

⁶ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," Adopted by the Board of Education on February 5, 2019.

⁷ LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t

⁸ LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report," <http://achieve.lausd.net/ceqa>, Adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

⁹ *Ibid.*



The closest designated state scenic highway is the State Route 27 (SR27), which is located approximately 9 miles north of the campus.¹⁰ Therefore, the proposed Project will 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 Campus is not located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.¹¹ Therefore, the Project will 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 historic resource.*

The Campus has been surveyed for consideration as a historical resource, and has been determined to be ineligible for listing and is therefore not considered a historical resource pursuant to CEQA.¹² Therefore, OEHS' Historical Preservation Specialist has determined that the Project does not have the potential to adversely impact historical resources.

Prepared By:

Julian Capata
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Signed by:

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Date:

3/6/24

¹⁰ http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/, accessed February 2023.

¹¹ http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm, accessed February 2023.

¹² LAUSD OEHS. 2023. LAUSD Historic Resources Database.

Figure 1 Project Site Plan

