

# 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 <u>June 06 2024</u>
UNTIL <u>July 08 2024</u>
REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

2024 122134

FILED
Jun 06 2024
Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk
Electronically signed by ISAURA CORREA

**To:** County Clerk and Registrar-Recorder  
County of Los Angeles  
12400 Imperial Highway  
Norwalk, CA 90650

**From:** LAUSD OEHS  
333 S. Beaudry Avenue  
21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

---

#### Project Title:

ELOP (Expanded Learning Opportunities Program) Greening Project at Nine Los Angeles Unified Campuses

---

#### Project Location – Specific:

1. 66th Elementary School, 6600 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90003
2. 75th Elementary School, 142 W. 75th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90003
3. Ford Elementary School, 1112 S. Ford Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90022
4. Hobart Elementary School, 980 S. Hobart Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90006
5. Hughes Elementary School, 4242 Clara Street, Cudahy, CA 90201
6. Lorena Elementary School, 1015 S. Lorena Street, Los Angeles, CA 90023
7. Los Angeles Elementary School, 1211 S. Hobart Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90006
8. Manhattan Place Elementary School, 1850 W. 96th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90047
9. Norwood Elementary School, 2020 Oak Street, Los Angeles, CA 90007

---

#### Project Location – City:

Various

---

#### Project Location – County:

Los Angeles

---

#### Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) provides funding for afterschool enrichment programs for K-6th grades. The District has allocated \$40 million in funding in Fiscal Year 2024 from this program to spend on trees and greening projects. The Project scope consists of the design and construction of outdoor learning spaces including installation of trees, plants, natural turf, and decomposed granite. The Project will be individually designed on each Campus, but will include a mix of the following components:

---

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 21<sup>st</sup> 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 122134



FILED  
Jun 06 2024

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by ISaura CORREA

- New trees and landscape in existing tree wells/planting areas/grass field (existing irrigation)
- New trees and landscape in existing tree wells/planting areas with new irrigation
- New grass field surrounded by trees with irrigation
- New planting area with trees and irrigation surrounding existing asphalt
- New planting area with trees and irrigation surrounding new decomposed granite

The table below describes the components of the Project proposed for each Campus:

School	Planting (Shrubs)	Trees	Turf	Decomposed Granite	Asphalt Removal
66th ES	X	X	X	X	X
75th ES	X	X	X	X	X
Ford Boulevard ES	X	X	X	X	X
Hobart ES	X	X	X	X	X
Hughes ES	X	X	--	X	X
Lorena ES	X	X	X	X	X
Los Angeles ES	X	X	X	X	X
Manhattan Place ES	X	X	--	X	X
Norwood ES	X	X	X	X	X

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 Los Angeles Unified's (LA Unified) Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report for the School Upgrade Program (Subsequent PEIR).<sup>1</sup> The primary purpose of the Projects is to provide outdoor learning experiences, as well as provide upgrades to school building/site systems that have reached or exceeded their service life. The Projects will not cause an increase in student capacity or enrollment and would not result in an increase in the intensity of use. The beneficiaries of the Project include students and staff at each of the respective schools 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:**

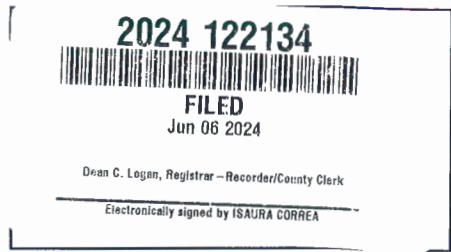
Los Angeles Unified School District

**Exempt Status: (check one below)**

- Ministerial [Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines Section 15268<sup>2</sup>]:
- Declared Emergency [PRC Section 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a)]:

<sup>1</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "School Upgrade Program Final Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR)," <https://www.lausd.org/ceqa>, adopted by the Board of Education on December 12, 2023.

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



- 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 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land
- 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.

Construction of the Project will result in the planting of new trees and shrubs on improved ground surface areas of existing Campuses. As such, the Project would constitute operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public facilities involving no expansion of the facilities' use.

All proposed Project components would involve minor alterations to existing campuses and will occur within the area occupied by existing facilities at each Campus. The Project components will not present a new or expanded use of the Campuses. Therefore, the Project constitutes minor alterations to existing school sites that result in no expansion of use and meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land

Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.

The Project will involve minor alterations to land including the planting of new trees and shrubs on improved ground surface areas of existing Campuses. As such, removal of trees will not be required as a part of the Project. The Project will include the installation of new vegetation, irrigation, and decomposed granite as part of the ELOP Projects. Therefore, the Project fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15304.

Section 15300.2 – Exceptions

Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, Exceptions, provides conditions under which categorical exemptions are inapplicable. Review of these Projects indicates that they would not violate any of the exceptions, as described below.

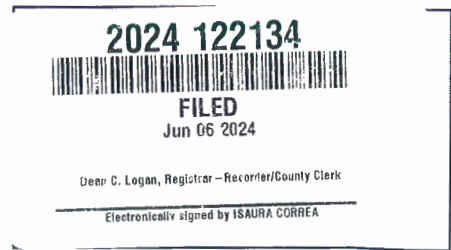
1. *The projects would occur in certain specified sensitive environments or locations;*

The Project site is located within fully developed Campuses within urbanized communities.<sup>3</sup> None of the Campuses have been designated as biologically sensitive locations. The nearest threatened or endangered species is the Coastal California Gnatcatcher located approximately four miles east

---

<sup>3</sup> Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), 2019 Annual Land Use (ALU v.2019.2), <https://arcgis.com/arcgis/1SqnKm>, accessed April 2024.





of Ford Boulevard Elementary School. The nearest sensitive environment to the Project site is the Griffith Park Significant Ecological Area located approximately 4.1 miles north of Hobart Elementary School.<sup>4,5</sup> 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 Campuses are active school sites and there will likely be ongoing maintenance activities and minor Project to keep them operational. There are currently no known successive projects of the same type or scale planned for any one of the Campuses. 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 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 are 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, LA Unified'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.<sup>6</sup>

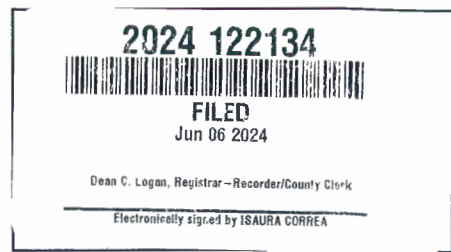
The Project will include minor ground-disturbing activities. These activities are not considered unusual circumstances for the classes of projects under which an exemption is claimed. All Project related ground disturbing activities would comply with SC-AQ-1, SC-AQ-2, SC-AQ-3, and SC-AQ-4. As the Project involves the removal of pavement, soil sampling and testing has or will be conducted and a determination memorandum will be created for all Campuses prior to demolition and removal of the paving materials. Excavated soils will only be reused onsite if they are placed beneath paved areas. 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

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

<sup>5</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, [https://rpgis.isd.lacounty.gov/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=GISNET\\_Public.GIS-NET\\_Public](https://rpgis.isd.lacounty.gov/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=GISNET_Public.GIS-NET_Public), accessed April 2024.

<sup>6</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "Standard Conditions of Approval for District Construction, Upgrade, and Improvements Projects," available at [https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/domain/135/ceqa/2023\\_Standard\\_Conditions\\_UPDATE\\_Final.pdf](https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/domain/135/ceqa/2023_Standard_Conditions_UPDATE_Final.pdf).





rules and requirements.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, as set forth in SC-CUL-7, SC-CUL-9, SC-CUL-10, and SC-CUL-11 and in District protocols, 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.<sup>8</sup> Lastly, any construction and demolition waste shall be recycled to the maximum extent feasible per SC-USS-1.<sup>9</sup> 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;*

The closest designated state scenic highway is the Angeles Crest Scenic Byway, which is located approximately 13.9 miles north of Lorena Elementary.<sup>10</sup> 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*

None of the Project sites are located on sites that are included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.<sup>11</sup> 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.*

Four of the nine Campuses (66th Street Elementary School, Hobart Elementary School, Lorena Elementary School, and Norwood Elementary School) have been determined to be eligible to be listed on the California Register of Historical Resources. 66th Street Elementary School is also eligible to be listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. The Project entails landscaping and irrigation in areas on the grounds of existing campuses and do not affect any existing structures. The proposed modifications are limited to spaces that are not considered character-defining and will comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation due to their compatibility and reversibility. The Project was reviewed by LA Unified's Historic Preservation Specialist and Coordinator to ensure compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Secretary's Standards) and LA Unified's Design Guidelines and Treatment Approaches for Historic Schools (Guidelines). The Historical Preservation Specialist and Coordinator has determined that the Project complies with the Secretary's Standards and LA Unified's Guidelines, 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. Therefore, the Project will not have the potential to adversely impact historical resources.

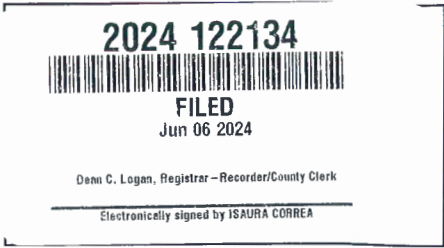
---

<sup>7</sup> LAUSD OEHS, "Section 01 4524 Environmental Import/Export Materials Testing", [http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file\\_id=219798234&show\\_all\\_versions\\_p=t](http://www.laschools.org/documents/file?file_id=219798234&show_all_versions_p=t)

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, [https://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3\\_Public/Viewer.html](https://gis.planning.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html). Accessed January 2024.

<sup>11</sup> California Department of Toxic Substances Control. DTSC Databases. Available at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/dtscs-cortese-list/> Accessed January 2024.



Prepared By:

Bryan Ramos Fernandez, AICP  
CEQA Project Manager/Contract Professional

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CA Torres', written over a horizontal line.

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

Phone and Email:

(213) 241-4210  
cp-bryan.fernandez@LAUSD.net

Date:

A handwritten date '5/28/24' in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Attachment: Exhibit A – Site Plans

2024 122134

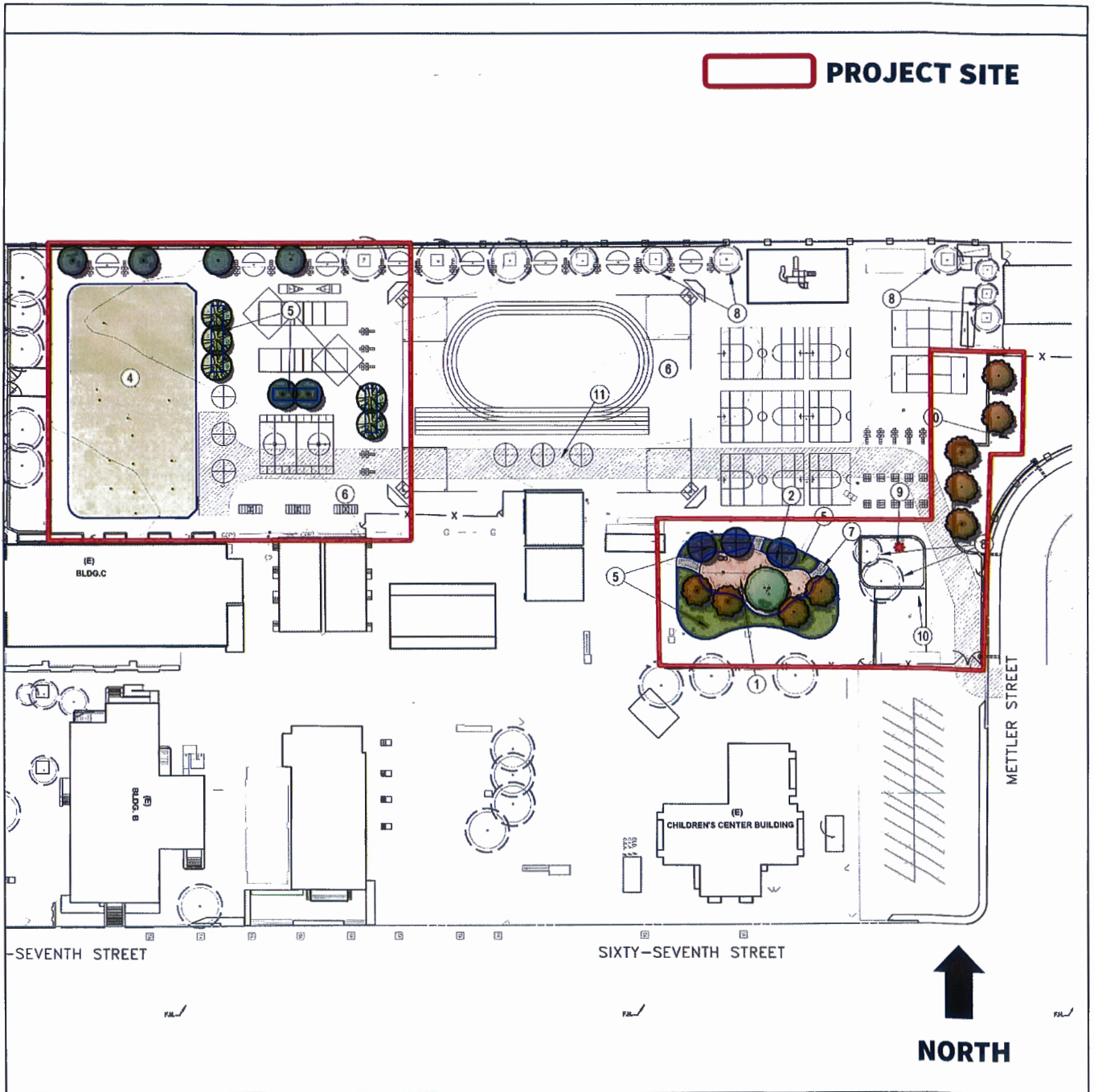


FILED  
Jun 06 2024

Dear C. Legm, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by ISAUARA CORREA

### EXHIBIT A - 66<sup>th</sup> STREET ES SITE PLAN (not to scale)





2024 122134



FILED  
Jun 06 2024

Dem C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by ISAUORA CORREA

### EXHIBIT A - 75<sup>th</sup> STREET ES SITE PLAN (not to scale)

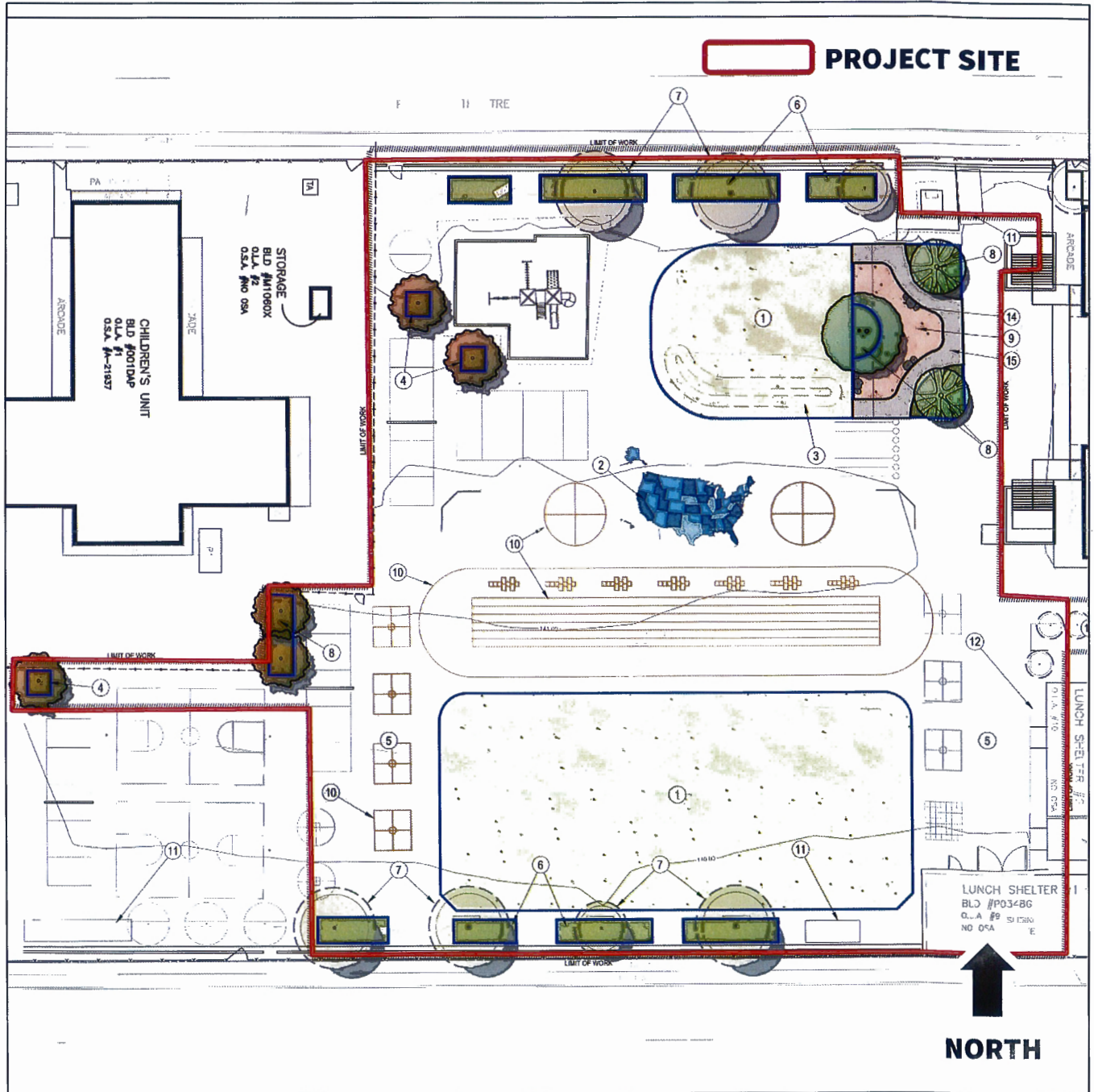
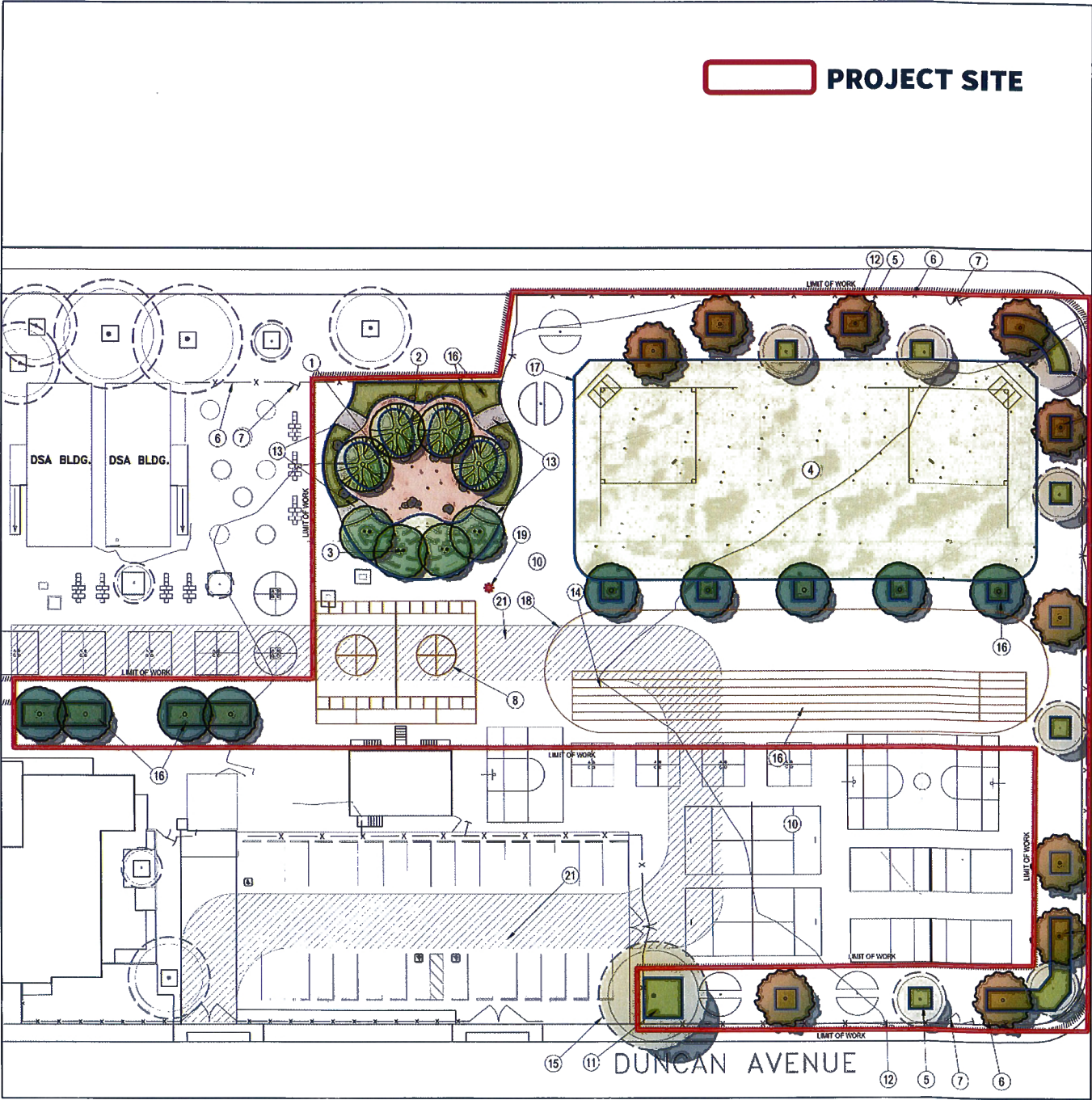


EXHIBIT A – FORD BOULEVARD ES SITE PLAN (not to scale)





2024 122134

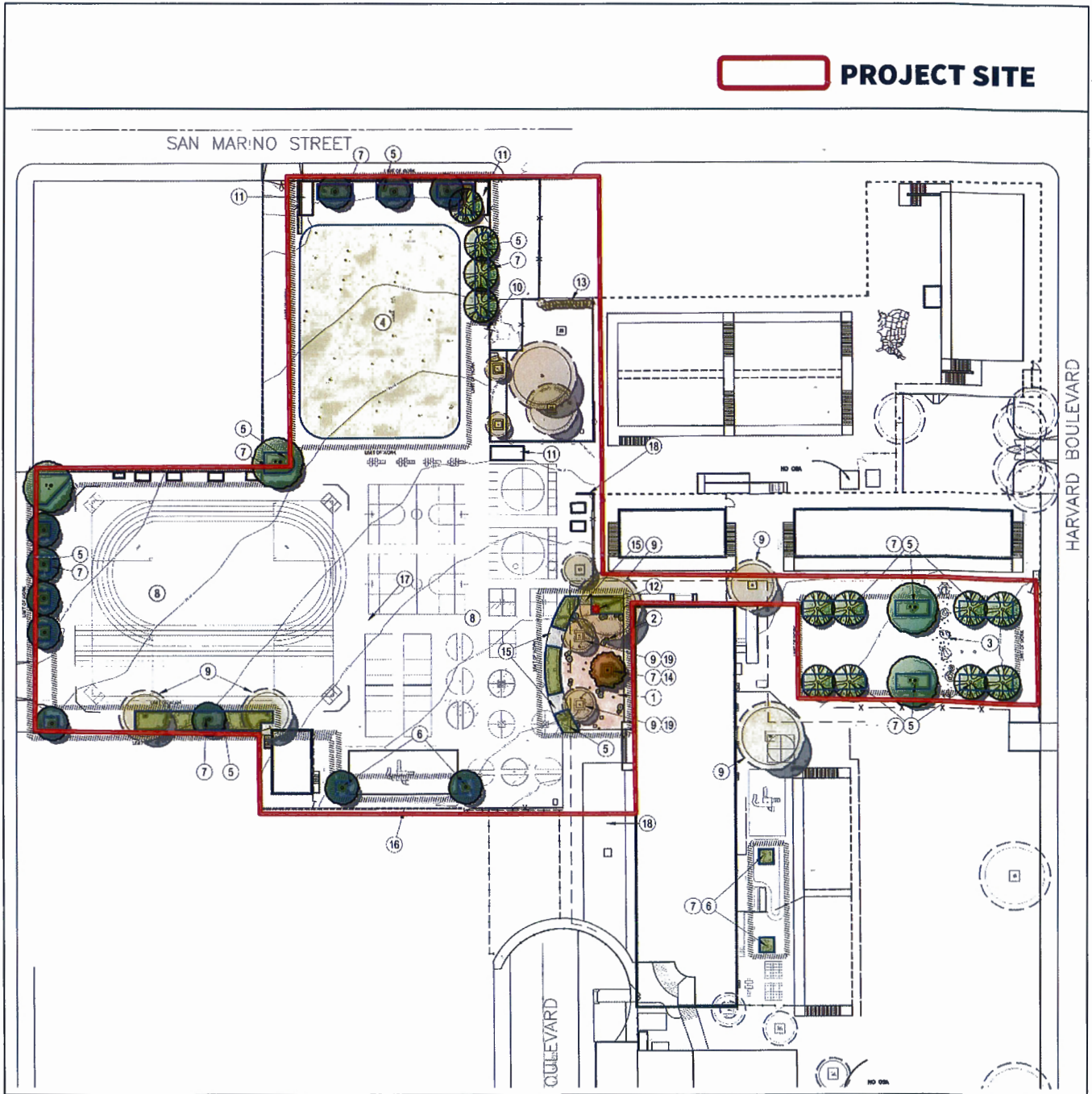


FILED  
Jun 06 2024

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by ISAUARA CORREA

### EXHIBIT A – HOBART BOULEVARD ES SITE PLAN (not to scale)





2024 122134

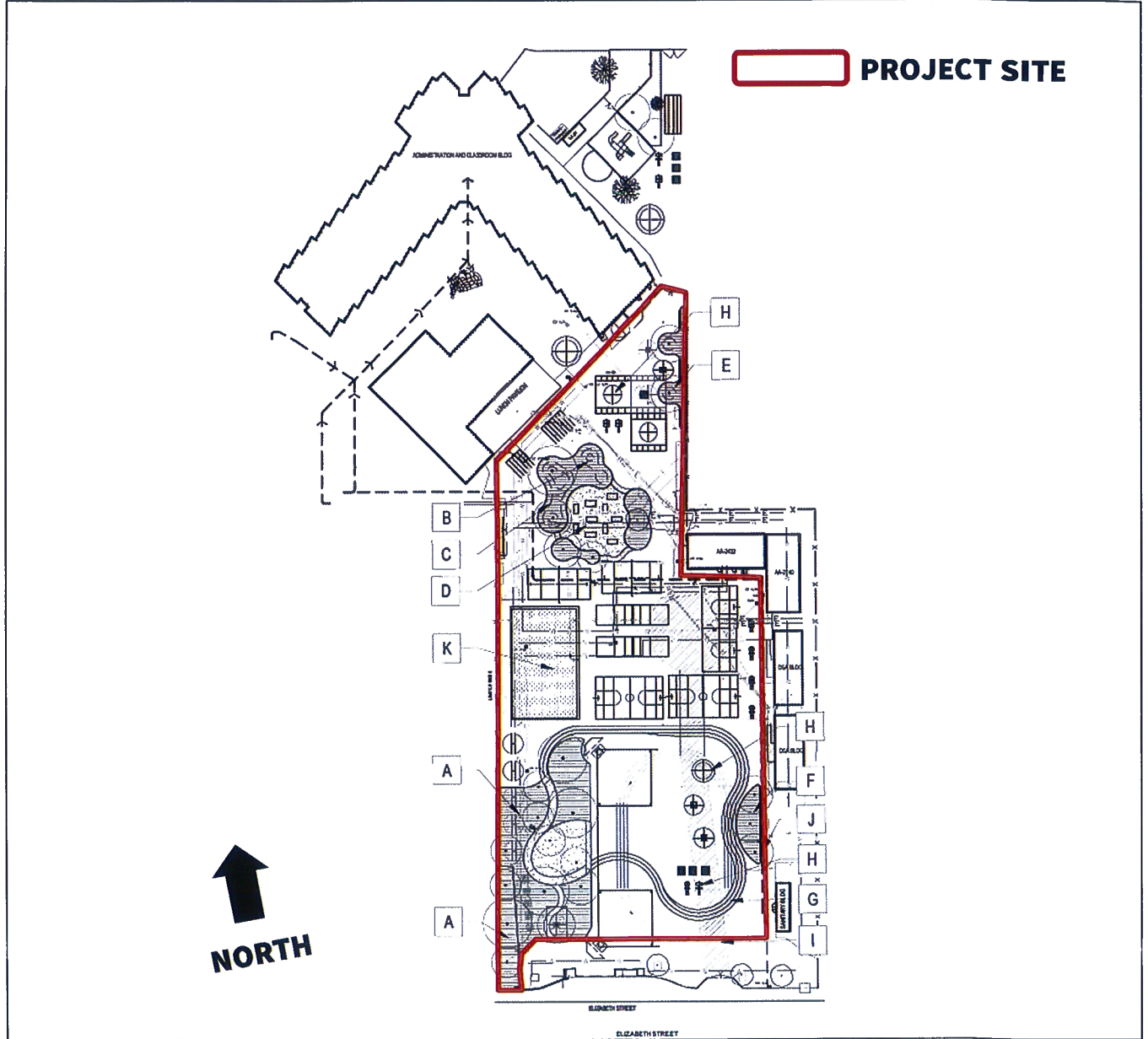


FILED  
Jun 06 2024

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by ISAURA CORREA

### EXHIBIT A - TERESA HUGHES ES SITE PLAN (not to scale)





2024 122134

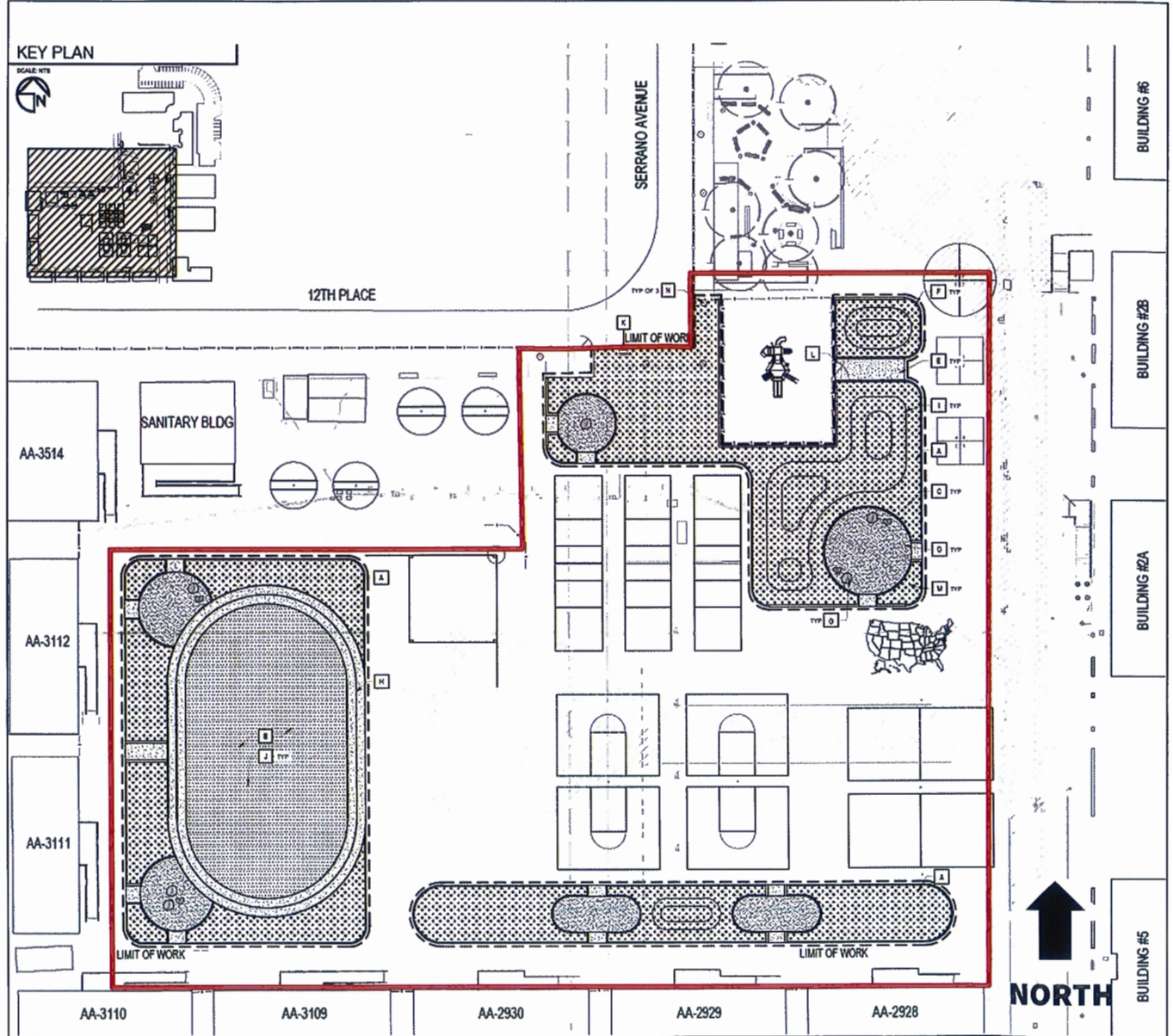


FILED  
Jun 06 2024

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by ISAURA CORREA

### EXHIBIT A - LOS ANGELES ES SITE PLAN (not to scale)





2024 122134



FILED  
Jun 06 2024

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by ISAURA CCRREA

### EXHIBIT A - MANHATTAN PLACE ES SITE PLAN (not to scale)

