

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: Whittier Narrows Recreation Area
Play Area D-9 Renovation Project

Project Location - Specific: 750 Santa Anita Ave, South El Monte, CA 91733

Project Location - City: The unincorporated community of Whittier Narrows

Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Whittier Narrows Recreation Area is a vast 1,492-acre park and one of the most popular recreational destinations in Los Angeles County. With over one million visitors annually, it serves the greater San Gabriel Valley with a wide range of amenities, including fishing lakes, sports fields, picnic areas, fitness zones, boat rentals, and play areas.

The recreation area serves a region with high park need and limited areas for children and caregiver play according to the 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment and the 2022 Parks Needs Assessment Plus. The proposed project area, located within Area D in the southeast section of the park between Legg Lake and Center Lake, features play areas, picnic tables, and a drinking fountain bordered by a walking trail with views of Legg Lake.

Play Area D-9 is one of the largest in the Department's portfolio and has experienced very heavy use over decades. In 2016, the Play Area's playground equipment was removed due to the poor condition of the equipment and is currently vacant. The proposed project scope will address this long-standing deferred maintenance need by replacing the play equipment and safety surfacing. Further, the scope includes landscaping, tree planting, and the replacement of site furnishings that have outlived their useful life and desperately need replacement.

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)
- Categorical Section 15302
Class 2 (c)
- Categorical Section 15303
Class 3 (e)

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- Categorical Section 15304
Class 4 (a)(b)
- County CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption
Class 1 (c)
- County CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption
Class 2 (e)
- County CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption
Class 3 (b)
- County CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption
Class 4 (a)(c)

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.

The project is also consistent with Section 15302 Class 2 which provides for replacement or reconstruction of 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. This includes but is not limited to Class 2 (c) for replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

The project is consistent with Section 15303 Class 3 which provides for construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures. This includes but is not limited to Class 3(e) for new 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 landscaping.

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.

The project is consistent with Class 2 which provides for replacement or reconstruction of 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. This includes but is not limited to Class 2 (e) for replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

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

The project is 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 landscaping.

The proposed use of Classes 1, 2, 3 & 4 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

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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, 2, 3 & 4 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 1,2, 3 & 4 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 1,2, 3 & 4 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 1,2, 3 & 4 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 1,2, 3 & 4 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



Date

Park Planner

Title