

**CEQA GUIDELINES FOR STREET TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT  
EVALUATION FOR CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION**

**ADDRESS:** 750 S Sauding Avenue

**DATE:** 12/27/17

**REPORT WRITER:** David Miranda

**CRM#:** 1-805376691

Choose From  
Drop Down List

**Step 1. Does the street tree removal project involve:**

- |    |  |     |
|----|--|-----|
| A. | A larger project with its own negative declaration/mitigated negative declaration or environmental impact report?  | NO  |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult Navigate LA/Parcel Profile Report from the Department of City Planning (DCP) and look under "Case Numbers" listing on left-hand side with the "ENV-" prefix and a recent year case number.</li> <li>• If the suffix is "-ND", "-MND", or "-EIR", then there may be a negative declaration/mitigated negative declaration or environmental impact report. <b>If so, this procedure is not applicable and a case-specific CEQA evaluation is required.</b></li> </ul> |     |
| B. | Removal of dead, damaged or diseased street trees? <b>If yes, go to Step 2.</b>  | NO  |
| C. | A Sidewalk repair or sidewalk repair in conjunction with a driveway installation? <b>If yes, go to Step 3.</b>   | YES |
| D. | Something else? <b>If yes, this procedure is not applicable and a case-specific CEQA evaluation is required.</b>   | NO  |

**Step 2. Dead, damaged or diseased trees:**

- |                 |  |     |
|-----------------|--|-----|
| <b>Step 2A.</b> | <i>Is the tree dead or damaged (CEQA Guidelines 15269(c))?</i>   | N/A |
|                 | <p>Is the tree dead or damaged such that removal is necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency? An emergency is defined as "a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property." If yes, CEQA is not applicable. The removal may move forward.</p> |     |
| <b>Step 2B.</b> | <i>Is the tree diseased? Do any of the categorical exemption exceptions applicable to Class 4 apply (CEQA Guidelines 15300.2)?</i>   | N/A |
|                 | <p>Is the project located in an officially adopted sensitive environment (CEQA Guidelines 15300.2(a))? Consult Navigate LA and Navigate LA/Parcel Profile Report (DCP) and review the "Additional Information" in the Parcel Profile Report.</p>   | N/A |
|                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Is it in a mapped farmland ("Farmland")?</li> </ul>  | N/A |

- ii. Is it in a flood zone ("Flood Zone")? N/A
- iii. Is it in (or adjacent to) a watercourse ("Watercourse")? (Within or next to a river, creek, or other body of water?) N/A
- iv. Is it in a hazardous waste area ("Hazardous Waste")? N/A
- v. Does NavigateLA indicate this is in a sensitive ecological area (SEA)? N/A
- vi. Is there any other information that may indicate that this is an officially adopted sensitive environment? N/A

If yes to any of i.-vi., this procedure is not applicable and a case-specific CEQA evaluation is required.

If no to all of the above, then draft a brief narrative and include photo documentation regarding the dead, damaged, or diseased status of the tree in the project file and continue to Step 2.b.

- b. Are there cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place (CEQA Guidelines 15300.2(b))? Check to see whether there are other tree removal applications in the same area (within a 1 block radius?) and within the past 6 months (?). Next, in the project file, document the tree replacement conditions for the removal, including number, size, and specimen. N/A

- c. Are there unusual circumstances and a fair argument that the activity will have a significant effect (CEQA Guidelines 15300.2(c))? For dead, damaged or diseased street trees, this exception typically does not apply. N/A

- d. (d) of CEQA guidelines 15300.2 are not applicable here. N/A

- e. (e) of CEQA guidelines 15300.2 are not applicable here. N/A

- f. Is the tree considered a significant historic resource and the removal may cause a substantial adverse change (CEQA Guidelines 15300.2(f))? Consult NavigateLAIParcel Profile Report from the DCP and look for designations like: "Historic Preservation Review", "Historic Preservation Overlay Zone", "Other Historic Designations", and "Other Historic Survey Information". N/A

If yes to 2.b, 2.c, or 2.f, this procedure is not applicable and a case-specific CEQA evaluation is required. N/A

If no to all of the above, then the following finding should be used in the Board report: N/A

FIND that the street tree removal (1) classifies as removal of a dead, damaged, or diseased tree; (2) that the action is exempt under Article III, Section 1, Class 4, Category 3 (minor alterations to land - landscaping involving dead, damaged or diseased trees or limbs) of the City of Los Angeles Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (2002); and (3) that none of the exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption as set forth in Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines apply.

<b>Step 3.</b>	<b>Sidewalk/driveway repair: Does the activity involve removal of a scenic resource?</b>	<b>NO</b>
	Is the tree proposed for removal located within a stand of trees? A stand of trees is one either: (i) designated by the City based upon findings that it is unique and of importance to the public due to its unusual appearance, location, historical significance or other factor; or (ii) determined by the City that each tree is dependent upon the others for survival.	<b>NO</b>
	A. Does it involve a rock outcropping (the part of a rock formation that appears above the surface of the surrounding land)?	<b>NO</b>
	Does it involve a historic building? Consult Navigate LA/Parcel Profile Report (from the DCP) and look for designations like: "Historic Preservation Review", "Historic Preservation Overlay Zone", "Other Historic Designations", and "Other Historic Survey Information".	<b>NO</b>
	C. Is there any evidence that the tree could be considered a scenic resource (is there any existing natural or urban aesthetic feature(s) that contributes to the valued aesthetic character of the area)?	<b>NO</b>
	<b>If yes to any of the above, this procedure is not applicable and a case-specific CEQA evaluation is required. If there is uncertainty regarding any of these exceptions, please consult with EMG.</b>	
	<b>If no, go to Step #4.</b>	
<b>Step 4.</b>	<b>Sidewalk/driveway repair: Do any of the categorical exemption exceptions applicable to Class 1 apply (CEQA Guidelines 15300.2)?</b>	<b>NO</b>
	A. (a) of section 15300.2 is not applicable here.	<b>NO</b>
	B. Are there cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place (CEQA Guidelines 15300.2(b))? Check to see whether there are other tree removal applications within the past six months (?) within a block of the project area (?).	<b>NO</b>
	C. Are there unusual circumstances and a fair argument that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines 15300.2(c))?	<b>NO</b>
	i. To determine "unusual circumstances" ask whether the tree is unique or an exceptional specimen due to size or age? <b>If yes, move on to step ii.</b>	<b>NO</b>
	ii. To determine fair argument of significant effect, is there any evidence (especially expert evidence) that may indicate there may be a significant effect? <b>If yes, then this procedure is not applicable and a case-specific CEQA evaluation is required.</b>	<b>NO</b>
	D. (d) of section 15300.2 is not applicable here.	<b>NO</b>
	E. Is the project located on the hazardous waste Cortese list (CEQA Guidelines 15300.2(e))? Consult Navigate LA/Parcel Profile Report (DCP) ("Hazardous Waste").	<b>NO</b>

Is the tree considered a significant historic resource and the removal will cause a substantial adverse change? Consult Navigate LA/Parcel Profile Report (DCP) and looks for these designations: "Historic Preservation Review", "Historic Preservation Overlay Zone", "Other Historic Designations", and "Other Historic Survey Information".

NO

If yes to any of the above, this procedure is not applicable and a case-specific CEQA evaluation is required.

If no to all of the above, then the following finding should be used in the Board report:

FIND that the tree removal (1) classifies as operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing street, sidewalk, and gutter, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing; and does not involve the removal of a scenic resource; (2) that the action is exempt under Article III, Section 1, Class 1, Category 3 (existing facilities -sidewalk repair or maintenance) of the City of Los Angeles Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (2002); and (3) that none of the exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption as set forth in Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines apply.

YES

**Step 5.**

This analysis should be included in the file with the permit application. Include documentation in the project file presenting the analysis supporting these findings should be included in the project file, along with any supporting evidence, such as photo documentation, Navigate LA Parcel Profile Reports, etc.

## APPENDIX A

### Excerpt from: Title 14. California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3. Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act

#### Article 18. Statutory Exemptions

This article describes the exemptions from CEQA granted by the Legislature, the exemptions take several forms. Some exemptions are complete exemptions from CEQA. Other exemptions apply to only part of the requirements of CEQA, and still other exemptions apply only to the timing of CEQA compliance.

##### 15269. Emergency Projects

The following emergency projects are exempt from the requirements of CEQA

(c) Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term.

#### Article 19. Categorical Exemptions

##### 15300. Categorical Exemptions

Section 21084 of the Public Resources Code requires these Guidelines to include a list of classes of projects which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which shall, therefore, be exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

In response to that mandate, the Secretary for Resources has found that the following classes of projects listed in this article do not have a significant effect on the environment, and they are declared to be categorically exempt from the requirement for the preparation of environmental documents.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code; Reference: Section 21084, Public Resources Code.

##### 15300.2. Exceptions

(a) Location. 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 in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply 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.

(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

(d) Scenic Highways. 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. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration of certified EIR.

(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

## APPENDIX B

### Excerpts from: CITY OF LOS ANGELES ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT GUIDELINES

Adopted: July 31, 2002 CF#:02-1507

#### ARTICLE III: CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS

##### 1. Classes of Categorical Exemptions

The Secretary for Resources has provided a list of classes of projects which he has determined do not have a significant effect on the environment and which are therefore exempt from the provisions of CEQA. The following specific categorical exemptions within such classes are set forth for use by Lead City Agencies, provided such categorical exemptions are not used for projects where it can be readily perceived that such projects may have a significant effect on the environment.

###### a. Class 1. Existing Facilities

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing.

1. Interior or exterior alterations involving remodeling or minor construction involving negligible or no expansion of use.
2. Operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities, electrical power, natural gas, sewage, water, and telephone, and mechanical systems serving existing facilities, including alterations to accommodate a specific use.
3. Operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, storage areas, parking lots, aircraft parking areas, wharves, railroads, runways, taxiways, navigable waterways, bridle trails, service roads, fire lanes and golf-cart paths, except where the activity will involve removal of a scenic resource including but not limited to a stand of trees, a rock outcropping or a historic building.

###### c. Class 3. New Construction of Small Structures

Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures, installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. The numbers of structures described in this section are the maximum allowable within a two year period. Examples of this exemption include but are not limited to:

1. Single family residences not in conjunction with the building of two or more units. In urbanized areas, up to three single family residences may be constructed under this exemption.

###### d. Class 4. Minor Alterations to Land

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

1. Grading on land with a slope of less than ten percent (10%), except where it is to be located in a waterway, in any wetland, in an officially designated (by federal, State or local governmental action) scenic area or in an officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard.

- Grading on land with a slope of fifteen percent (15%) or more, and/or involving grading in excess of 20,000 cubic yards. This exemption will not apply to grading located in a waterway, in any wetland, in an officially designated (by federal, State or local action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard, or contains scenic trees.
- 2.
  3. New gardening, tree planting, or landscaping, but not including tree removal except dead, damaged or diseased trees or limbs.