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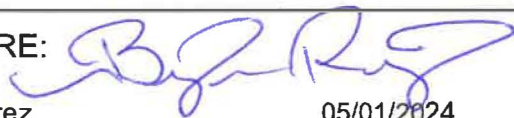
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES | URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION
 1149 S. BROADWAY, 4th FLOOR
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
(Articles II and III – City CEQA Guidelines)

2024 095791



FILED
May 03 2024

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by SAVANNAH RODRIGUEZ

Submission of this form is optional. The form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, California, 90650, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21167(d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval of the project.		
LEAD CITY AGENCY AND ADDRESS: City of Los Angeles c/o Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division, 1149 S. Broadway, 4th Floor, MS 550 Los Angeles, CA 90015		COUNCIL DISTRICT 10
PROJECT TITLE: 5035 Coliseum St 5060-5080 Obama Blvd. 90016 Street Tree Removal		LOG REFERENCE Tree Removal App No. 1-4524169161
PROJECT LOCATION: 5035 Coliseum Street/5060-5080 W.Obama Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90016. The Street Tree in the right of way along Obama Blvd. approximately 565 feet from the northeast corner at La Brea Ave. and Obama Blvd. in the Los Angeles West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Community Plan Area within Council District 10. See <i>Figure 1 – Project Location Map</i> . T.G. 673 - C1, C2		
DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT 5035 Coliseum Property, LLC, proposes the removal and replacement of one (1) Carrotwood (<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>) Street Tree per LAMC § 62.170 in the West Adams area of the City of Los Angeles. Please see the project description continuation in the narrative for more details. On March 29, 2024, The Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division determined the project was exempt and approved the project.		
NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: 5035 Coliseum Property, LLC		
CONTACT PERSON: Lisa Trifiletti		TELEPHONE NUMBER: 213-924-7666
EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)	CITY CEQA <u>GUIDELINES</u>	STATE CEQA <u>GUIDELINES</u>
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION* Art. III, Section 1, Class 1 (3)		Section 15301, Class 1(c),
* See Public Resources Code Sec. 21080 and set forth state and city guidelines provisions.		
JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION: The proposed Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15301, Class 1 (c), <i>Existing Facilities</i> . Additionally, this Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the <i>Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines</i> Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3), <i>Existing Facilities</i> . The Project involves the removal and 2:1 replacement of a Carrotwood (<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>) Street Tree at 5035 W. Coliseum Street/5060-5080 Obama Blvd. in the West Adams area of the West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Community Plan area of Los Angeles. <i>None of the limitations set forth in State CEQA Guidelines 15300.2 apply (see attached narrative).</i>		
IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT OF EXEMPTION FINDING		
SIGNATURE:  Bryan Ramirez		TITLE: Street Tree Superintendent-1 Urban Forestry Division
05/01/2024		
FEE: \$75.00	RECEIPT NO.	REC'D BY

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION, CONTINUED

5035 Coliseum Property LLC., proposes to remove and replace one Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*), a Street Tree, under LAMC 62.170 with two 24-inch box size trees as approved by the Urban Forestry Division. The Street Tree is located within the right of way, at 5060-5080 W. Obama Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, approximately 565 feet east of the northeast intersection of La Brea Avenue and Obama Blvd., in West Adams, an area within the West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Community Planning Area of the City of Los Angeles, within Council District 10.

The Street Tree is a biologically healthy, mature Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) with a trunk diameter of 13.6 inches (measured at 4.5 feet above natural grade), a height of 22 feet, and a canopy spread of 18 feet (N), 15 feet (E), 21 feet (S), and 16 feet (W). Its structural condition is diminished by tears in the trunk wood and multiple branches arising from one location of the trunk (Carlberg, 2023).

The Project site is generally bound by La Brea Ave. to the west, Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to the east, Coliseum Street to the south, and Obama Blvd. to the north as shown on *Figure 1 - Project Location*. The surrounding properties are as follows: to the east there are R3-1 zoned properties, with a land use designation of Medium Residential; to the south and west, there are C2-2D-CPIO zoned properties with a Community Commercial land use designation; and to the north there is a CM-2D-CPIO zoned property with a Hybrid Industrial land use designation. The Project location is outside of the Alquist Priolo Fault Zone, but approximately .94 km east of the Newport-Inglewood Fault line, as mapped on the City of Los Angeles' Navigate LA database.

The purpose of the Proposed project includes removal of one (1) mature Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) Street Tree under *Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC)*'s § 62.170. There will be two replacement trees planted on Obama Boulevard.

II. PROJECT HISTORY

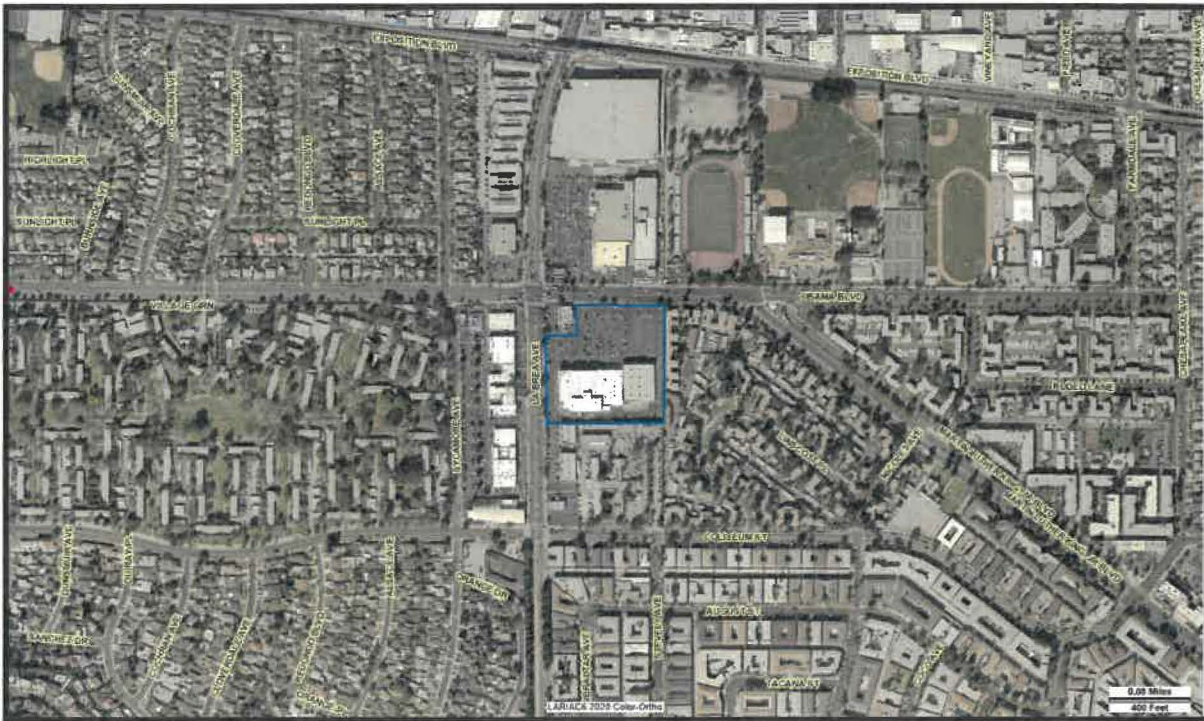
The mature Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) Street Tree must be removed for a new driveway approach as part of a mixed use housing development located at 5035 Coliseum Street. The subject property is developed with a commercial strip mall.



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FIGURE 1 - PROJECT LOCATION MAP



Source: ZIMAS

The owner of the property submitted an Application for a Tree Removal Permit to the City of Los Angeles Urban Forestry Division on October 24, 2023 to remove one (1) Street Tree (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) from the right of way in front of 5060-5080 Obama Blvd., in order to do street improvements for a mixed-use housing development at Coliseum Street.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A. Basis for Categorical Exemption

The proposed Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Article 19, 15301, Class 1(c), *Existing Facilities*, consists of the minor alteration of existing public topographical features, including existing Street Trees, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Additionally, this Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the *Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines* Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (3), *Existing Facilities*, consists of the minor alteration of existing private topographical features, including existing Street Trees, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

Consideration of Potential Exceptions to use of a Categorical Exemption

The State CEQA Guidelines (CCR Sec 15300.2) limit the use of categorical exemptions in the following circumstances:

1. **Location.** Exemption Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may be significant in a particularly sensitive environment. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply to all instances except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

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The Project is located within the West Adams Community Planning area of the City of Los Angeles, within the public right of way on the south side of Obama Blvd., that has been previously developed. It includes the removal of one (1) mature Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) Street tree, so no impact to sensitive environments is expected, and is exempt under Class 1. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

2. Cumulative Impact. This exception applies when, although a particular project may not have a significant impact, the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

There are no other tree removal projects that may also be in construction in the Project vicinity. Therefore, this Project is not expected to result in a cumulative impact when combined with successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

3. Significant Effect. This exception applies when, although the project may otherwise be exempt, there is a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

Biological Resources.

The Project proposes to remove a mature Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) Street tree within the public right of way on the south side of the street, located approximately 565-feet from the northeast corner of La Brea Avenue and Obama Blvd within the developed, urbanized area of West Adams. The Street Tree has a trunk diameter of 13.6 inches (measured at 4.5 feet above natural grade), a height of 22 feet, and a canopy spread of 18 feet (N), 15 feet (E), 21 feet (S), and 16 feet (W) that is located approximately 565-feet from the northeast corner of La Brea Avenue and Obama Blvd. No unusual significant biological resources effects are anticipated.

Nesting Birds - Nesting bird surveys are required for any construction that takes place between January 1 and September 30. The buffer distances recommended by CDFW (500 feet for raptors and 300 feet for all other species) extend far beyond the property limits in many cases, so nest detection and avoidance may be difficult or impossible on adjacent private properties.

The project does not conflict with the City of Los Angeles' Street Tree Removal Permit and Tree Replacement Condition Policies (Board of Public Works 2015), the City of Los Angeles' Protected Tree Ordinance (LAMC § 46.00 et seq.), nor any provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans.

However, the following Best Management Practices related to bird nesting shall be applied to the Project:

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A nesting bird survey is required to be conducted during the nesting bird season (August through February) and prior to any disturbance within the study area to document the presence or absence of nesting birds to ensure that no temporary impacts would occur to nesting birds. Nesting bird surveys shall be conducted within 7 days of construction, and any nests discovered must be avoided during construction.

The Project is not anticipated to result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a biological resource. No reasonable possibility has been identified that the Project will have a significant effect on biological resources due to unusual circumstances. Therefore, no substantial adverse impact to biological resources is anticipated, and as such this exception does not apply.

Cultural Resources.

The Project proposes to remove a mature Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) Street tree within the public right of way on the south side of the street, located approximately 565-feet from the northeast corner of La Brea Avenue and Obama Blvd., within the developed, urbanized area of West Adams. No unusual significant cultural resources effects are anticipated.

However, the owner shall comply with the following Best Management Practices (BMPs):

In the event that unanticipated historical artifacts were encountered, City Engineer Standard Specifications, Section 6-6.2, (Green Book, 2021) states:

- BMP-CUL-1** "If discovery is made of items of archaeological or paleontological interest, the Contractor shall immediately cease excavation in the area of discovery and shall not continue until ordered by the Engineer."
- BMP-CUL-2** Therefore, during activities in which there will be ground disturbances (i.e., digging, drilling, etc.) if any evidence of archaeological, cultural, or paleontological resources are found, all work within the vicinity of the find shall stop until a qualified archaeologist can assess the finds and make recommendations.
- BMP-CUL-3** No excavation of any finds should be attempted by project personnel unless directed by a qualified archaeologist. Construction activities may continue in other areas. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA (Section 15064.5f; Public Resources Code or PRC 21082), additional work such as testing, or data recovery may be warranted.
- BMP-CUL-4** The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbances; State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Los Angeles County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98.
- BMP-CUL-5** The Los Angeles County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

The Project is not anticipated to result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. No reasonable possibility has been identified that the Project will have a significant effect on cultural resources due to unusual circumstances. Therefore, no substantial adverse impact to cultural resources is anticipated, and as such this exception does not apply.

4. Scenic Highway. 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.

The location of the tree removal was referenced against the database of scenic highways at (<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>) and no scenic highway is located within the vicinity of the Project or within the Project site.

Since the proposed Project is not within a state designated scenic highway or within sight of any state designated scenic highway, this exception has no application.

5. Hazardous Waste Site. This exception applies when a project is located on a site listed as a hazardous waste site under Government Code Section 65962.5.

As of March 21, 2024, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) has not listed the Project site as contaminated; However, west, across La Brea Ave., there is an open evaluation at the Baldwin Hills Shopping Center (19150003) located at 3601-3725 S. La Brea and 5110 Obama Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90016. A SB1248 Notification for the assessment/remedial action was issued to the County of Los Angeles as of 06/26/2000.



As of March 21, 2024, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) has not listed the Project site as contaminated. However, there is a listed contaminated site within 1,000 feet northwest of the Project site. The former Shell Station at 3553 S. La Brea Ave. is an active LUST Cleanup site (RB Case# 900160334) that is open and in remediation.

The Project is limited to the removal of one (1) mature Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) Street Tree, and replace with two (2) similar species trees within the right of way on the south side of the street, located approximately 565-feet from the northeast corner of La Brea Avenue and Obama Blvd within the developed, urbanized area of West Adams. Therefore, the Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.

The Project is not anticipated to result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a hazardous waste site. No reasonable possibility has been identified that the Project will have a significant hazardous effect on the public or the environment due to unusual circumstances. Therefore, no substantial adverse impact as a result of a hazardous waste site is anticipated. Furthermore, the Project site is not listed as a hazardous waste site under Government Code Sections 65962.5. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

6. Historical Resources. This exception applies when a project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The Project proposes to remove one (1) mature Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) Street Tree with a trunk diameter of approximately 13.6 inches (measured at 4.5 feet above natural grade), a height of 22 feet, approximately 565 feet east of the northeast intersection of La Brea Avenue and Obama Blvd. The Project will occur within an urbanized area previously disturbed by grading. There are no known historical or cultural resources on or near the site. However, if anything were to be found, the owner shall comply with the following Best Management Practices (BMPs):

BMP-HCR-1 In the event that unanticipated historical artifacts were encountered, City Engineer Standard Specifications, Section 6-6.2, (Green Book, 2021) states:

"If discovery is made of items of archaeological or paleontological interest, the Contractor shall immediately cease excavation in the area of discovery and shall not continue until ordered by the Engineer."

BMP-HCR-2 Therefore, during activities in which there will be ground disturbances (i.e., excavation, digging, drilling, etc.) if any evidence of archaeological, cultural, or paleontological resources are found, all work within the vicinity of the find shall stop until a qualified archaeologist can assess the finds and make recommendations.

BMP-HCR-3 No excavation of any finds should be attempted by project personnel unless directed by a qualified archaeologist. Construction activities may continue in other areas. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA (Section 15064.5f; Public Resources Code or PRC 21082), additional work such as testing, or data recovery may be warranted.

BMP-HCR-4 The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbances; State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Los Angeles County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98.

BMP-HCR-5 The Los Angeles County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendent (MLD).

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BMP-HCR-5 The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

The Project is not anticipated to result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. No reasonable possibility has been identified that the Project will have a significant effect on historical resources due to unusual circumstances. Therefore, no substantial adverse impact to historical resources is anticipated, and as such this exception does not apply.

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Dear C. Logan, Registrar - Records/County Clerk

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V. REFERENCES

California Regional Water Quality Control Board. *Geotracker*. Retrieved March 21, 2024, from <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>.

City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning Parcel Profile Report. West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Community Plan, Retrieved on March 21, 2024, from ZIMAS <http://ZIMAS.lacity.org>

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering. *NavigateLA*. Retrieved on March 21, 2024, from <http://boemaps.eng.ci.la.ca.us/navigate/la/>.

City of Los Angeles Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5.

Carlberg, Cy. Tree Report Memo. October 27, 2023.

Los Angeles Municipal Code.

Public Resources Code Section 21082.

Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.

Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction. Greenbook, 2012 edition.

State Department of Toxic Substances Control. *Envirostor*. Retrieved March 21, 2024, from www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov.

State Department of Transportation. *California Scenic Highway Mapping System*. Retrieved on March 21, 2024, from <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap/landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways/>.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

1. City of Los Angeles, LA Street Bureau, Urban Forestry Division Application For A Tree Removal

2. Tree Report

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