

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: Baldwin Hills Wayfinding and Trail Improvement Project

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

Stoneview Nature Center
5950 Stoneview Dr, Culver City, CA 90232

Stocker Corridor Trail

Park to Playa Trail

Project Location - City: The unincorporated community of Ladera Heights/View Park – Windsor Hills and cities of Los Angeles and Culver City.

Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Baldwin Hills Parklands consist of 480 acres of public parks and open spaces that offer a variety of recreational amenities, which includes an extensive network of recreational trails for hiking and mountain biking. The parklands are owned and operated by multiple public agencies, including the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR). However, the Baldwin Hills Wayfinding and Trail Improvement Project (Project) will focus on improvements for DPR trails located within the Baldwin Hills at Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Area, 4100 La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles; Stoneview Nature Center, 5950 Stoneview Drive, Culver City; the Stocker Corridor Trail; and the Park to Playa Trail.

According to the 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment, the Project location serves a population with high park need. The area has only 0.7 park acres available for every 1,000 residents, which is significantly less available green space than the County average of 3.3 park acres. There is also a significant demand for trails in the Baldwin Hills, which is evident by the popularity of these regional trails that attract both local community members and many visitors from surrounding areas where parks, trails and open space are not readily accessible. Trail use in the Baldwin Hills is at an all-time high due in part to a surge related to the COVID19 pandemic, and from the completion of the final connection for the Park to Playa trail - the pedestrian bridge over La Cienega Boulevard completed in Fall 2020. The proposed Project is needed to improve public safety and protect the ecosystem by enhancing trails and installing comprehensive trail wayfinding signage.

The proposed Project scope will include design and installation of new directional signs and maps to replace existing outdated/insufficient signage; installation of trail counter tracking technology at key locations; trail stabilization improvements and repairs; mitigation of user-created trails via installation of fencing, signage and/or planting of vegetative barriers; and the formalization of select, existing user-created trails.

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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 (d)(h)(i)
- Categorical Section 15303
Class 3 (e)
- Categorical Section 15304
Class 4 (a)(b)
- Categorical Section 15311
Class 11(a)

- County CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption
Class 1 (c)(j)
- County CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption
Class 3 (b)
- County CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption
Class 4 (a)(c)
- County CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption
Class 11 (d)

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(d) for restoration and rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety; 1(h) for maintenance of existing landscaping and 1(i) for maintenance of wildlife habitat areas to protect wildlife resources.

The project is also consistent with Section 15303 Class 3 which provides for construction or conversion of small facilities or structures. This includes but is not limited to Class 3(e) for accessory structures.

The project is 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 or landscaping.

The project is consistent with Section 15311 Class 11, which provides for construction of accessory structures. This includes but is not limited to Class 11 (a) for construction of on-premise signs.

The project is also 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; and 1(j) for maintenance of existing landscaping and native growth.

The project is consistent with Class 3 which provides for construction or conversion of small facilities or structures. This includes but is not limited to Class 3(b) for accessory structures.

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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 project is consistent with Class 11 which provides for construction of accessory structures. This includes, but is not limited to Class 11 (d) for erection of informational or directional on-premise signs.

The proposed use of Classes 1, 3, 4 & 11 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, 3, 4 & 11 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, 3, 4 & 11 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, 3, 4 & 11 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, 3, 4 & 11 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 Classes 1, 3, 4 & 11 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

5/14/24

Date

Park Planner

Title