

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

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:
10

PROJECT TITLE: BALDWIN HILLS RECREATION CENTER - Play Area
Renovation

LOG REFERENCE:
PRJ21183/PRJ21897, BR 25-221

PROJECT LOCATION: 5401 Highlight Place, Los Angeles, CA, 90016

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:

The proposed Project includes the renovation of the play area including the replacement of two existing children's play areas, installation of resilient surfacing and shade sails, and upgrades for path of travel. It will also include the installation of new batting cages and associated equipment and amenities.

Beneficiaries of the project are the patrons of the park.

CONTACT PERSON:
ELENA MAGGIONI

AREA CODE
213

TELEPHONE NUMBER:
482-6980

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
2
3

Category

3
6

(City CEQA Guidelines)

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

(State CEQA Guidelines)

Art. 19, Sec(s). 15301(c)
Art. 19, Sec(s). 15302
Art. 19, Sec(s). 15303(6)
Art. 19, Sec(s).
Art. 19, Sec(s).

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

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Sections 15301(c), 15302 and 15303(e) of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III Section 1, Class 1(3), Class 2 and Class 3(6) of City 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:
ELENA MAGGIONI
Environmental Supervisor



DATE:
12/18/2025

FEE \$75.00

RECEIPT NO.

REC'D. BY:

DATE:

BALDWIN HILLS RECREATION CENTER - Play Area Renovation

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On July, 11, 2018, the Board approved this Project, which proposes renovation of the play area including the replacement of two existing children's play areas, installation of resilient surfacing and shade sails, and upgrades for path of travel. The new play area will be located in the same location as the existing play areas and will be similar in size to those play areas (Report No. 18-139).

The new scope of work also includes the installation of new batting cages and associated equipment and amenities.

The project is located at 5401 Highlight Place, Los Angeles, CA, 90016, in the West Adams - Baldwin Hills - Leimert Community Planning Area (Fig.1).

II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Basis for Categorical Exemption

The proposed Project involves the consolidation of two projects approved by the Board in 2018, as further described in Report Nos. 18-138 and 18-139. The Board exempted both projects from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. Since the projects have been approved more than seven years ago, it is appropriate to revisit the Board's CEQA determination.

The proposed Project consists of the replacement of minor alterations of existing trails, replacement or reconstruction of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity and the installation of new accessory structures.

Based on this description the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Sections 15301(c), 15302 and 15303(e) of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III Section 1, Class 1(3), Class 2 and Class 3(6) of City 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 project falls under Class 1, 2, and 3, and could potentially constitute an exception to CEQA exemptions. According to the parcel profile report retrieved on November 4, 2025, this site is not within a coastal, or historic protection zone, but is located in a liquefaction and in a methane zone. However, as the proposed project activities do not include any enclosed building, the project does not increase the risk of exposing park patrons to hazardous methane emissions and the nature of the proposed

Project will not increase the risk of liquefaction in case of an earthquake. Therefore, the project does not impact on a recognized environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern, and 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.

The proposed project consists of improvement to the amenities of an existing recreation center. 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 November 4, 2025, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (Geotracker at <https://Geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>) have not listed any site within the project area or in a 1,000 feet radius from the area. 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 not located in proximity of known historical, paleontological or archeological resources. The excavation required for the proposed Project will occur in already disturbed areas, and this office does not anticipate the disruption of archaeological or paleontological 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 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



List of References

- California Regional Water Quality Control Board. *GeoTracker*. Retrieved, November 4, 2025, from <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>.
- City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning Parcel Profile Report. Retrieved on November 4, 2025, from NavigateLA <http://boemaps.eng.ci.la.ca.us/navigateLA/>
- City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering. *NavigateLA*. Retrieved on November 4, 2025 from <http://boemaps.eng.ci.la.ca.us/navigateLA/>
- City of Los Angeles Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.
- Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5
- Los Angeles Municipal Code.
- Public Resources Code Section 5097.98
- Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction. Greenbook, 2021 edition.
- State CEQA Guidelines.
- State Department of Toxic Substances Control. *EnviroStor*. Retrieved November 4, 2025, from www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov
- State Department of Transportation. *California Scenic Highway Mapping System*., from <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>