

2019 059533

FILED  
Mar 07 2019

Deana C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by LAKEISHA MCCOY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
ROOM 395, CITY HALL  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED

ON March 07 2019

UNTIL April 08 2019

REGISTRAR - RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

(Article III, Section 3, City CEQA Guidelines)

FORM RP 1-1-91

Submission of this form is optional. This form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 East Imperial Highway, Norwalk, California 90650, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21168(d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitation on Court challenges to the approval of the project. Failure to file this notice with the County Clerk results in the statute of limitation being extended to 180 days.

LEAD CITY AGENCY AND ADDRESS: City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, 221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90012

COUNCIL DISTRICT:  
04

PROJECT TITLE: GRIFFITH PARK: Lake Hollywood and Upper Vista Outdoor Improvements

LOG REFERENCE:  
PRJ 21233

PROJECT LOCATION: 3160 Canyon Drive, Los Angeles, CA, 90068

## DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:

The proposed project includes landscaping, irrigation, and other related park improvements along Mulholland Highway. Beneficiaries of the project are the patrons of the park.

CONTACT PERSON:  
PAUL DAVISAREA CODE  
213TELEPHONE NUMBER:  
202-2667

EXT.

## EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)

- ☐ DECLARED EMERGENCY  
☐ EMERGENCY PROJECT  
☐ MINISTERIAL PROJECT  
☒ CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION  
☐ GENERAL EXEMPTION  
☐ STATUTORY EXEMPTION

## CITY CEQA GUIDELINES

Art. II, Sec. 2a(1)  
 Art. II, Sec. 2(a)(2)(3)  
 Art. II, Sec. 2b  
 Art. II, Sec. 2(c) See Below  
 Art. II, Sec. 2(d)  
 Art. II, Sec. 2(i)

## STATE CEQA GUIDELINES

ART. 18, Sec. 15269(a)  
 ART. 18, Sec. 15269(b)(c)  
 ART. 18, Sec. 15268  
 ART. 19, Sec. 15300 -15333  
 ART. 18, Sec. 15262  
 ART. 18, Sec. 15282

## Class

1  
 3  
 4  
 4

## Category

3  
 6  
 3  
 12

## (City CEQA Guidelines)

Art. III, Sec(s). 1(a)3  
 Art. III, Sec(s). 1(c)6  
 Art. III, Sec(s). 1(d)3  
 Art. III, Sec(s). 1(d)12

## (State CEQA Guidelines)

Art. 19, Sec(s). 15301(c)  
 Art. 19, Sec(s). 15303(e)  
 Art. 19, Sec(s). 15304(b)  
 Art. 19, Sec(s). 15304(f)

☐ OTHER (See Public Resources Code Sect. 21080(b) and set forth in state & city guidelines provisions)

## JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:

The proposed project consists of minor alterations to existing walkways, of the planting of new trees, of the installation of fences accessory to an existing park and of the installation of irrigation lines. As such, it is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3); 3(6); 4(3) and 4(12) of City CEQA Guidelines and to Article 19, Section 15301(c), 15303(e), 15304(b) and 15304(f) of California CEQA Guidelines. None of the limitations set forth in State CEQA Guidelines 15300.2 apply, see attached narrative.

## IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT OF EXEMPTION FINDING

SIGNATURE:  
PAUL DAVIS  
Environmental Supervisor II

DATE:  
2/20/2019

FEE \$75.00

RECEIPT NO.

REC'D. BY:

DATE:

## GRIFFITH PARK: LAKE HOLLYWOOD AND UPPER VISTA OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS

### CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

#### I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project, located northwest of the Hollywood Reservoir adjacent to Canyon Lake Drive and Mulholland Highway, includes landscaping, irrigation, fencing and other related park improvements along Mulholland Highway.

The project is located at 3160 Canyon Drive, Los Angeles, CA, 90068, in the Hollywood Community Planning Area.

Griffith Park is located at 4730 Crystal Springs Drive in the Hollywood area of the City. This 4,281.73-acre park provides a variety of recreational programs and activities for the local community. Due to the size of the park, and the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, Griffith Park meets the standards for a Regional park.

#### II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

##### Basis for Categorical Exemption

The proposed project consists of minor alterations to existing walkways, which is exempt from the provision of of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3) of City CEQA Guidelines and to Article 19, Section 15301(c) of California CEQA Guidelines. It also includes the installation of fences accessory to an existing park, exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 3(6) of CEQA Guidelines and to Article 19, Section 15303(e) of California CEQA Guidelines; the planting of new trees, exempt from the provisions CEQA pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3) and of the installation of irrigation lines, exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(12) of City CEQA Guidelines and to Article 19, Section 15304(f) of California CEQA Guidelines.

##### Consideration of Potential Exceptions to Use of a Categorical Exemption

The State CEQA Guidelines (CCR Sec 15300.2) limit the use of categorical exemptions in the following circumstances:

**1. Location.** Exemption 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 be significant in a particularly sensitive environment. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply to 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.

The proposed projects falls under Class 1,3 and 4 and could potentially constitute an exception to CEQA exemptions; however the project does not impact on a recognized environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern, therefore, this exception has no application here.

**2. Cumulative Impact.** This exception applies when, although a particular project may not have a significant impact, the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

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The proposed project consists of improvements in an existing park. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed project. Therefore, this exception has no application here.

**3. Significant Effect.** This exception applies when, although the project may otherwise be exempt, there is a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

RAP is not aware of any unusual circumstances associated with this project. Therefore, this exception has no application here.

**4. Scenic Highway.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project that 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 proposed project is not within sight of any state designated scenic highway, nor of any other historic and scenic resource. Therefore, this exception has no application here.

**5. Hazardous Waste Site.** This exception applies when a project is located on a site listed as a hazardous waste site under Government Code Section 65962.5.

As of 2/20/2019, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control has not listed any site within the project area (Envirostor at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov)). Therefore, this exception has no application here.

**6. Historical Resources.** This exception applies when a project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The proposed project area is located within Griffith Park an historical, cultural monument of the City of Los Angeles (HCM #942), but the proposed project is not going to cause a substantial adverse change in the historic significance of the park for two reasons. The site is not one of the contributing elements to the determination of historic significance and the proposed project is not altering the characteristics of the site. Furthermore, the excavation required for the project will occur in already disturbed areas, and this office does not anticipate the disruption of archaeological resources.

However, in case historical artifacts are encountered, City Engineer Standard Specifications, Section 6-3.2, (Greenbook, 2012) states: "If discovery is made of items of archaeological or paleontological interest, the Contractor shall immediately cease excavation in the area of discovery and shall not continue until ordered by the Engineer." Therefore, during activities in which there will be ground disturbances (i.e., digging, drilling, etc.) if any evidence of archaeological, cultural, or paleontological resources are found, all work within the vicinity of the find shall stop until a qualified archaeologist can assess the finds and make recommendations. No excavation of any finds should be attempted by Project personnel unless directed by a qualified archaeologist. Construction activities may continue in other areas. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA (Section 15064.5f; Public Resources Code or PRC 21082), additional work such as testing or data recovery may be warranted.

The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbances; State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the Los Angeles County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. The Los Angeles County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which will determine and

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notify a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Therefore, this exception has no application here.

**Figure 1. Project Location**

