

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

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Deputy Director, Environmental Health and Safety

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED
ON May 02 2024
UNTIL June 03 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:

Dorsey High School Natural Turf Football/Soccer Field, Track, Lighting and Bleacher Upgrade

Project Location – Specific:

Susan Miller Dorsey High School – 3537 Farndale Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90016

Project Location – City:

Los Angeles

Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project (Project) will upgrade the existing athletic field area of Susan Miller Dorsey High School (Dorsey HS or Campus). The Project will demolish and remove the existing decomposed granite track, natural grass football/soccer field, field event facilities, scoreboard, goal posts, trees, and irrigation systems. To replace these features, the Project will consist of construction of a new natural grass football/soccer field; synthetic track; practice long jump and shot put; decomposed granite track; irrigation and drainage; modular home restroom building; home bleachers (1,500-seat capacity); visitor bleachers (500-seat capacity); field lighting, press box and sound system; scoreboard, goalposts, fencing and gates; and associated landscape, hardscape, and infrastructure upgrades.

The Project will also include a new, approximately 20-foot-wide driveway on Obama Boulevard that will allow for emergency vehicle access to the site. The driveway area will also be provided with a new pedestrian walkway and gate. The Project's activity will affect approximately 200,000 square feet of the existing athletic field area (Exhibit A). The Board of Education approved the Project's budget of \$14,141,801 on August 22, 2023.

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.*

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Minor work will include improvements to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal requirements including those of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Division of State Architect (DSA), California Environmental Quality (CEQA), and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

The Project will be implemented pursuant to all applicable State, federal, and local regulations and all applicable Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) specifications, standards, and/or guidelines, including those in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the updated Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects (SC) as adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.¹ LAUSD's SCs, design guidelines, and best management practices are designed to be incorporated into the Project design in order to avoid or limit potential adverse impacts associated with the District's projects.

The beneficiaries of the Project include Dorsey HS students, faculty, staff, families, school supporters, and the community at large who may request access to the Campus pursuant to the Civic Center Act (CA Ed. Code Sections 38130 - 38139). The proposed athletic facilities upgrade will support the school's physical education program, competitive athletic programs and allow the school to host athletic events and other school community events. The upgraded athletic facilities, once completed, will provide modern high-performance athletic facilities that support physical educational programs, student athletic achievement, and competitive athletic programs. In 2022-23, the athletic program of Dorsey HS included 185 athletes.

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 Minor Alterations*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 – Accessory Structures*
 - *CEQA Guidelines Section 15314 – Minor Additions to Schools*
- Statutory Exemption:

Reasons why project is exempt:Section 15301 – Existing Facilities

¹ LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvement Projects (SCs)" https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/domain/135/ceqa/2023_Standard_Conditions_UPDATE_Final.pdf

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

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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 proposed Project will upgrade the existing athletic field area of Dorsey HS. The Project will demolish and remove the existing decomposed granite track, natural grass football/soccer field, field event facilities, scoreboard, goal posts, trees, and irrigation systems. To replace these features, the Project will consist of construction of a new natural grass football/soccer field, synthetic track, practice long jump and shot put, decomposed granite track, irrigation and drainage, modular home restroom building, home bleachers (1,500-seat capacity), visitor bleachers (500-seat capacity), field lighting, press box and sound system, scoreboard, goalposts, fencing and grates, accessibility upgrades as required and associated landscape, hardscape, and infrastructure upgrades. The Project will include a new, approximately 20-foot-wide driveway on Obama Boulevard that will allow for emergency vehicle access to the site. The driveway area will also be provided with a new pedestrian walkway and gate. The Project will not generate growth or require the addition or construction of new or expanded facilities. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

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.

The proposed Project will upgrade the existing athletic field area of Dorsey HS. The Project will demolish and remove the existing decomposed granite track, natural grass football/soccer field, field event facilities, scoreboard, goal posts, trees, and irrigation systems. To replace these features, the Project will consist of construction of a new natural grass football/soccer field, synthetic track, practice long jump and shot put, decomposed granite track, irrigation and drainage, modular home restroom building, home bleachers (1,500-seat capacity), visitor bleachers (500-seat capacity), field lighting, press box and sound system, scoreboard, goalposts, fencing and grates, accessibility upgrades as required and associated landscape, hardscape, and infrastructure upgrades. The Project will include a new, approximately 20-foot-wide driveway on Obama Boulevard that will allow for emergency vehicle access to the site. The driveway area will also be provided with a new pedestrian walkway and gate. The proposed Project will not result in an increase or alteration of the current use, function, or capacity of the existing Campus. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

Section 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made to the structure.

The Project will consist of construction of a new natural grass football/soccer field, synthetic track, practice long jump and shot put, decomposed granite track, irrigation and drainage, modular home restroom building, home bleachers (1,500-seat capacity), visitor bleachers (500-seat capacity), field lighting, press box and sound system, scoreboard, goalposts, fencing and grates, accessibility upgrades as required and associated landscape, hardscape, and infrastructure upgrades that qualify as small facilities or structures. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.

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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 will consist of construction of a new natural grass football/soccer field, synthetic track, practice long jump and shot put, decomposed granite track, irrigation and drainage, modular home restroom building, home bleachers (1,500-seat capacity), visitor bleachers (500-seat capacity), field lighting, press box and sound system, scoreboard, goalposts, fencing and grates, accessibility upgrades as required and associated landscape, hardscape, and infrastructure upgrades. These structures are minor accessories to the existing Campus. Therefore, the Project satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15311.

Section 15314 – Minor Additions to Schools

Class 14 consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, whichever is less. The addition of portable classrooms is included in this exemption.

The Project will consist of construction of a new natural grass football/soccer field, synthetic track, practice long jump and shot put, decomposed granite track, irrigation and drainage, modular home restroom building, home bleachers (1,500-seat capacity), visitor bleachers (500-seat capacity), field lighting, press box and sound system, scoreboard, goalposts, fencing and gates, accessibility upgrades (as required) and associated landscape, hardscape, and infrastructure upgrades. The Project will not include any new classrooms within existing school grounds nor will it increase original student capacity.

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 will not violate any of the exceptions, as described in the following section.

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

The Project site is a fully-developed Campus within a heavily urbanized area of Los Angeles surrounded by Rancho Cienega Recreation Center to the west, Metro E-Line station and railroad right-of-way and industrial uses to the north, and residences to the south and east. The site is not designated as a biologically sensitive location. The nearest significant ecological area (SEA) is the Griffith Park SEA located approximately 3.74 miles north of the Project site.³ The nearest sensitive environment to the Project site is the Braunton's milk-vetch habitat in Pacific Palisades located approximately 11 miles northwest of the Project site.^{4,5} As such, the Project will not impact sensitive environments or locations.

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

³ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed December 2023.

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

⁵ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed December 2023.

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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. There are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for the Campus. 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. Therefore, no cumulative impacts will result from the Project and successive projects of the same type and at the same place over time.

3. *There is a reasonable possibility that the activity will 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 proposed scope of work includes removal of trees. 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.⁶ 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 SC-BIO-3.

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. 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.⁷ Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-6, SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11, 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. Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1. 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, "Tree Trimming and Removal Procedure," <https://www.lausd.org/ceqa>

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

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The closest designated state scenic highway to the Project site is the Topanga Canyon State Scenic Highway, a 2.5-mile portion of State Route 2 (SR-2), which is located approximately 13.4 miles northwest of the Campus.⁸ The Project will not result in the removal of historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or other scenic resources. Therefore, the 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 Project site is not located on any sites that are included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.⁹ 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.*

Dorsey HS is listed on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Dorsey was determined eligible for the NRHP through consensus with the California State Office of Historic Preservation in 2004 (2S2) and as such, Dorsey HS is listed on the CRHR. The campus is significant for its Streamline Moderne/Modern architecture and as a pioneering example of a modern, experimental school plant.

The Project at Dorsey HS was reviewed by LAUSD's Historic Preservation Specialist and Coordinator to ensure compliance with applicable guidelines (the *Secretary's Standards* and *Los Angeles Unified School District Design Guidelines and Treatment Approaches for Historic Schools (LAUSD Design Guidelines)*). This review found that the Project components are limited to modifications to the athletic field area, which is not a contributing element to a historic district. The Historical Preservation Specialist and Coordinator has determined that the Project meets the requirements specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(3) and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

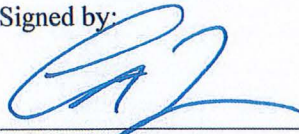
Prepared By:

Phone and Email:

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Signed by:



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

Date:

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⁸ Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, http://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html, accessed December 2023.

⁹ California Department of Toxic Substances, http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm, accessed December 2023.

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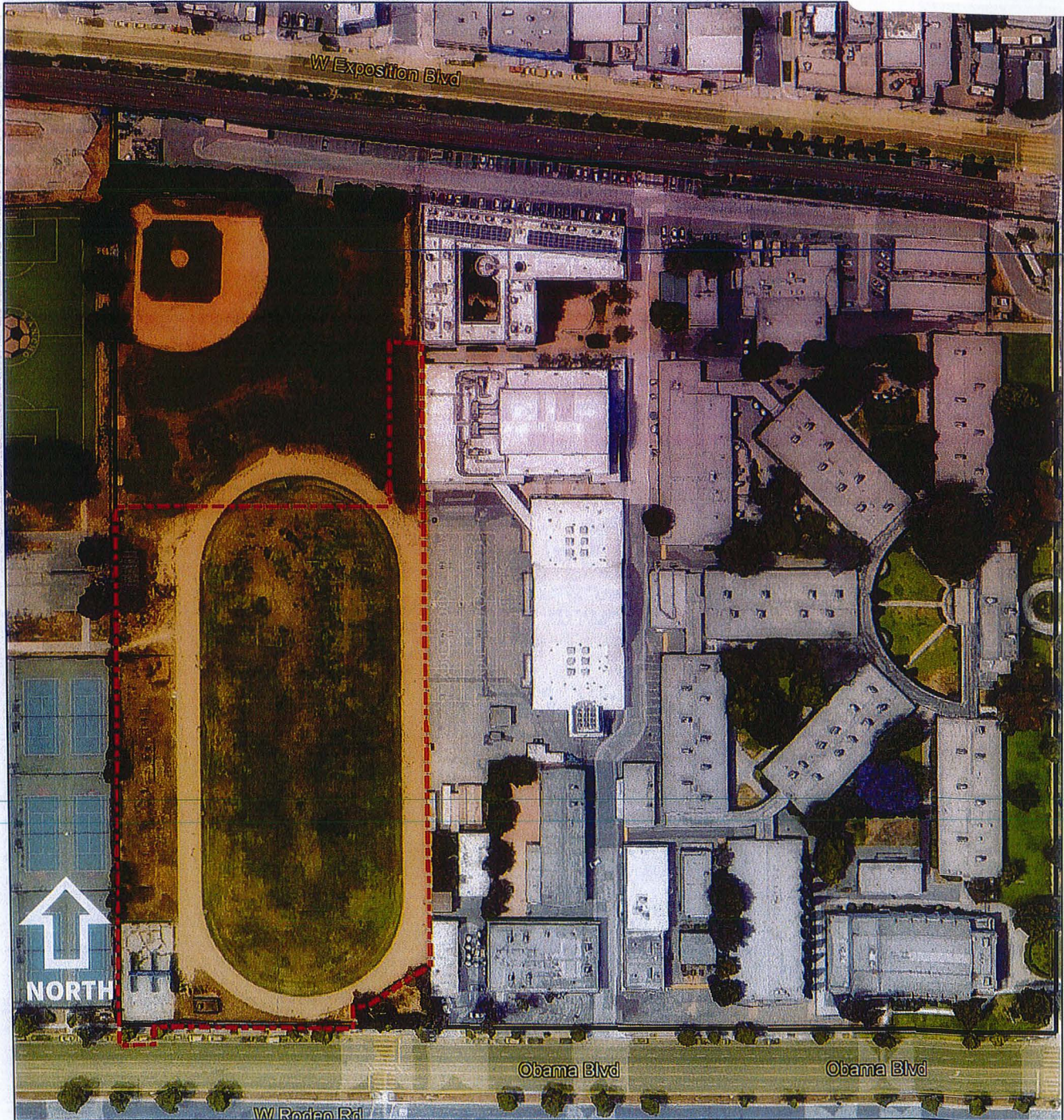
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EXHIBIT A – CAMPUS SITE PLAN (not to scale)

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 PROJECT SITE