

APPROVED
August 07 2025
BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 25-131

DATE August 07, 2025

C.D. 11

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

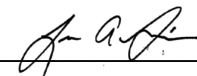
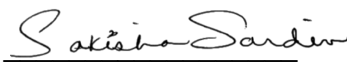
SUBJECT: VENICE BEACH – FINAL APPROVAL OF “DECLARATION” SCULPTURE REMOVAL – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15301(I)(4) [DEMOLITION OR REMOVAL OF INDIVIDUAL SMALL STRUCTURES SUCH AS ACCESSORY (APPURTENANT) STRUCTURES INCLUDING GARAGES, CARPORTS, PATIOS, SWIMMING POOLS, AND FENCES] OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(11)(d) OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES

B. Aguirre	_____	M. Rudnick	_____
B. Jones	_____	for * C. Santo Domingo	<u>DF</u>
C. Stoneham	_____	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved x Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

If Approved: Board President  Board Secretary 

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Grant final approval of removal for the sculpture entitled “Declaration” at Venice Beach (Sculpture), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Authorize RAP Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch (PMC) to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to Pacific Crest Consultants and/or their selected contractors or vendors (collectively, “Contractors”), authorizing the removal of the Sculpture;
3. Determine that removal of the Sculpture and related activities (Project) is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15301(I)(4) [Demolition or removal of individual small structures such as accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences] of California CEQA Guidelines as well as Article III, Section 1, Class 1(11)(d) of City CEQA Guidelines, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation;
4. Authorize RAP’s Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing an NOE;

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5. Authorize RAP staff to sign off on any necessary approvals as the property owner for other permits or approvals related to the removal of the Sculpture; and,
6. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

Venice Beach is located at 1800 Ocean Front Walk in the Venice community of the City. This 178-acre facility provides two play areas, benches, fitness area, paddleboard courts, basketball courts, restrooms, the Venice Boardwalk and pier for the surrounding community.

On September 6, 2000, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) approved an installation of the artwork entitled "Declaration" (Sculpture), which is made of steel and stands approximately sixty feet tall (Report No. 00-332). This Sculpture is located on the Venice Beach Ocean Front Walk at the intersection of Winward and Ocean Avenues. The installation was coordinated by Venice Family Clinic in collaboration with the Los Angeles Louver Art Gallery and approved as a temporary installation for the Venice Art Walk 2001.

On October 16, 2002, the Board granted a six-month extension for the installation of the Sculpture and approved in concept the permanent placement of the Sculpture at the Venice Beach Ocean Front Walk (Report No. 02-360).

On October 20, 2004, the Board granted conditional approval to allow the Sculpture to be a permanent installation (Report No. 04-319). The conditional approval was contingent on the Los Angeles Louver Art Gallery raising funds to purchase the Sculpture and donate it to the City of Los Angeles. It was envisioned that the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) would accept the Sculpture into the City's Permanent Art Collection with the creation of a maintenance trust fund established by Los Angeles Louver Art Gallery and administered by DCA.

The Los Angeles Louver Art Gallery failed to purchase the statue and donate it to the City, and the Sculpture has remained on RAP property for over twenty years. The artist, Mark di Suvero, has requested the removal of the Sculpture from Venice Beach as soon as possible due on, among other things, repair and maintenance concerns. Los Angeles Louver Art Gallery sent a letter dated August 10, 2022 requesting authorization to remove the Sculpture.

Pacific Crest Consultants has been hired by Los Angeles Louver Art Gallery to coordinate all necessary approvals from various agencies for the following scope of work:

- Removal of Sculpture entitled "Declaration" by the artist.
- Restoration of the land the Sculpture was previously placed to as natural a state as possible.

On August 17, 2023, the proposed removal of the Sculpture was presented to the RAP Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force, which granted conceptual approval.

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On January 18, 2024, the Board preliminary granted conceptual approval of the removal of the Sculpture contingent upon Pacific Crest Consultants obtaining the necessary approvals from the California Coastal Commission (CCC) as well as the Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) to demolish the Sculpture (Report No. 24-026).

Pacific Crest Consultants have provided the CCC Coastal Development Permit De Minimis Waiver for the removal of the Sculpture, which was approved by the CCC (Attachment 1). Plans have also been submitted to LADBS for the demolition of the sculpture under Permit No. 25029-20000-00005 (Attachment 2).

Upon approval of this Report and confirmation that Permit No. 25029-20000-00005 has been issued, RAP staff will issue the appropriate Right-of-Entry (ROE) permits to Pacific Crest Consultants and/or their contractors for the removal of the Sculpture. RAP staff will sign off on any necessary approvals as the property owner for other permits or approvals related to the removal of the Sculpture. The contractor(s), to the best of their ability, will restore the land to as natural a state as possible.

TREES AND SHADE

The proposed Sculpture removal is not proposing to impact any trees or existing shade structures at Venice Beach.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of the removal of accessory structures.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved on July 14, 2025, this site is within the coastal, methane, and liquefaction zone. The proposed Sculpture removal will not expose park patrons to methane seepage or increase the risk of liquefaction, and it has already received the California Coastal Commission's authorization. Under these circumstances, there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of July 14, 2025, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site, although these agencies listed case T0603701340 and case SL163752343 near the Project area (within 1,000 feet). Case T0603701340 involves a number of leaking underground storage tanks removed between 1991 and 1998; the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) put in place a remediation process and closed the case in 2009 as a low threat site. Case SL163752343 involved a site that served as an oil field for 70 years, until it was closed down and remediated in the late 1990s; the RWQCB closed this case in 2006. According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map, there is no scenic highway located within – or adjacent to – the Project site. Furthermore, the proposed Project is not within an historic site and will not have any significant effect on historic resources.

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Based on this information, staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) determines that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15301(l)(4) of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III Section 1, Class 1(11)(d) of City CEQA Guidelines. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation upon Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of this Report will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund. Los Angeles Louver Art Gallery will be responsible for the costs related to removal of the Sculpture.

This Report was prepared by David Lee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Attachment 1 – Coastal Development Permit De Minimis Waiver
- 2) Attachment 2 – Demolition Permit No. 25029-20000-00005

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SOUTH COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
301 E. OCEAN BLVD., SUITE 300
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802-4830
PH (562) 590-5071 FAX (562) 590-5084
WWW.COASTAL.CA.GOV



May 28, 2025

Coastal Development Permit De Minimis Waiver Coastal Act Section 30624.7

Based on the project plans and information provided in your permit application for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirement for a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) pursuant to Section 13238.1, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. If, at a later date, this information is found to be incorrect or the plans revised, this decision will become invalid; and any development occurring must cease until a coastal development permit is obtained or any discrepancy is resolved in writing.

Waiver: 5-24-0151-W**Applicant:** LA Louver**Location:** 1800 Ocean Front Walk, Venice, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County (APN: 4226-001-900)

Proposed Development: Remove an art sculpture consisting of three 20 sq. ft. concrete footings, three 64 sq. ft. concrete pads, and approximately eight steel beams, with 4 cy. of cut and 4 cy. of fill, from a 15,360 sq. ft. grassy area; and temporary construction staging, including fencing off 27,546 sq. ft. of public space for four weeks, to allow sculpture removal via cranes and mechanized equipment.

Rationale: The subject site is a 15,360 sq. ft. grassy portion of Windward Plaza located immediately adjacent to the sandy Venice Beach and the Venice Boardwalk. The project site is designated 'Open Space' in the certified Venice Land Use Plan and, upon removal of the existing sculpture, will remain publicly accessible open space. The Commission approved Coastal Development Permit Amendment No. 5-96-176-A2 for installation of the sculpture in 2004. The sculpture has become corroded and may pose a safety risk unless removed, since the applicant (LA Louver) is no longer able to maintain it. The proposed work is anticipated to take four weeks to complete. The construction staging area is the minimum temporary obstruction of public access necessary for safe equipment access; flagmen will be used to guide equipment to the staging area in order to avoid closure of the main boardwalk. Best management practices (BMPs), including avoidance of equipment on sandy beach and covering construction materials, are proposed to avoid adverse impacts to water quality. The City Department of Recreation and Parks declined co-applicant status and issued a letter authorizing the proposed work on February 8, 2024. The proposed development will not adversely impact coastal resources, public access, or public recreation opportunities, and is consistent with Chapter Three policies of the Coastal Act. In addition, the proposed development will not prejudice the City's ability to prepare a certified Local Coastal Program that is consistent with the Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act.

This waiver will not become effective until reported to the Commission at its **June 11-13, 2025** meeting and the site of the proposed development has been appropriately noticed, pursuant to 13054(b) of the California Code of Regulations. The Notice of Pending Permit shall remain posted at the site until the waiver has been validated and no less than seven days prior to the Commission hearing. If four (4) Commissioners object to this waiver of permit requirements, a coastal development permit will be required.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Chloe Seifert'.

Dr. Kate Hucklebridge
Executive Director

Chloe Seifert
Coastal Program Analyst



Nonbldg-Demolition **GREEN** -
Commercial
Plan Check at Counter
Plan Check

City of Los Angeles - Department of Building and Safety

APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION TO DEMOLISH BUILDING OR STRUCTURE

Last Status: Corrections Issued

Status Date: 04/29/2025

1. TRACT	BLOCK	LOT(s)	ARR	COUNTY MAP REF #	PARCEL ID # (PIN #)	2. ASSESSOR PARCEL #
SHORT LINE BEACH SUBDI'		THE STRAND		M B 2-59	106-5A143 134	4226 - 001 - 900

3. PARCEL INFORMATION

Council District - 11	District Map - 106-5A143	Thomas Brothers Map Grid - 671-H6
Certified Neighborhood Council - Venice	Energy Zone - 6	Area Planning Commission - West Los Angeles
Census Tract - 2735.02	Fire District - 1 (Portion only)	Earthquake-Induced Liquefaction Area - Yes
Coastal Zone Cons. Act - Coastal Commission Permit Ar	Flood Haz. Zone - AE D=N/A E=15 IN	Community Plan Area - Venice
Coastal Zone Cons. Act - Single Permit Jurisdiction Area	Thomas Brothers Map Grid - 671-G6	Near Source Zone Distance - 5.3

ZONES(S): OS-1XL-O

4. DOCUMENTS

ZI - ZI-1874 Specific Plan: Los Angeles YC - YV-7073	ORD - ORD-172019	ORD - ORD-186104
ZI - ZI-2273 Specific Plan: Venice Coast ORD - ORD-130294	ORD - ORD-172897	DTRM - DIR-2008-3681-DI
ZI - ZI-2406 Director's Interpretation of ORD - ORD-168999	ORD - ORD-175693	DTRM - DIR-2008-4703-DI
ZI - ZI-2452 Transit Priority Area in the ORD - ORD-169186-SA770	ORD - ORD-175694	DTRM - DIR-2014-2824-DI

5. CHECKLIST ITEMS**6. PROPERTY OWNER, TENANT, APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Owner(s):
L A CITY 0 0

Tenant:

Applicant: (Relationship: Agent for Owner)
PACIFIC CREST CONSULTANTS - 29635 AGOURA RD. AGOURA CA 91301 (818) 591-9309

7. EXISTING USE

(23) Miscellaneous Bldg/Struct

PROPOSED USE

(23) Demolition

8. DESCRIPTION OF WORK

DEMO THE (E) ART SCULPTURE.

9. # Bldgs on Site & Use:**10. APPLICATION PROCESSING INFORMATION**

BLDG. PC By: Pinank Patel DAS PC By: _____

OK for Cashier: _____ Coord. OK: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For inspection requests, call toll-free (888) LA4BUILD (524-2845), or request inspections via www.ladbs.org. To speak to a Call Center agent, call 311. Outside LA County, call (213) 473-3231.

For Cashier's Use Only**W/O #: 52900005****11. PROJECT VALUATION & FEE INFORMATION**

Permit Valuation: \$501	PC Valuation: _____
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FINAL TOTAL Nonbldg-Demoliti	170.15
Permit Fee Subtotal Nonbldg-Dem	130.00
Plan Check Subtotal Nonbldg-Den	0.00
E.Q. Instrumentation	0.50
D.S.C. Surcharge	3.92
Sys. Surcharge	7.83
Planning Surcharge	7.80
Planning Surcharge Misc Fee	10.00
Planning Gen Plan Maint Surchar	9.10
CA Bldg Std Commission Surchar	1.00
Permit Issuing Fee	0.00

Sewer Cap ID: _____ Total Bond(s) Due: \$0.00

12. ATTACHMENTS

CEQA Bldg Demolition Notice

Plot Plan

Project:**Payment Date:****Receipt No:****Amount:****Method:**

* 0 8 0 0 1 2 5 0 2 9 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 5 F N *

13. STRUCTURE INVENTORY (Note: Numeric measurement data in the format "number / number" implies "change in numeric value / total resulting numeric value")

25029 - 20000 - 00005

(P) Floor Area (ZC): 0 Sqft / Sqft
(P) U Occ. Group: 0 Sqft / Sqft

14. APPLICATION COMMENTS:

PDPP Project's Total Valuation \$ 0.00

pedestrian protection fence & canopy are required. DPI per 19019-30000-02921;

15. BUILDING RELOCATED FROM:

16. CONTRACTOR, ARCHITECT & ENGINEER NAME

ADDRESS

CLASS

LICENSE #

PHONE #



City of Los Angeles - Department of Building and Safety
**Attachment to Application for Demolition Permit:
Notice and Owner's Declaration Related to CEQA
and Project Scope**

I. Notice to Owner

If you are applying for a demolition permit to facilitate the construction or development of the project site, you may be referred to the Planning Department for further assistance.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) directs public agencies to assess and disclose the environmental effects of the projects it approves. In determining whether a proposed project is subject to CEQA, the City is required to consider all of the parts and phases of the project and may not limit its review to the specific permits or approvals sought. (Public Resources Code Section 21065) Failure by a project applicant to disclose future construction or development activities on the project site may result in a violation of CEQA. If the City determines that an application or approval is part of a larger undisclosed project, the City may revoke and/or stay any approvals until a full and complete CEQA analysis of the whole project is reviewed and an appropriate CEQA clearance is adopted or certified.

Please contact the Planning Department if you have additional questions after reviewing this notice.

II. Owner's Project Information

Based upon the above-stated rule, is the proposed demolition part of a larger development project at the demolition site, and if so, will the larger project require any discretionary approvals from the City? (Select "Yes" or "No," and follow the related instructions)

Yes ___ A CEQA clearance from the Planning Department will be required prior to the issuance of the demolition permit for the proposed project. Return this form to a Department of Building and Safety Plan Check Engineer at the time of plan check.

No ___ Sign and notarize the signature at the bottom of the form and return the notarized form to a Department of Building and Safety Plan Check Engineer at the time of plan check.

III. Owner's Declaration

I own the property located at _____. I have read the above "Notice to Owner." I understand that a "project," as defined by CEQA, is the whole of the proposed activity and is not limited to the demolition subject to this application. I further understand that CEQA prohibits treatment of each separate approval as a separate project for purposes of evaluating environmental impacts. I acknowledge and understand that should the City determine that the demolition proposed is part of a larger project requiring any discretionary permits, the City may revoke and/or stay any approvals (including certificates of occupancy) until a full and complete CEQA analysis is prepared and clearance is adopted or certified.

I certify that (i) the demolition authorized by this permit is not to facilitate the construction or development of a larger project at the project site, or (ii) the demolition is part of a larger project and, after using all reasonable efforts, including consulting with the City Planning Department, I have determined there are no discretionary permits required for the project, including but not limited to haul route permits, permits to remove protected trees, historic resource review, or any discretionary zoning or map approvals.

Date _____ Name of the Owner (Print) _____

Signature _____

(See page 2 of 2 For Notary Acknowledgment)



City of Los Angeles - Department of Building and Safety
**Attachment to Application for Demolition Permit:
Notice and Owner's Declaration Related to CEQA
and Project Scope**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California
County of Los Angeles)

On _____ before me, _____
(insert name and title of the officer)

personally appeared _____,
who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature _____ (Seal)