

Riverside County
Facilities Management
3450 14th Street, Riverside, CA 92501

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

May 27, 2024

Project Name: Eller Park Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements Project

Project Number: FM0417200446

Project Location: 25926 Antelope Road, north of Highway 74, Menifee 92585, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 329-120-045

Description of Project: Eller Park is located at 25926 Antelope Road in Menifee, California 92585. The five-acre park features on-site parking, a ball field, basketball court, two play areas, picnic areas, walking trail, a restroom, and a concessions building. In September 2023, Facilities Management engaged the services of Community Works Design Group of Riverside, California, to conduct an accessibility compliance inspection of the Park to identify modifications needed to comply with DA in order to provide a safe and accessible recreation space for the public.

Modifications required include, but are not limited to, resurfacing and restriping of accessible parking spaces and access aisles, elimination of excessive cross slopes, construction of required curb ramps; installation of ADA door hardware in accessible restrooms, providing accessible routes to each public area, installation of an ADA drinking fountain, and replacement of the walking trail with a safe, firm, and slip resistant surface. In addition, the project will also replace some electrical wiring and better secure access panels due to vandalism. The ADA improvements at Eller Park are identified as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The operation of the facility will continue to provide public services and will not result in a significant expansion of existing use. No additional direct or indirect physical environmental impacts are anticipated.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Riverside County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Riverside County Facilities Management


Exempt Status: State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15301 Class 1 Existing Facilities Exemption; Section 15303 Class 3 New Construction or Small Structures Exemption; Section 15311 Class 11 Accessory Structures Exemption, and 15061(b) (3), General Rule or "Common Sense" Exemption, Codified under Title 14, Articles 5 and 19, Sections 15061, 15301, 15303, and 15311.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA specifically by the State CEQA Guidelines as identified below. The project will not result in any specific or general exceptions to the use of the categorical exemption as detailed under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. The project will not cause an impact to an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern nor would the project include unusual circumstances which could have the possibility of having a significant effect on the environment. The project would not result in impacts to scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, historic resources, or other sensitive natural environments, or have a cumulative effect to the environment. No significant environmental impacts are anticipated to occur with the ADA improvements at the existing park.

- **Section 15301-Existing Facilities Exemption:** This Class 1 categorical exemption includes the operation, repair, maintenance, leasing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures or facilities, provided the exemption only involves negligible or no expansion of the previous site’s use. The project, as proposed, includes exterior improvements to the existing park so that it can provide accessibilities in compliance with ADA. The use of the facility would continue to provide public services and would not result in a significant increase in capacity or intensity of use. Therefore, the project is exempt as it meets the scope and intent of the Categorical Exemption identified in Section 15301, Article 19, Categorical Exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.

- **Section 15061 (b) (3) – “Common Sense” Exemption:** In accordance with CEQA, the use of the Common Sense Exemption is based on the “general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.” State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b) (3). The use of this exemption is appropriate if “it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.” *Ibid.* This determination is an issue of fact and if sufficient evidence exists in the record that the activity cannot have a significant effect on the environment, then the exemption applies and no further evaluation under CEQA is required. See *No Oil, Inc. v. City of Los Angeles* (1974) 13 Cal. 3d 68. The ruling in this case stated that if a project falls within a category exempt by administrative regulation or 'it can be seen with certainty that the activity in question will not have a significant effect on the environment', no further agency evaluation is required. The proposed improvements to the existing facility will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts. The improvements would require limited construction activity within the existing site and would not alter the function or use of the site or have any external physical effects. The ADA improvements are limited to accessibility and would provide ADA compliance at the facility. The use and operation of the facility will be substantially similar to the existing use and will not create any new environmental impacts. Therefore, in no way, would the project as proposed have the potential to cause a significant environmental impact and the project is exempt from further CEQA analysis.

Based upon the identified exemptions above, the County of Riverside, Facilities Management hereby concludes that no physical environmental impacts are anticipated to occur and the project as proposed is exempt under CEQA. No further environmental analysis is warranted.

Signed: _____  _____ Date: 5-27-2024

Mike Sullivan,
County of Riverside, Facilities Management