

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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

(Articles II and III – City CEQA Guidelines)

Submission of this form is optional. The form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, California, 90650, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21167(d), the filing of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval of the project.

LEAD CITY AGENCY AND ADDRESS: City of Los Angeles c/o Bureau of Engineering 1149 S. Broadway, MS 939 Los Angeles, CA 90015	COUNCIL DISTRICT 6
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PROJECT TITLE: Sherman Circle (Northeasterly Side) from Gault Street to approximately 445-feet Northeasterly thereof - Vacation W.O. E1401332	LOG REFERENCE
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PROJECT LOCATION: The project is located within the public right of way of the Northeasterly side of Sherman Circle - between Gault Street and Sherman Boulevard. The Project Area is approximately 20,750 square feet (50-feet by 415-feet), or 0.48 acres in area. (see Figures 1,2,3)

T.B. Page 532 - Grid A5

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT: The purpose of the project is to vacate this portion of Sherman Circle in order to transfer ownership of the property to the adjacent property owner.


CONTACT PERSON Chris Adams	TELEPHONE NUMBER 213-485-5910
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EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)	CITY CEQA GUIDELINES	STATE CEQA GUIDELINES
<input type="checkbox"/> MINISTERIAL	Art. II, Sec. 2.b	Sec. 15268
<input type="checkbox"/> DECLARED EMERGENCY	Art. II, Sec. 2.a(1)	Sec. 15269(a)
<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY PROJECT	Art. II, Sec. 2.a(2)	Sec. 15269(b)(c)
<input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL EXEMPTION	Art. II, Sec. 1	Sec. 15061(b)(3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION*	Art. III, Sec. 1 Class 5 (3)	Sec. 15305
<input type="checkbox"/> STATUTORY*	Art. _____	Sec. _____

* See Public Resources Code Sec. 21080 and set forth state and city guidelines provisions.

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION: This project is exempt under State California CEQA Guidelines section 15305 (Minor Alteration of Lands) as well as Category 3 Class 5 (Alteration in Land Use Limitation) exemption of the LA 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:  Maria Martin	TITLE: Environmental Affairs Officer Environmental Management Group	DATE: 3/8/2009
RECEIPT NO	REC'D BY	DATE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Continued) The project involves a minor street, alley and utility easement vacation where the vacated property does not constitute a buildable site that would allow a commercial or industrial development of more than 10,000 square feet or a residential development of more than 25 units. Although the total square footage of the land is above 10,000 feet, EMG has determined that this is not buildable area, considering the long narrow size of the package and the surrounding uses.

The land is a small strip that follows Sherman Circle and is currently used as a parking lot. The unusual parcel delineation may be due to the transition of this area from use as a trolley line to more commercial uses. The City does not operate this land as right of way. The land will be transferred to the owner of the adjacent parcel.

II. PROJECT HISTORY

The project site was originally a portion of Sherman Circle, between Gault Street and Sherman Way. At that time, the right of way of Sherman Circle had a width of 135.5-feet. Included within Sherman Circle was a Red Line trolley line titled the San Fernando Valley Line.

The San Fernando Valley line followed the Santa Monica Boulevard line as far as the intersection of Santa Monica and Highland Avenue (7.12 miles). There it turned north on Highland Avenue, using the tracks of the Highland Avenue line to the mouth of Cahuenga Pass where it's own trackage commenced. This line originally negotiated Cahuenga Pass via a double track line located to the east of the highway. Construction was quite difficult, and its successful completion was regarded at the time as being somewhat of a triumph for the construction crews. Once through the pass, the line passed Universal City (11.11 miles) and arrived at Lankershim (North Hollywood) where the double track ended, 13.83 miles from the Subway Terminal.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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 location of this project is an already developed parking lot. No excavation or transition of use is proposed as a result of the vacation. Therefore, no location related environmental effects would cause an exception of this class to be triggered.

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.

Review of Navigate LA and ZIMAS indicates there are no cumulative impacts expected to occur. The property is currently developed as a public parking lot, used to support commercial businesses found along Van Nuys Boulevard.

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.

As stated above, this project is a street vacation that will not result in any changes to the physical environment, therefore, no significant effect to the environment is expected.

4. Scenic Highway. 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.

The proposed project does not contain trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings or similar resources and is not within sight of any state designated scenic highway or other scenic resources. 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.

On November 9, 2018 the web site of the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (at Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) was visited. No sites were noted on or near the project site. At the property site, there are no sites noted within the right-of-way of the street. Therefore, this exception has no application here.

On November 9, 2018 the web site of the State Water Resources Control Board (at Geotracker at <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/default.asp>) was visited. No active sites were noted on or near the project site. At the individual activity site, there are no sites noted within the right of way of the street. There are two Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Cleanup Sites within 1,000-feet of the project site. The cleanup of both of these project sites has been completed and the both of these sites have closed. Table 1 (*Closed LUST Tanks Within 1,000-Feet of the Project Site*) shows these sites.

TABLE 1 – CLOSED LUST TANKS WITHIN 1,000-FEET OF THE PROJECT SITE			
PROJECT NAME	ADDRESS	WRCBC #	STATUS
Exxon #7-3396	7155 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91405	914050834	Completed, Case Closed
Southern California Rapid Transit Division 8	14557 Sherman Way Van Nuys, CA 91405	914050670	Completed, Case Closed
Notes			
1. WRCBC # - Water Resources Control Board Case Number			

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

The project will occur within areas previously disturbed construction, therefore the likelihood of interfering with historical resources is low. However, in case historical artifacts are encountered, City Engineer Standard Specifications, Section 6-3.2, 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. Work in other

areas may continue.

Since the project includes all these limitations, this exception does not apply.

FIGURE 1 – PROJECT SITE – AERIAL VIEW

