

# **L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE**

Your Resource for Preparing  
CEQA Analyses in Los Angeles

City of Los Angeles  
2006

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# **L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE:**

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**2006**

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*This Thresholds Guide is intended to provide general information about CEQA. It should not be used as a substitute for professional or legal advice. The reader should refer to the CEQA Statutes and Guidelines and consult with the appropriate City departments, as necessary.*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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### Purpose

The *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide: Your Resource for Preparing CEQA Analyses in Los Angeles (Thresholds Guide)* is a guidance document that draws together practical information useful to City staff, project proponents, and the public involved in the environmental review of projects in the City of Los Angeles subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CEQA process, established by state law, requires the review of proposed projects in order to identify and address potential environmental effects.

This is the City's initial effort to develop citywide guidance for CEQA impact analyses. The applicability and use of the *Thresholds Guide* may be re-evaluated after a period of use. The *Thresholds Guide* is intended to be available as a voluntary tool. It supports the City's development reform efforts to streamline and enhance the City's permit and development processes. The *Thresholds Guide* is a consensus document that represents the technical input from a citywide working group, comprised of representatives from 18 City departments and bureaus, including the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD).

### Content

The *Thresholds Guide* includes two sets of criteria to evaluate project impacts: screening and significance criteria. The **screening criteria** provide assistance in responding to the questions in the State's Initial Study Checklist and, thus, determining the appropriate environmental document to prepare (e.g., negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report). The **significance thresholds** assist in determining whether a project's impacts would be presumed significant under normal

circumstances and, therefore, require mitigation to be identified.

The *Thresholds Guide* contains three types of significance thresholds - **quantitative, qualitative, and case-by-case**. Quantitative thresholds provide a measurable criterion with which to compare one or more characteristics of the proposed project, such as "the vehicle-to-capacity ratio increase at a study intersection is greater than 0.020." A qualitative threshold requires comparison to non-numerical criteria, such as "interference with a wildlife movement corridor." The case-by-case thresholds were developed for issue areas where a definitive threshold could not be established, either because impacts are site- or project-specific or because there is no consistent technical guidance available. The existence of screening criteria and significance thresholds may also encourage project proponents to incorporate impact-reducing measures into project designs, prior to submitting project applications to the City, to reduce potential impacts below the significance level.

The screening criteria and significance thresholds are based on a variety of factors, including existing local, state, and federal regulations, administrative practices of other public agencies, and commonly accepted professional standards. Each threshold has been reviewed with respect to meeting the following goals: objectivity and applicability, defensibility, practicality, nexus between impacts and mitigation, and legal liability.

The *Thresholds Guide* provides assistance in evaluating 46 of the most common environmental issues in the City of Los Angeles, grouped into the following categories:

- Air Quality
- Population and Housing

- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology
- Hazards
- Land Use
- Noise
- Public Services
- Public Utilities
- Transportation
- Visual Resources
- Water Resources

The information is organized generally in the same order in which the issues appear in the State's Initial Study Checklist, although the *Thresholds Guide* does not identify thresholds for all issues found in the Checklist.

Within each issue area, the *Thresholds Guide* includes three parts: **1. Initial Study Screening Process** (Initial Study Checklist Question, Introduction, Screening Criteria, and Evaluation of Screening Criteria); **2. Determination of Significance** (Significance Threshold, Environmental Setting, Project Impacts, Cumulative Impacts, and Sample Mitigation Measures); and **3. Data, Resources, and References** (Resources, Background Information, Selected Legislation, and Exhibits).

### How the *Thresholds Guide* works

The *Thresholds Guide* provides technical assistance in evaluating the potential significance of a project's environmental impacts by putting in one place existing information and practices from a variety of sources which are useful for impact analyses. The *Thresholds Guide* applies to non-exempt, discretionary projects (including public and private projects and plans) in the City of Los Angeles under "normal" conditions. It recognizes that the impacts resulting from a particular action depend on the project setting, design, and operational components and that the determination of significance and the appropriate criteria for evaluation are the responsibility of the lead agency.

The *Thresholds Guide* does not change the authority of decision-makers or the lead agency or affect the City's CEQA Guidelines (including the list of categorical exemptions). The

*Thresholds Guide* does not change existing department procedures for processing CEQA documents or introduce new evaluation methods.

The purpose and applicability of the *Thresholds Guide* are fully described in the Preface and Content and Use Sections of the Introduction. The *Thresholds Guide* provides some general information about CEQA requirements, but should not be used as a substitute for professional or legal advice. For more information, the reader should refer to the CEQA Statutes and State and City Guidelines; current case law, regulations, and scientific methods; and consult with the appropriate City departments, as necessary.

### Background and Process

Numerous public and private projects and plans are undertaken each year within the City of Los Angeles. Each of these must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies, including CEQA. For those projects needing discretionary approval from the City of Los Angeles, the department granting the approval generally acts as the lead agency on behalf of the City and ensures that all CEQA requirements are fulfilled. The *Thresholds Guide* can simplify the CEQA process by offering a consistent set of evaluation criteria applicable to most discretionary projects in the City.

The *Thresholds Guide* was presented and discussed at a public workshop hosted by the Environmental Affairs Commission (EAC). The EAC sent recommendations on the *Thresholds Guide* to the Environmental Quality and Waste Management Committee of the City Council, and the full Council authorized departments to use the *Thresholds Guide* in CEQA analyses in August 2001 (see Council File 98-2064).

For information, and to view or download a copy of the *Thresholds Guide*, please point your browser to EAD's Home Page at <http://www.lacity.org/EAD>, and click on CEQA/.

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## INTRODUCTION

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### PREFACE

The *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide: Your Resource for Preparing CEQA Analyses in Los Angeles (Thresholds Guide)* is a guidance document that draws together practical information useful to City staff, project proponents, and the public involved in the environmental review of projects subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The *Thresholds Guide* is a resource available to provide information to those interested in the CEQA process.

The *Thresholds Guide* provides assistance in evaluating the significance of project impacts on 46 of the most common environmental issues in the City of Los Angeles. This guidance is supplemented by an introduction to each issue area, a recommended analysis method for project impacts, guidance for environmental setting and cumulative impact sections, sample mitigation measures, and references. The *Thresholds Guide* is geared toward readers familiar with the CEQA process. For additional information on the terminology and requirements of CEQA, please refer to the Glossary to the *Thresholds Guide*, The Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines (City CEQA Guidelines), the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (State CEQA Guidelines) or the City's Guide to Understanding CEQA in the City of Los Angeles.

The preparation of the *Thresholds Guide* was initiated as part of the City's Development Reform efforts to streamline the City's permit and development processes. It is a tool that compiles information that is useful in the preparation of environmental documents. This information can be used to improve the level of consistency, predictability, and objectivity of the City's environmental documents, while reducing costs and time delays in the environmental review process.

CEQA requires the analysis of discretionary projects to disclose their potential effects on the environment and to allow public participation in the environmental review process. Central to the implementation of CEQA is the identification of "significant" or "potentially significant" impacts that would occur as a result of a proposed project, as this determines the level of review required and the need for mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate project impacts. For projects needing discretionary approval from the City of Los Angeles, the department granting the approval generally acts as the lead agency on behalf of the City and is known as the lead City agency.

The *Thresholds Guide* applies only to those non-exempt projects subject to CEQA that require an Initial Study, negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or EIR. It applies both to public and private projects, including residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, and infrastructure projects. Most screening criteria and significance thresholds also apply to Master planned developments, specific plans, zone changes, and other “plan” level proposals.

The *Thresholds Guide* does not impact the existing discretionary authority of decision-makers, although the guidance contained in it could provide more complete information to these decision-makers. The *Thresholds Guide* does not replace or invalidate the City’s CEQA Guidelines, as it addresses the content of environmental documents as opposed to procedural requirements. It has no effect on the City’s list of projects exempt from the CEQA process (see Article X of the City CEQA Guidelines, which lists project types eligible for categorical exemptions). The *Thresholds Guide* can be used as a complement to existing department procedures for processing CEQA documents, by building on the information in the CEQA Guidelines and providing technical assistance for the environmental analysis and determination of significance. The *Thresholds Guide* does not change the authority of the lead agency, as identified in the State CEQA Guidelines, to determine significance thresholds on a case-by-case basis dependent upon unique environments, evolving regulatory requirements, and the nature of projects encountered by each lead agency.

The guidance in the *Thresholds Guide* does not substitute for the use of independent judgment to determine significance or the evaluation of the evidence in the record, but is intended to provide sufficient flexibility to use the most appropriate criteria for a particular project. CEQA includes additional topics and requirements that are not addressed in the *Thresholds Guide*. The project evaluator and lead agency are still responsible for all CEQA requirements, whether or not they are discussed in the *Thresholds Guide*. The City CEQA Guidelines, the State CEQA Guidelines, and other references describe all of the requirements of the CEQA process and should be consulted if additional assistance is required.

As noted above, the fundamental purpose of CEQA is to publicly disclose and evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with proposed projects. As such, CEQA contains specific public notification and participation requirements. In addition, City policy in the General Plan Framework Element and a similar policy in the Transportation Element is to “assure that (sic) fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, incomes and education levels with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, including affirmative efforts to inform and involve environmental groups, especially environmental justice groups, in early planning stages through notification

and two-way communication.<sup>1</sup> This assurance may involve efforts to identify and reach affected populations, including low-income communities and communities of color.

## CONTENT AND USE

The *Thresholds Guide* presents two sets of criteria to evaluate project impacts: the screening and significance criteria. The screening criteria provide assistance in responding to Initial Study Checklist questions, and can help determine when further study is needed to decide whether a significant impact could potentially occur. Additional study (either in the context of an expanded Initial Study, negative declaration, or EIR) will assist project evaluators in determining whether the project impact falls above or below the significance threshold. The significance threshold identifies the level of impact over which mitigation (or a Statement of Overriding Considerations, if mitigation is not feasible) is required.

By defining screening criteria and significance thresholds, the *Thresholds Guide* provides guidance in determining the appropriate environmental document required for a project within the City of Los Angeles – negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report (EIR) – and whether a project’s impacts would be presumed significant under normal circumstances, and therefore, require mitigation. The existence of screening criteria and significance thresholds may also encourage project proponents to incorporate impact-reducing measures into project designs, prior to submitting project applications to the City, to reduce potential impacts below the significance level.

The screening criteria and significance thresholds presented in the *Thresholds Guide* are based on a variety of factors, including existing local, state, and federal regulations, administrative practices of other public agencies, and commonly accepted professional standards (common practice). Each threshold was then reviewed with respect to meeting the following goals: objectivity and applicability, defensibility, practicality, nexus between impacts and mitigation, and legal liability. This document, therefore, represents a compilation of existing information and practices and does not introduce new evaluation methods, nor does it diminish the value of independent judgment on the part of the project evaluator. However, the guidance provided in the *Thresholds Guide* can simplify the CEQA process by providing a consistent set of criteria applicable to most discretionary projects in the City. Because evaluation practices continue to evolve due to changing regulations, scientific methods, and court decisions, the project evaluator and lead City agency should always use the best information and evaluation methods available, including those from sources other than the *Thresholds Guide*.

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<sup>1</sup> *City of Los Angeles, General Plan Framework Element, Policy 3.1.9, page 3-8.*

There are three types of significance thresholds identified in the *Thresholds Guide*: quantitative, qualitative, and case-by-case (also called factors for consideration). Quantitative thresholds provide a measurable criterion with which to compare one or more characteristics of the proposed project, such as “the vehicle-to-capacity ratio increase at a study intersection is greater than 0.020.” A qualitative threshold requires comparison to non-numerical criteria, such as “interference with a wildlife movement corridor.” For some issue areas, a definitive threshold could not be established, either because the significance of impacts is specific to site conditions or project operations, or because there is no consistent technical guidance available. For these issues, the case-by-case thresholds provide factors for the project evaluator to consider, in light of specific project circumstances, in the determination of significance.

The *Thresholds Guide* does not identify thresholds for all issues found in the State’s Initial Study Checklist, but focuses on those that are most commonly of concern throughout the City. In addition, the *Thresholds Guide* provides information on the topic of Shading, which is not listed in the Initial Study Checklist. It also provides expanded information on transportation issues, consistent with the City Department of Transportation’s traffic study policies and procedures.

The impact resulting from a particular action depends on the project setting, design, and operational components. Therefore, the use of the *Thresholds Guide* may be appropriate for projects located within City boundaries under “normal” conditions, but there may be circumstances in which another set of criteria better applies to the proposed action or setting, and should be used for the determination of significance. For City-sponsored projects located outside City boundaries, City departments conducting CEQA review must consider the local environmental setting, as well as applicable regulations and policies, and determine if another set of criteria applies or is more appropriate.

Since conditions may vary depending upon the type of project and/or approval that is required, the lead City agency responsible for the implementation of CEQA for a particular project may develop internal departmental direction (e.g., thresholds), not inconsistent with the guidance in the *Thresholds Guide*, to address issues that commonly arise within the jurisdiction of that department. Project applicants should consult with the lead City department regarding any additional or further defined screening criteria or significance thresholds that may apply.

The case study and flowcharts in Exhibits 1-4 illustrate the process of using the screening criteria and significance thresholds, and how their use relates to the Initial Study Checklist and the impact evaluation process. The exhibits all assume that a project is not exempt from CEQA



requirements. The case study (Exhibit 1) assesses operational noise impacts for four project types by posing a series of questions about each “project.” This exercise concludes with an Initial Study evaluation and a determination of the type of CEQA document appropriate for that project. The flowcharts (Exhibits 2-4) describe the steps in conceptual terms, focusing on three phases of the CEQA process: 1) the Initial Study Checklist Process (using the screening and significance criteria to determine which boxes to check on the Checklist); 2) the Initial Study Determination (what type of CEQA document to prepare); and 3) the Impact Evaluation and Mitigation Process. The impact from a particular project may fall (a) below the screening criteria, (b) between the screening criteria and the significance threshold, or (c) above the significance threshold.

## Exhibit 1

### CASE STUDY: OPERATIONAL NOISE

#### Initial Study Checklist Questions

- X.a): Would the proposal result in increases in existing noise levels?  
 X.b): Would the proposal result in exposure of people to severe noise levels?

#### Initial Study Screening Criteria

- Would the proposed project introduce a stationary noise source that is likely to be audible beyond the property line of the project site?
- Would the project include 75 or more dwelling units or 100,000 square feet (sf) or greater of nonresidential development, or have the potential to generate 1,000 or more average daily vehicle trips (ADT)?

#### Significance Threshold

A project would normally have a significant impact on noise levels from project operation if the project causes the ambient noise level measured at the property line of an affected use to increase by 3 decibels (dBA) or more in community noise equivalency level (CNEL) to or within the "normally unacceptable" or "clearly unacceptable" category of the noise exposure chart prepared by the California Department of Health Services (DHS), or any 5 dBA or greater noise increase.

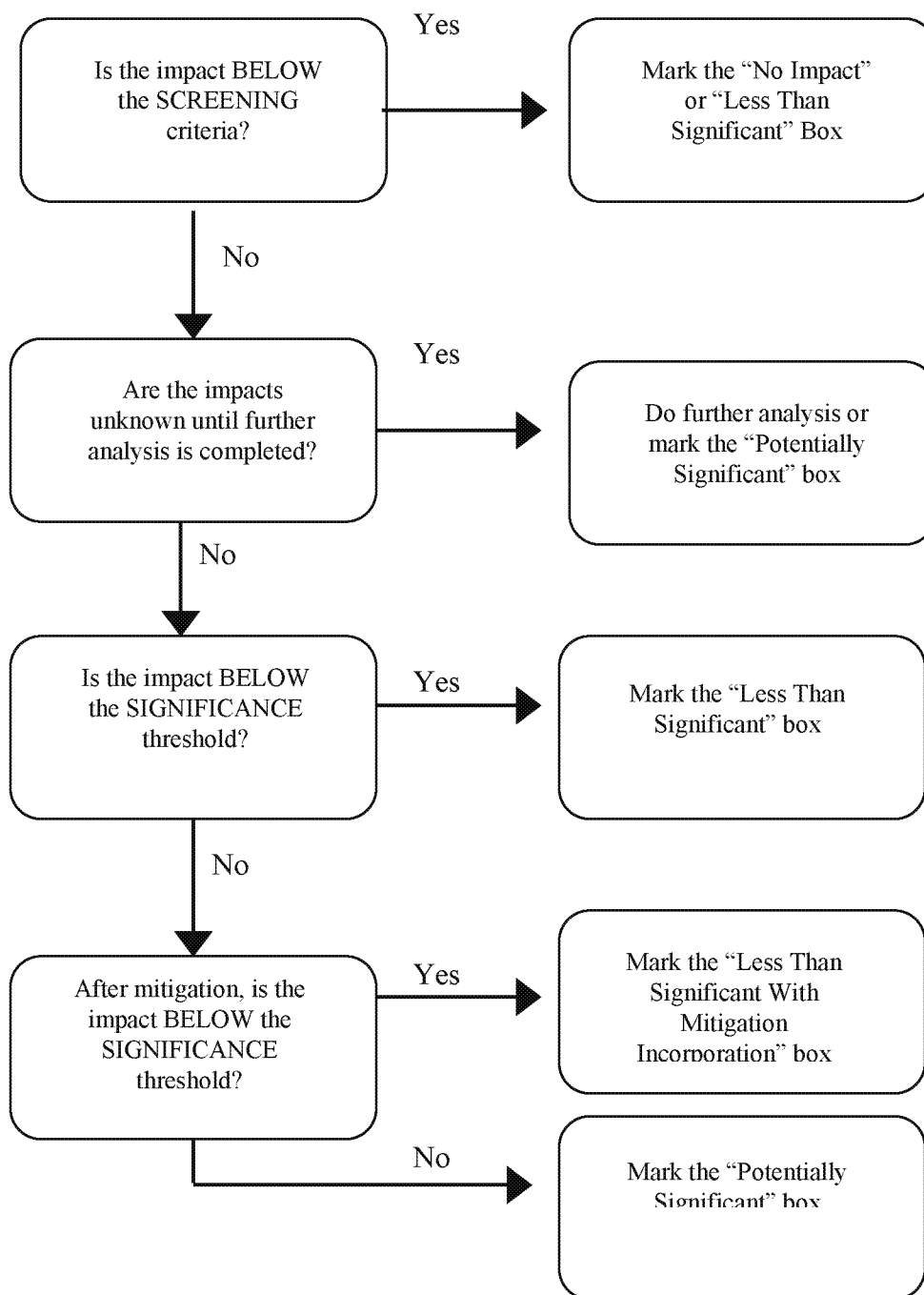
Case	Introduce Stationary Source with Noise Emissions Audible Beyond Property Line?	Include more than 75 du, 100,000 sf nonresidential, or 1,000 ADT?	Increase in Ambient Level?	Increase Remaining After Mitigation	Initial Study Evaluation	Results/ Document Prepared
1	No	No	-	-	No Impact	Neg Dec
2	No	Yes	2 dBA	-	Less Than Significant Impact	Neg Dec
3	Yes	No	5 dBA	2.5 dBA	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Mitigated Neg Dec
4	Yes	Yes	7 dBA	5 dBA	Potentially Significant Impact	EIR

Notes: Assumes project is not exempt under CEQA.

The noise exposure chart prepared by the DHS is reproduced in the *Thresholds Guide*.

If the noise level before and/or after mitigation is not known or cannot be determined, additional analysis could be undertaken prior to completing the Initial Study Evaluation or within an EIR.

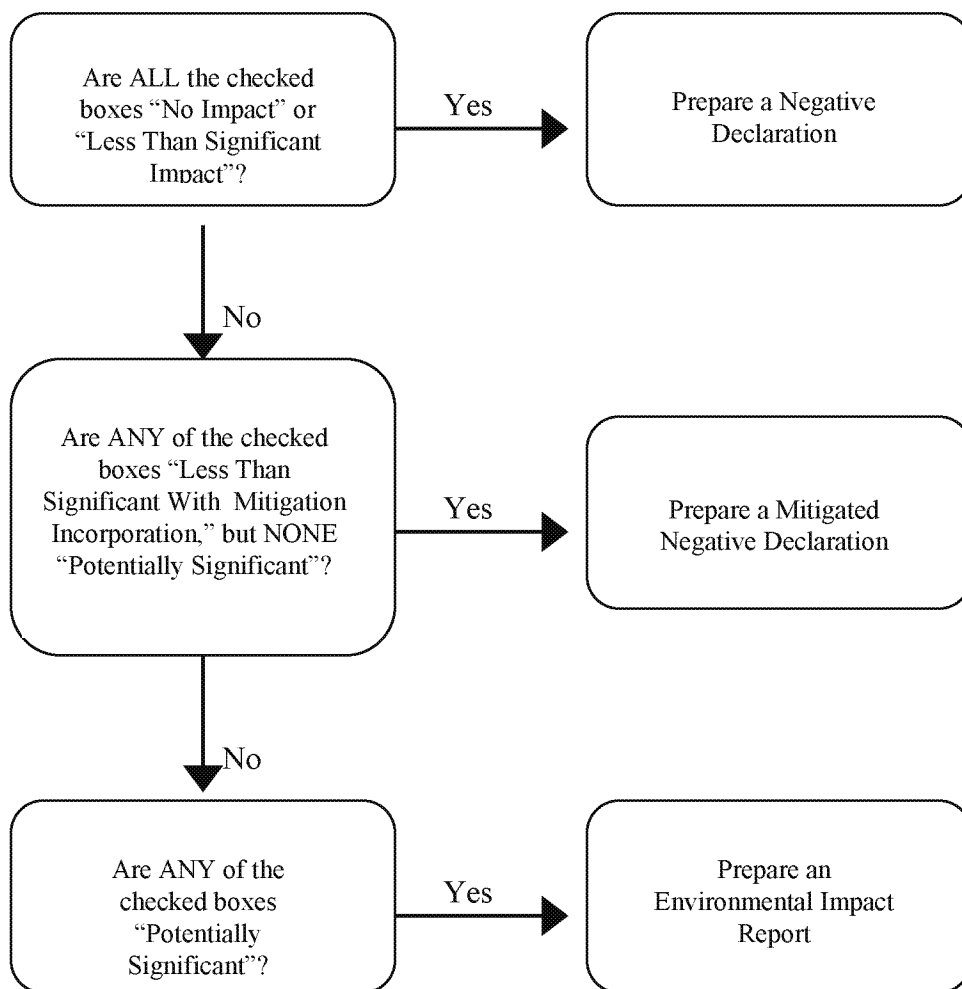
## Exhibit 2 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST PROCESS\*



\*

*Assumes the project has had no previous review and is not exempt under CEQA.*

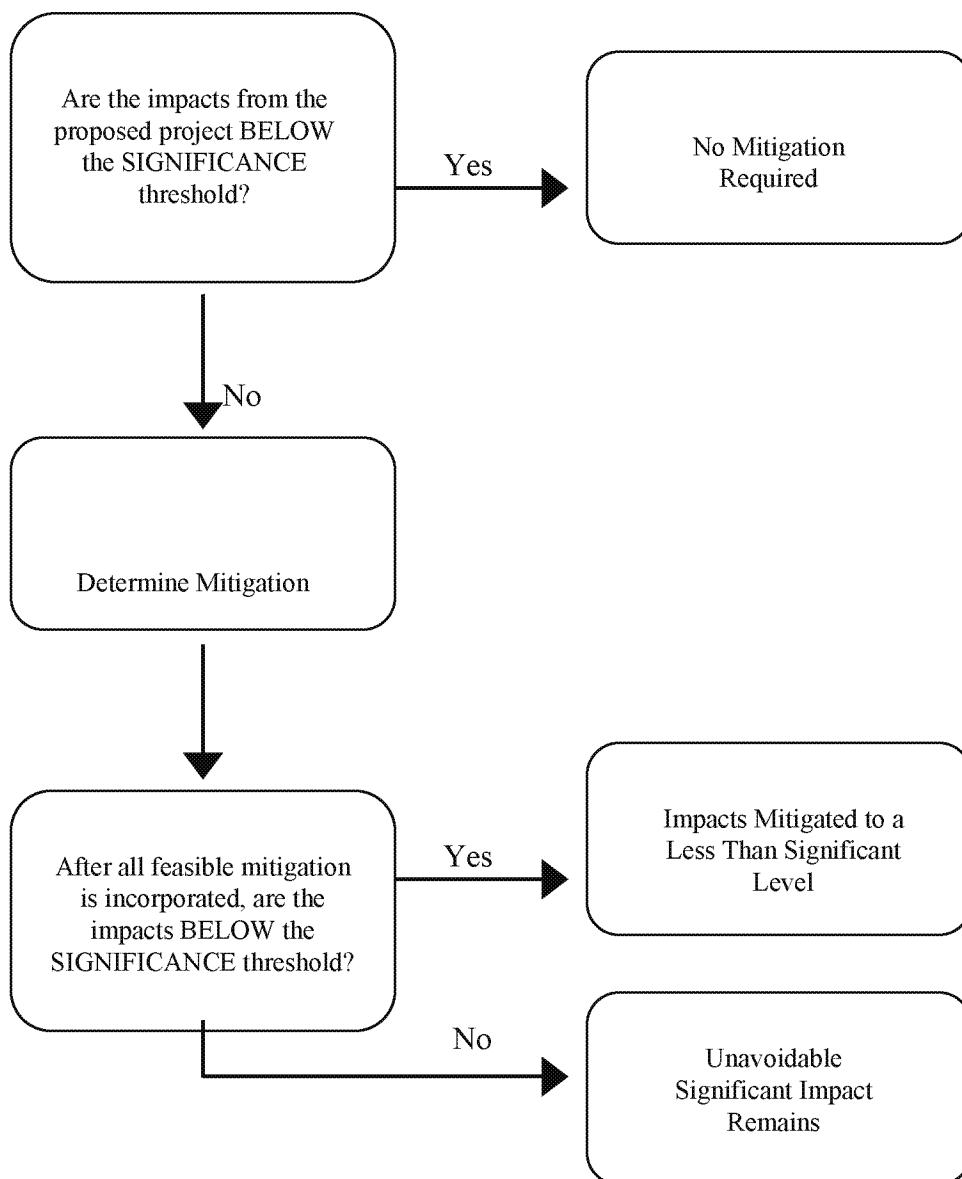
### Exhibit 3 INITIAL STUDY DETERMINATION\*



\*

*Assumes the project is not exempt under CEQA.*

## Exhibit 4 IMPACT EVALUATION AND MITIGATION PROCESS



*Note: If a project would result in one or more significant impacts, the lead agency, prior to project approval, must adopt certain findings as stated in CEQA Section 21081. Additional requirements related to mitigation measures are described in Section 21081.6.*

## DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

The *Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide* is arranged by issue area, generally in the same order in which the issues appear in the State's Initial Study Checklist. The major environmental categories covered in the document are as follows:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology
- Hazards
- Land Use
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Public Utilities
- Transportation
- Visual Resources
- Water Resources

For each environmental issue area, the following information is provided:

### 1. Initial Study Screening Process

Initial Study Checklist Question: This lists the question(s) from the State's Initial Study Checklist addressed within this issue area.

Introduction: The introduction provides a brief description of the issue area, including what types of project activities could be expected to have an impact, how the resource/issue would be affected, and important regulatory agencies and/or regulations.

Screening Criteria: The screening criteria assist in deciding when further study (additional review) is needed to determine whether a project impact could be significant. It assumes that the project is not exempt from CEQA requirements. Criteria are phrased as yes/no questions. For many issue areas, further study is recommended when one or more questions are answered with a "yes." A "no" response to all questions indicates that further study is not required, and there would normally be no significant impact from the proposed project on the subject issue.

Evaluation of Screening Criteria: This section contains any additional information needed to apply the screening criteria and identifies references that may be used in the evaluation.

### 2. Determination of Significance

Significance Threshold: The significance threshold provides guidance in determining whether or not a project impact would be significant. The threshold assumes that a project

exceeds the screening criteria. The quantitative and qualitative thresholds are phrased in the positive, so that if the project meets one or more of the criteria listed (a “yes” response), it would normally be considered to have a significant impact on the environment. Where a definitive threshold is not available, the *Thresholds Guide* provides case-by-case thresholds which consist of a list of conditions or criteria to be considered for an individual determination of significance.

Environmental Setting: This section identifies the type of information that is appropriate for a project setting or background section.

Project Impacts: This section provides a recommended methodology with which to analyze the proposed project, including the identification and evaluation of direct and indirect impacts, as appropriate, that may occur during construction or operation. It also identifies sources of relevant information and technical resources, and provides the basic steps to follow in the analysis. Impact methodologies are assumed to apply to both project level and plan level analyses unless otherwise specified. Other analysis methods may be appropriate, depending on project circumstances.

Cumulative Impacts: This section presents a method to evaluate cumulative impacts, based on either a related projects list or a planned development approach (the amount of overall growth expected for the project area, according to planning documents or forecasts, by the time of project completion). The methodology describes only the type of analysis that is appropriate and does not address the size or location of related projects to consider in the analysis. In cases where the methodology is the same as that for project impacts, the project impact section is referenced rather than repeating the information.

Sample Mitigation Measures: This section provides a sample list of measures that may be used to reduce project impacts. It does not address specific mitigation measures for certain project types, nor does it recommend or prioritize mitigation measures. Consideration of alternative projects (e.g., smaller scale, different uses) to reduce impacts is assumed to be part of the project alternatives analysis required in an EIR and is not included in the sample mitigation measures listed in the *Thresholds Guide*.

### **3. Data, Resources, and References**

This section provides additional information related to the environmental issue. It may contain references to agencies or others with expertise in the subject area, reference documents, and selected legislation. For references that do not identify an agency or author, the entry refers to the City of Los Angeles. Several sections also provide exhibits and/or supplemental background information that illustrates or further explains concepts addressed in the section.

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

### **Interdepartmental CEQA Manual Subcommittee**

Mayor's Office  
Building and Safety  
Chief Legislative Analyst's Office  
City Attorney's Office  
Community Development Department  
Community Redevelopment Agency  
Department of City Planning  
Department of Transportation  
Department of Water and Power  
Environmental Affairs Department  
Fire Department  
Harbor Department  
Housing Department  
Los Angeles World Airports  
Public Works/Bureau of Engineering  
Public Works/Integrated Solid Waste Management Office  
Public Works/Bureau of Sanitation  
Public Works/Bureau of Street Lighting  
Recreation and Parks

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Environ Corporation



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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE**

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTION**

**THRESHOLDS GUIDE SECTION**

**I. AESTHETICS: *Would the project:***

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

A.1 Aesthetics

A.2 Obstruction of Views

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

A.1 Aesthetics

E.3 Landform Alterations

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

A.1 Aesthetics

A.3 Shading

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

(Glare Not Addressed)

A.4 Nighttime Illumination

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTION****THRESHOLDS GUIDE SECTION**

**II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES:** *In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:*

(Agriculture  
Not Addressed)

**III. AIR QUALITY:** *Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:*

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

B.1 Construction Emissions  
B.2 Operational Emissions  
B.3 Toxic Air Contaminants

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

B.1 Construction Emissions  
B.2 Operational Emissions  
B.3 Toxic Air Contaminants

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTION****THRESHOLDS GUIDE SECTION**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard ( including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?                 | B.1 Construction Emissions<br>B.2 Operational Emissions                               |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?   | B.1 Construction Emissions<br>B.2 Operational Emissions<br>B.3 Toxic Air Contaminants |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?  | B.2 Operational Emissions   |
| <b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: <i>Would the project:</i></b>   |   |
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | C. Biological Resources   |

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

<u>INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTION</u>	<u>THRESHOLDS GUIDE SECTION</u>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	C. Biological Resources
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal	C. Biological Resources
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	C. Biological Resources
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	C. Biological Resources
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	C. Biological Resources

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES:** *Would the project:*

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5?    | D.3 Historical Resources      |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5? | D.2 Archaeological Resources  |
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?       | D.1 Paleontological Resources |
|   | E.3 Landform Alterations      |
| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?                          | D.2 Archaeological Resources  |

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

**VI. GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS:** *Would the project:*

- |      |  |     |                           |
|------|--|-----|---------------------------|
| a)   | Expose people to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:  |     |                           |
| i)   | Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publications 42. | E.1 | Geologic Hazards          |
| ii)  | Strong seismic ground shaking?   | E.1 | Geologic Hazards          |
| iii) | Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?  | E.1 | Geologic Hazards          |
| iv)  | Landslides?  | E.1 | Geologic Hazards          |
| b)   | Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?   | E.2 | Sedimentation and Erosion |
| c)   | Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?  | E.1 | Geologic Hazards          |

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| d)   | Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks of life or property?  | Not Addressed  |
| e)   | Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?            | E.3    Landform Alteration   |
| <b>VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:</b> <i>Would the project:</i> |  |  |
| a)   | Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?   | F.1    Risk of Upset/Emergency Preparedness<br>F.2    Human Health Hazards |
| b)   | Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | F.1    Risk of Upset/Emergency Preparedness<br>F.2    Human Health Hazards |
| c)   | Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?                                 | F.2    Human Health Hazards  |

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	F.2 Human Health Hazards
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	F.1 Risk of Upset/Emergency Preparedness K.2 Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Services
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working within the project area?	F.1 Risk of Upset/Emergency Preparedness K.2 Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Services
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	F.1 Risk of Upset/Emergency Preparedness K.2 Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Services
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	K.2 Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Services



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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

**VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: *Would the project:***

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?   | G.2 Surface Water Quality                                |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | G.2 Surface Water Quality<br>G.3 Groundwater Level       |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?  | G.1 Surface Water Hydrology<br>G.2 Surface Water Quality |
| d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?   | G.1 Surface Water Hydrology                              |

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	G.1 Surface Water Hydrology
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	G.3 Groundwater Level
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal flood hazard Boundary or flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	G.1 Surface Water Hydrology G.2 Surface Water Quality G.3 Groundwater Level G.4 Groundwater Quality
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	G.4 Groundwater Quality
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	G.1 Surface Water Hydrology G.3 Groundwater Level
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	E.1 Geologic Hazards G.3 Groundwater Level

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

**IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING: *Would the project:***

- |    |   |            |  |
|----|---|------------|--|
| a) | Physically divide an established community?   | H.2        | Land Use Compatibility                         |
| b) | Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding mitigating an environmental effect? | H.1<br>H.2 | Land Use Consistency<br>Land Use Compatibility |
| c) | Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?  | H.1<br>H.2 | Land Use Consistency<br>Land Use Compatibility |

**X. MINERAL RESOURCES: *Would the project:***

- |    |  |     |                   |
|----|--|-----|-------------------|
| a) | Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?                                | E.4 | Mineral Resources |
| b) | Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, general plan, or other land use plan? | E.4 | Mineral Resources |

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

**XI. NOISE:** *Would the project result in:*

- |    |  |     |                    |
|----|--|-----|--------------------|
| a) | Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | I.1 | Construction Noise |
|    |  | I.2 | Operational Noise  |
|    |  | I.3 | Railroad Noise     |
|    |  | I.4 | Airport Noise      |
| b) | Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?   | I.1 | Construction Noise |
|    |  | I.2 | Operational Noise  |
|    |  | I.3 | Railroad Noise     |
|    |  | I.4 | Airport Noise      |
| c) | A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?  | I.2 | Operational Noise  |
|    |  | I.3 | Railroad Noise     |
|    |  | I.4 | Airport Noise      |
| d) | A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above the existing without the project?   | I.1 | Construction Noise |
|    |  | I.2 | Operational Noise  |
|    |  | I.3 | Railroad Noise     |
|    |  | I.4 | Airport Noise      |

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

- |   |  |     |                                     |
|---|--|-----|-------------------------------------|
| e)  | For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | I.1 | Construction Noise                  |
|   |  | I.2 | Operational Noise                   |
|   |  | I.4 | Airport Noise                       |
| f)  | For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?  | I.1 | Construction Noise                  |
|   |  | I.2 | Operational Noise                   |
|   |  | I.4 | Airport Noise                       |
| <b>XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING: <i>Would the project:</i></b> |  |     |                                     |
| a)  | Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?   | J.1 | Population and Housing Growth       |
| b)  | Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?   | J.1 | Population and Housing Growth       |
|   |  | J.2 | Population and Housing Displacement |
| c)  | Displace substantial numbers of existing people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere   | J.2 | Population and Housing Displacement |

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

**XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES:** *Would the project:*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the above public services: | K.1 Police Protection                            |
| i) Fire protection?   | K.2 Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Services |
| ii) Police protection   | K.1 Police Protection                            |
| iii) Schools?   | K.3 Public Schools                               |
| iv) Parks?  | K.4 Recreation and Parks                         |
| v) Other public facilities?   | K.5 Libraries                                    |

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

**XIV. RECREATION:**

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the family would occur or be accelerated? | K.4 Recreation and Parks |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?                      | K.4 Recreation and Parks |

**XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: *Would the project:***

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections?) | L.1 Intersection Capacity<br>L.2 Street Segment Capacity<br>L.3 Freeway Capacity<br>L.4 Neighborhood Intrusion Impacts<br>L.8 In-Street Construction Impacts |
| b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?   | L.1 Intersection Capacity<br>L.2 Street Segment Capacity<br>L.3 Freeway Capacity   |

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

- |    |  |                                |
|----|--|--------------------------------|
| c) | Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | Not Addressed                  |
| d) | Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?          | Not Addressed                  |
| e) | Result in inadequate emergency access?   | L.5    Project Access          |
| f) | Result in inadequate parking capacity?   | L.7    Parking                 |
| g) | Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?                                | L.6    Transit System Capacity |

**XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: *Would the project:***

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| a) | Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?  | M.2    Wastewater   |
| b) | Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | G.1    Surface Water Hydrology<br>M.1    Water<br>M.2    Wastewater |



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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                                     | G.1 Surface Water Hydrology<br>M.2 Wastewater |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?  | M.1 Water                                     |
| e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | K.2 Wastewater                                |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?  | K.3 Solid Waste                               |
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?   | M.3 Solid Waste                               |

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND  
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

**XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** *Does the project:*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | All sections, particularly:<br>C. Biological Resources<br>D.1 Paleontological Resources<br>D.2 Archaeological Resources<br>D.3 Historical Resources |
| b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?   | All Sections  |
| c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?  | Not addressed specifically, each section addresses indirectly   |

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

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AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ACEC	Areas of Critical Concern
ACM	asbestos-containing material
ACOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
ADT	average daily traffic
AEM	Area Equivalent Method
AEP	Association of Environmental Professionals
AF	acre feet
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
AQ-TAN	Air Quality Technical Analysis Note
ARMR	Archaeological Resource Management Reports
ASTM	American Society of Testing Methods
ATSAC	Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control
AVORS	Additional Valley Outfall Relief Sewer
AVR	average vehicle ridership
BACM	Best Available Control Measures
BACT	Best Available Control Technologies
Basin	South Coast Air Basin
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments
CAC	California Administrative Code
CAL3QHC	air quality model
California Register	California Register of Historical Resources
CALINE/4	air quality model
CalOSHA	California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Clean Air Program
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBD	Central Business District
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCSCE	Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy
CDD	Community Development Department
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDMG	California Division of Mines and Geology
CEQ	Council of Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGC	California Government Code
CHAS	Comprehensive Housing Affordability Study
CHC	Cultural Heritage Commission
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
CIS	Coastal Interceptor Sewer

## List of Abbreviations/Acronyms, continued

CiSWMPP	City Solid Waste Management Policy Plan
CIWMB	California Integrated Waste Management Board
CMA	Critical Movement Analysis
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
COS	Central Outfall Sewer
CRA	Community Redevelopment Agency
CRV	California Redemption Value
cu.yd.	cubic yards
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWC	California Water Code
D/C	demand to capacity
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel scale
DFO	Designated Federal Official
DHS	Department of Health Services
DMV	California Department of Motor Vehicles
DOF	Department of Finance
DOT	United States Department of Transportation
DWP	Department of Water and Power
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EAD	Environmental Affairs Department
EDI	City of Los Angeles Environmental Data Index
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMFAC	emission factors
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERCs	Emission Reduction Credits
EVIS	East Valley Interceptor Sewer
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAR	Federal Aviation Regulation
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FLMPA	Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976
gpcd	gallons per capita per day
gpd	gallons per day
gpm	gallons per minute
Gr.sq.ft.	gross square feet
gsf	gross square feet
HABS	Historic American Building Survey
HAPs	Hazardous Air Pollutants
HI	hazard index

## List of Abbreviations/Acronyms, continued

HNM	Helicopter Noise Model
HOV	high occupancy vehicles
HPOZ	Historic Preservation Overlay Zone
HRA	health risk assessment
HSC	Health and Safety Code
HTP	Hyperion Treatment Plant
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
ICO	interim control ordinance
INM	Integrated Noise Model
ISWM	Integrated Solid Waste Management
ISWMO	Integrated Solid Waste Management Office
ITE	Institute of Transportation Engineers
IWG	Interagency Working Group
L.A.	Los Angeles
LACMTA	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
LADOT	Los Angeles Department of Transportation
LAFD	Los Angeles Fire Department
LAGWRP	Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant
LAMC	Los Angeles Municipal Code
LAPD	Los Angeles Police Department
LAPL	Los Angeles Public Library
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
LAUSD	Los Angeles Unified School District
LAX	Los Angeles International Airport
Ldn	Day-Night Sound Level
LEQV2	noise model
LGC	Local Government Commission
LOS	level of service
LUPAMS	Land Use Planning and Mapping System
LUST	leaking underground storage tank
MAAQI	Mobile Assessment for Air Quality Impacts
MACT	Maximum Achievable Control Technology
MFI	Median Family Income
mgd	million gallons per day
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
mph	miles per hour
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
MUTCD	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
MWD	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NCHRP	National Cooperative Highway Research Program
NCOS-NOS	North Central Outfall Sewer-North Outfall Sewer

## List of Abbreviations/Acronyms, continued

NEJAC	National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAPs	National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NO <sub>2</sub>	nitrogen dioxide
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NORS	North Outfall Replacement Sewer
NOS	North Outfall Sewer
NOS-LCSFVRS	North Outfall Sewer-La Cienega, San Fernando Valley Relief Sewer
NO <sub>x</sub>	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NSPS	New Source Performance Standard
NSR	New Source Review
OEJ	Office of Environmental Justice
OHP	California Office of Historic Preservation
OPR	Office of Planning and Research
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Pb	lead
PM	particulate matter
PM <sub>10</sub>	coarse particulates
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	fine particulates
POD	Pedestrian Oriented District
PRC	Public Resources Code
RACM	Reasonably Available Control Measures
RCP&G	Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide
RD	Reporting District
RECLAIM	Regional Clean Air Incentives Market
ROG	Reactive Organic Gas
ROW	right-of-way
RTCs	RECLAIM Trading Credits
RTIP	Regional Transportation Improvement Program
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SANDAG	San Diego Association of Governments
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SEA	Significant Ecological Area
sf	square feet
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMGB	State Mining and Geology Board
SO <sub>2</sub>	sulfur dioxide
SOCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SOUND32	noise model
SOV	single occupant vehicle
SO <sub>x</sub>	sulfur oxides
sq.ft.	square feet

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**List of Abbreviations/Acronyms, continued**

SRRE	Source Reduction and Recycling Element
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
The Gas Company	Southern California Gas Company
TIA	Transportation Impact Assessment
TITP	Terminal Island Treatment Plant
TOD	Transit Oriented District
TRB	Transportation Research Board
TSM	Transportation System Management
TSP	Transportation Specific Plan
TWRP	Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant
U.S.	United States
UCLA	University of California at Los Angeles
ULARA	Upper Los Angeles River Area
ULI	Urban Land Institute
USAF	United States Air Force
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
V/C	Volume to Capacity
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirements
ZI	Zoning Information

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## GLOSSARY

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**Alternatives** - A range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain the project's objectives but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. The comparative merits of the alternatives are evaluated in an EIR or EIS.

**Applicant** - A legal entity or person who proposes to carry out a project and needs a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use, or who is requesting financial assistance from one or more public agencies to carry out a project.

**Approval** - The action by a decision-making body, which commits the City to a definite course of action with regard to a project, intended to be carried out by any person.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** - Statute enacted by the California legislature contained in the California Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq. The *Thresholds Guide* provides guidance on the determination of significant impacts, one provision of CEQA.

**California Law** – California Law consists of 29 codes, covering various subject areas, the State Constitution and Statutes. Codes included the following: Business and Professions Code, Civil Code, Code of Civil Procedure, Commercial Code, Corporations Code, Education code, Election Code, Evidence Code, Family Code, Financial Code, Fish and Game Code, Food and Agricultural Code, Government Code, Harbors and Navigation Code, Health and

Safety Code, Insurance Code, Labor Code, Military and Veterans Code, Penal Code, Probate Code, Public Contract Code, Public Resources Code, Public Utilities Code, Revenue and Taxation Code, Streets and Highways Code, Unemployment Insurance Code, Vehicle Code, Water Code, and Welfare and Institutions Code.

**Categorical Exemption** - An exemption from the requirements of CEQA based on a finding by the Secretary For Resources and the Los Angeles City Council that certain types of projects do not have a significant effect on the environment.

**CEQA Guidelines** - The CEQA Guidelines provide agencies with criteria and procedures for the evaluation of projects and the preparation of environmental documents. The State CEQA Guidelines are contained in Title 14, Division 6 of the California Administrative Code. The Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines are adopted by ordinance of the City Council.

**Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)** - is a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The CFR is divided into 50 titles, which represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. Each title is divided into chapters, which usually bear the name of the issuing agency. Each chapter is further subdivided into parts covering specific regulatory areas. Large parts may be subdivided into subparts.

**Community Plan** – A portion of the General Plan that focuses on the setting and



needs of a particular area. It supports the policies of the General Plan. Los Angeles has 35 Community Planning Areas. The 35 Community Plans make up the City's Land Use Element.

**Decision-Making Body** - A group or individual having project approval authority.

**Discretionary Project** - An activity defined as a project which requires the exercise of judgment, deliberation, or a decision on the part of the public agency or body in the process of approving or disapproving a particular activity, as distinguished from activities where the public agency or body merely has to determine whether there has been compliance with applicable statutes, ordinances, or regulations.

**Entitlement** - Used to describe discretionary land use approval granted by the Planning Department. Includes Zone Variances, Zone Changes, Conditional Use Permits, General Plan Amendments, Specific Plan Exceptions, Subdivisions, Parcel Maps, and Site Plan Review.

**Environment** - Environment, for the purposes of implementing CEQA, is the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

**Environmental and Public Facilities Maps** - Show the location of and describe various environmental features and public facilities. The City Planning Department Citywide Division prepared the 42 maps in 1996.

**Environmental Assessment Form (EAF)** - An environmental form submitted to the

Environmental Review Section of the City Planning Department which provides the necessary information to determine the recommended environmental clearance for projects requiring any discretionary action.

**Environmental Data Index (EDI)** - The EDI is a citywide tabular report describing the geographical distribution of a wide array of environmental characteristics on a census tract basis. Data for 30 environmental elements are included. The City Planning Department prepared the EDI in 1978.

**Environmental Documents-** Environmental documents, according to CEQA, include Initial Study, Negative Declaration, draft and final EIR, Joint EIR/EIS, Notice of Preparation and General Exemption, Notice of Completion, Notice of Determination, and Notice of Exemption.

**Environmental Impact Report (EIR)** - An Environmental Impact Report is a concise statement setting forth the environmental effects and considerations pertaining to a project as specified in Section 21100 of CEQA.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** - An Environmental Impact Statement may be required pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if a federal agency or funding is involved. Like an EIR, an EIS describes the environmental impacts of a proposed project and its alternatives.

**Feasible** - Feasible means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, social, and technological factors.

**Federal Register** – The Federal Register is the official daily publication for Rules, Proposed rules, and Notices of Federal agencies and organizations, as well as Executive Orders and other Presidential Documents.

**Framework Element** – This strategy for long-term growth sets a citywide context to guide the update of the Community Plans and citywide elements of the General Plan. The Framework Element refines adopted City policy and updates and supersedes Concept Los Angeles, a strategy to preserve residential neighborhoods by focusing growth into centers. Approved by City Council in December 1996.

**General Exemption** - An exemption from the requirements of CEQA is granted if it can be seen with reasonable certainty that the project in question could not possibly have a significant effect on the environment.

**General Plan** – A “blueprint” for future development with a long-term outlook. Required by State law to be prepared by each county and city and include seven elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety. May also include optional elements. Includes policies, goals, objectives, and programs. Development must not only meet specific zoning requirements, but also the broader policies, goals and objectives set forth in the General Plan. The City’s General Plan is organized into the following Elements: Framework; Land Use; Air Quality; Transportation; Housing; Infrastructure Systems; Open Space and Conservation; Noise; Public Facilities and Services; Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources; Safety; and Urban Form and Neighborhood Design.

**Initial Study** - A comprehensive analysis of those aspects of the environment, which could potentially affect a project or be affected by a project conducted to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment.

**Lead Agency** - The public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. The Lead Agency will prepare the environmental documents for the project either directly or by contract.

**Lead City Agency** - A Lead City Agency is the City department, bureau, division, section, office, or agency which has the principal responsibility of carrying out a project which is subject to the provisions of CEQA, or has the principal responsibility for processing the application for a lease, permit, license, or other entitlement for use for a project which is subject to the provisions of CEQA. If more than one City Agency meets the Lead City Agency criteria, the Lead City Agency shall be the City Agency that normally acts first on such projects.

**Ministerial Project** - Activities undertaken by public agencies pursuant to a statute, ordinance, or regulation that sets forth the conditions upon which the undertaking must or must not be granted. A ministerial decision involves only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without professional judgment.

**Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)** - When significant impacts may occur as a result of the implementation of a project, but mitigation and/or project modification reduce impacts to a less than significant level, then a Mitigated Negative Declaration

is issued with discussion and conditions attached.

**Mitigation** - Mitigation includes avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; or compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** - The National Environmental Policy Act is the federal law requiring an environmental assessment for federal actions that involve impacts on the environment. NEPA is set forth in 42 U.S.C.A. 4321 et seq.

**Negative Declaration (ND)** - A statement by the Lead Agency briefly setting forth the reasons why the project, although not otherwise exempt, will not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an EIR.

**Notice of Completion (NOC)** - A brief notice filed with the State Clearinghouse in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research by a Lead Agency as soon as it has completed a draft EIR and is prepared to send out copies for review.

**Notice of Determination (NOD)** - A public notice filed with the City and County Clerk by the Lead City Agency after a project subject to the provisions of CEQA and involving a Negative Declaration, Mitigated

Negative Declaration or an EIR has been approved.

**Notice of Exemption (NOE)** - A public notice which may be filed with the City and County Clerk by a Lead City Agency after the decision-making body has approved a project and has determined that it is a ministerial, categorically exempt, or emergency project, or is otherwise exempted pursuant to the provisions of Section 21080 (b) of the California Public Resources Code.

**Notice of Preparation (NOP)** - A brief notice sent by a Lead City Agency to notify Responsible Agencies and interested parties that the Lead City Agency plans to prepare an EIR for a proposed project.

**Office of Planning and Research (OPR)** - Assists in the understanding and implementation of CEQA by (1) preparing and updating the State CEQA Guidelines; (2) evaluating Categorical Exemptions; (3) distributing documents to state agencies through the State Clearinghouse; (4) coordinating between other public agencies; and (5) preparing and distributing publications related to the understanding and use of CEQA.

**Participating City Agency** - A City department, bureau, division, section, office, officer, or agency, which is required by Charter or action of the City Council to review a particular class of projects and make comments or recommendations to the Lead City Agency.

**Responsible Agency** - A public agency, such as a city or county, which proposes to carry out or has approval power over a project, but is not the Lead Agency for the project.

**Significant Effect** - A substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the proposed activity including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. This *Thresholds Guide* is intended to assist in the determination of significant effects.

**Specific Plan** – describes the allowable land uses, identifies open space, and details infrastructure availability and financing for a portion of a community. Specific plans implement, but are not technically a part of the General Plan. Los Angeles has various specific plans throughout the City, such as West Los Angeles, Warner Center, etc.

**State Clearinghouse** - In the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. Responsible for distributing environmental documents to state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions for review and comment. Coordinates the responses to ensure accurate and consistent responses from the state.

**Statement of Overriding Considerations** - A statement with findings identifying public objectives that, in the opinion of the decision-making body, warrant approval of a project notwithstanding its significant adverse impact(s) on the environment.

**Statutory Exemption** - Exemption from the requirements of CEQA based on the determination by the California Legislature that a specific type of project should be exempt from CEQA.

**Zoning** – The purpose of zoning regulations is to implement the policies of the General Plan. Zoning lists the kinds of uses allowed on a parcel and sets standards such as

minimum lot size, maximum building height, and minimum front yard depth. Zoning must comply with the general plan, is adopted by ordinance, and carries the weight of local law. The City's Zoning is found in Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC).

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## **D. CULTURAL RESOURCES**

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## **D.1. PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

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### **1. INITIAL STUDY SCREENING PROCESS**

#### **A. Initial Study Checklist Question**

V.c): Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

#### **B. Introduction**

Paleontological resources are the fossilized remains of organisms that have lived in the region in the geologic past and the accompanying geologic strata. Because the majority of species that have existed on Earth are extinct, the fossil record represents the primary source of data on ancient life forms. In addition, the fossil record is finite, and many scientists feel that no single species is sufficiently understood or represented in research as to preclude further need for specimens. Paleontological resources are considered non-renewable and important.

Paleontological resources occur throughout the City of Los Angeles. They are not evenly distributed; the potential for fossil occurrence depends on the rock type exposed at the surface in a given area. Rocks are classified into three principal types: igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. Sedimentary rocks contain the bulk of fossils in the City, although metamorphic rocks may also contain fossils. Igneous rocks do not contain fossils. In addition to igneous and most metamorphic rocks, areas of artificial landfill, streambeds and beach sand do not contain fossils.

The older sedimentary rocks are exposed in the hills and mountains, while younger rock units are present in low-lying and flat valley and basin floors. The majority of igneous rocks in the region are found in the Santa Monica Mountains and the northern San Fernando Valley. Within the City of Los Angeles, metamorphic rocks are found mostly in the Santa Monica Mountains and within scattered exposures around the region.

Direct destruction of fossils within fossil-bearing rock units may result from grading or excavation associated with a project, particularly during the construction phase. Indirect destruction or loss of fossils exposed at the surface may result from increased erosion, human access, or other activity in a project area. Increased access could result from the opening of private or otherwise closed lands, new access routes through sensitive areas, or through excavation or the removal of

vegetation.

Paleontological resources are protected by state and federal legislation. State regulations mandate protection of paleontological resources on public lands and CEQA requires evaluation of impacts to paleontological sites. Paleontological resources are also subject to certain state regulations for historical resources.<sup>1</sup> City guidelines for the protection of paleontological resources are specified in Section VIII of the Conservation Element, and for public works projects, Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, Section 6-3.2. Information on rock types can be found in 3. Data, Resources, and References.

### **C. Screening Criteria**

- Could implementation of the project result in the disturbance of surface or subsurface fossils, either through site preparation, construction or operational activities, or through an increase in human activities at or near the fossil site?

A "yes" response to the preceding question indicates further study in an expanded Initial Study, Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or EIR may be required. Refer to the Significance Threshold for Paleontological Resources and review the associated Methodology to Determine Significance, as appropriate.

A "no" response to the preceding question indicates that there would normally be no significant impact on Paleontological Resources from the proposed project.

### **D. Evaluation of Screening Criteria**

Assess the potential for discovery of paleontological resources. The following sources are available: existing paleontological surveys for the project site; Los Angeles County Natural History Museum; Environmental and Public Facilities Maps - Vertebrate Paleontological Resource Sensitivity Areas in the City of Los Angeles and Invertebrate Paleontological Resource Sensitivity Areas in the City of Los Angeles; Exhibit D.1-1; or other appropriate resources.

Evaluate the degree of disturbance to the project site. Consider whether the site has been vacant or covered by surfaces that required little or no excavation or grading, such that there has been little surface or subsurface disturbance. Sites from which native topsoil has been removed, such as

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<sup>1</sup> *The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) has jurisdiction over projects that may impact historic resources. For regulation of historic resources, see Exhibits D.3-1 to D.3-3.*

landfills, are unlikely to retain paleontological resource potential.

Review the description of the project and the construction/operation activities. Assess the amount of grading, excavation, erosion, and increased human activity (e.g., opening of previously closed lands, new access routes through sensitive areas, or removal of vegetation that could disturb surface and subsurface fossils). Compare this information to the Screening Criteria.

## **2. DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **A. Significance Threshold**

The determination of significance shall be made on a case-by-case basis, considering the following factors:

- Whether, or the degree to which, the project might result in the permanent loss of, or loss of access to, a paleontological resource; and
- Whether the paleontological resource is of regional or statewide significance.

### **B. Methodology to Determine Significance**

#### Environmental Setting

In a description of the environmental setting, include the following information:

- Description of the physical setting, paleontology, and geology of the project site and surrounding area;
- Summary of surveys and research for the project site; and
- Summary of requirements and/or policies for paleontological resources that apply to the project. (See 3. Data, Resources, and References.)

#### Project Impacts

Using the information from the Evaluation of Screening Criteria, Environmental Setting, and project description, estimate the extent and importance of paleontological resources likely to be contained on the site and the consequences that would likely result from the project. Consider



compliance with guidelines and regulations such as the California Public Resources Code, Federal Antiquities Act, Conservation Element, and, for public works projects, Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction. Regional or statewide significance may be based on the quality and integrity of the resource, remaining supply, feasibility of recovery, or scientific or public importance. Assistance from the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History or a professional consultant may be required.

Determine whether excavation, grading, or operational activities would impact to the depth of the subsurface rock units containing the fossils. Evaluate the potential destruction of fossils exposed on the surface by considering the increased human activity generated by the project, including potential for soil erosion, construction traffic in sensitive areas, and increased human access to sensitive areas after project completion. If the area has been disturbed through previous grading or excavation or installation of subsurface utilities, it is likely that fossils would have been discovered at that time, have been destroyed, or are no longer in their original location (e.g., they have been brought in from other areas with fill).

#### Cumulative Impacts

Review the list of related projects and estimate the extent of paleontological resources likely to be contained on the sites and the consequences that would likely result from these related projects. Determine the cumulative impact to fossils of regional or statewide significance from the related projects combined with the proposed project. In particular, consider cumulative impacts to fossils from the same time period. Evaluate the destruction of fossils by considering the cumulative increase in human activity, excavation, grading, or operational activities.

#### Sample Mitigation Measures

Potential mitigation measures include the following:

- Revise the proposed project to avoid excavation or grading in areas with known or potential surface exposures of fossils, or within rock units with a high potential for paleontological resources;
- Provide erosion protection (e.g., retaining walls, drainage channels) to protect surface resources;
- Restrict or prevent access to sensitive resource areas on site;

- Retain a qualified paleontologist to monitor, and, if necessary, salvage scientifically significant fossil remains. Ensure scientific specimens become the property of a public, nonprofit educational institution, such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History or similar institution;
- Protect subsurface fossils in place, through covering with appropriate soil materials; and
- Divert grading efforts in the area of an exposed fossil to allow evaluation and, if necessary, salvage of exposed fossils.

### **3. DATA, RESOURCES, AND REFERENCES**

Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Department of Vertebrate Paleontology: 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90007; Telephone: (213) 763-3489, Lawrence G. Barnes Ph.D.; 213-763-3329. The Museum of Natural History does not maintain records of paleontological surveys or studies, but does perform record checks to determine if fossil resources are present within or near a project area, provides technical assistance, and acts as a repository for salvage fossils.

California Office of Historic Preservation: P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296-0001; Telephone: (916) 653-6624. OHP has legal jurisdiction over projects, which may impact historic resources, which include certain paleontological resources. OHP can provide guidance as to the evaluation of significance of historic resources.

Conservation Element provides guidelines for the preservation of paleontological resources.

City Planning Department, Environmental and Public Facilities Maps (1997):

- Vertebrate Paleontological Resources Sensitivity Areas in the City of Los Angeles
- Invertebrate Paleontological Resources Sensitivity Areas in the City of Los Angeles

These maps were based on information prepared by the County of Los Angeles Natural History Museum in 1993 and delineate areas of similar paleontological sensitivity within the City. These sensitivity zones may contain several different rock units that share a common history of production of paleontological resources.

California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG), 655 S. Hope St. Rm 700, Los Angeles, California 90017-2321; Telephone: (213) 239-0878. The following documents are available

from CDMG:

- CDMG Geologic Atlas Sheets of California - Los Angeles: These maps show the geologic formations underlying the City of Los Angeles in a single map, at a scale of 1:250,000.
- Dibblee Geological Foundation Maps - applicable United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle: Dibblee maps show geologic information in greater detail than Geologic Atlas Sheets, at a scale of 1:24,000, corresponding to 7½ minute USGS topographic quadrangles.

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, an international association of professional paleontologists, has developed guidelines for protection and preservation of paleontological resources, as well as mitigation standards for impacts to paleontological resources, in response to CEQA.

## **Rock Types**

Sedimentary rocks are usually layered or bedded and formed from cemented accumulations of sand, silt or mud. The sedimentary rocks in the City range in age from the Cretaceous (100 million years before present) to the Recent periods. Intrusive igneous rocks, formed at depth from molten magma and intruded into other rock bodies, tend to be homogeneous masses, such as granite, and do not contain fossils. Extrusive igneous rocks, such as volcanic rocks, very rarely contain plants or animal fossils. Metamorphic rocks, products of modifications to igneous or sedimentary rocks by heat, pressure or fluids, may or may not contain fossils, depending on the degree of alteration and the original rock type.

## **Selected Legislation**

### Federal

Federal Antiquities Act of 1906 (P. L. 59-202; 32 Stat. 225)

This act forbids, and establishes criminal sanctions for, the disturbance of any object of antiquity on federal land without obtaining a permit from an authorizing authority.

Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976 (FLMPA) (P.L. 94-579, 43 U.S.C. 1701-1782)

FLMPA provides authority for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to regulate lands under its jurisdiction, to be managed in a manner to "protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historic,

ecological, environmental...and archaeological values.” Authority is given to establish Areas of Critical Concern (ACEC).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (P. L. 91-190; 83 Stat. 852, 42 U.S.C. 4321-3427)

With regard to paleontological resources, NEPA mandates the evaluation of impacts in order to "preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage" (Section 101b.4).

#### State

Public Resources Code, Section 5097.5 (Stats. 1965, c. 1136, p. 2792)

This section prohibits “the excavation or removal of any vertebrate paleontological site...or any other archaeological, paleontological or historical feature, situated on public lands, except with the express permission of the public agency having jurisdiction over such lands.”

CEQA (13 PRC, 21000 et seq)

According to CEQA, "historical resource" includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military or cultural annals of California (Div. 1, PRC 5020.1) (*italics added*). This has been subsequently interpreted as requiring identification of potential adverse impacts of a project to any object or site of scientific importance.

Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, as amended May 10, 1980 (14 Ca. Admin. Code: 15000 et seq)

The CEQA Guidelines authorize the Lead Agency to require mitigation to reduce and avoid significant effects on the environment. CEQA, Appendix G, subsection J, states, "A project will normally have a significant effect on the environment if it will disrupt or adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or a property of historic or cultural significance to a community or ethnic or social group; or a paleontological site except as a part of a scientific study.”

California Administrative Code, Title 14, Section 4307

States, “no person shall remove, injure, disfigure, deface, or destroy any object of paleontological, archaeological, or historical interest or value.”

## Local

### Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, Section 6-3.2

Requires that grading, excavation, or other ground disturbing activities for a public project be halted in the area of a paleontological or archaeological find, until such time as a resource expert can review the find, determine its significance, and if required, determine appropriate mitigation measures.

**Exhibit D.1-1**  
**PALEONTOLOGICAL POTENTIAL BY ROCK UNIT/GEOLOGIC FORMATION**

<b>Formation/Rock Unit</b>	<b>Paleontological Potential</b>	<b>Fossils Present</b>
Palos Verdes Sand	High	Vertebrates and Invertebrates
San Pedro Sand	High	Vertebrates and Invertebrates
Lomita Marl	High	Vertebrates
Timms Point Silt	High	Vertebrates and Invertebrates
Fernando Formation or Reppeto Formation	High	Vertebrates and Invertebrates
Pico Formation	High	Vertebrates and Invertebrates
Monterey Formation	High	Vertebrates
Altamira Shale	High	Vertebrates
Model Formation	High	Vertebrates
Topanga Formation	High	Vertebrates and Invertebrates
Santa Suzana Formation <sup>a</sup>	High	Invertebrates
Chico Formation and/or Tuna Canyon Formation	High	Vertebrates and Invertebrates
Quaternary Alluvium	Low to High <sup>b</sup>	Vertebrates
Las Virgenes Sandstone <sup>a</sup>	Low	Invertebrates
Simi Conglomerate <sup>a</sup>	Low	none reported
Trabucco Formation	Low	none reported
Santa Monica Slate	Low	Invertebrates

<sup>a</sup> These rock units are grouped together as the Martinez Formation in the older literature on the region.

<sup>b</sup> Potential for discovery of resources in Quaternary deposits increases with increased depth of excavations.

**NOTE:** "Low," "High" and "Undetermined" potential are scientifically recognized terms identifying the chance of fossil discovery during excavation into a given geologic unit. It is not uncommon for low potential deposits to overlay or otherwise cover more rock units with a high potential for discovery. Information on rock units on a particular site may be obtained from existing geotechnical studies prepared for the project site or from maps, such as the CDMG Geologic Atlas Sheets of California or the Dibblee Geological Foundation Maps.

Source: RMW Paleo Associates, 1995, based on literature, published and unpublished records of discovery of fossils in each geologic unit, the relative abundance of fossils at past discovery sites and the depositional environment associated with individual geologic units.

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## **D.2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

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### **1. INITIAL STUDY SCREENING PROCESS**

#### **A. Initial Study Checklist Questions**

- V.b): Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?
- V.d): Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

#### **B. Introduction**

Archaeology involves the physical, structural, and documentary evidence of past human endeavors. Such cultural resources may or may not be visible on the surface, and may be of either prehistoric or historic origin. Because of its climate, topography, and natural resources, the greater Los Angeles area is known to have supported prehistoric and historic cultures. The location of known archaeological sites is confidential to prevent scavenging of artifacts. Artifacts are considered finite and non-renewable resources.

Construction or operation activities, which affect the surface or subsurface of the ground at or near archaeological resources, can disturb or destroy them. Artifacts may be lost or destroyed through grading, crushing, scattering, or removal from the ground. In addition, scattering or otherwise taking the artifacts out of their original placement may result in the loss of important information about the relationship of artifacts to each other. With archaeological resources, the relationship of materials to each other in the ground is more informative than the same artifacts removed to a laboratory for study. Impacts may also occur through the alteration or destruction of a physical landscape with special values to Native Americans. The Native American Graves and Repatriation Act of 1990 protect Native American remains (see 3. Data, Resources, and References).

The California state inventory of known, documented archaeological resources for the Los Angeles area is maintained at the South Central Coastal (Regional) Information Center, at the Institute of Archaeology of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) (known as the Information Center). All resources on this inventory should be evaluated for potential impacts in CEQA documentation. In addition, federal standards for eligibility to the National Register of

Historic Places<sup>1</sup> (National Register) may be used to determine whether known or potential resources should be examined under CEQA. Archaeological resources may be present on the grounds of historic sites or districts.

### **C. Screening Criteria**

- Would the proposed project occur in an area with archaeological resources, human remains having archaeological associations, an archaeological study area, or a Native American sacred place, and involve grading, excavation, accelerated erosion, or other activities or changes to the site that could affect archaeological resources?

A "yes" response to the preceding question indicates further study in an expanded Initial Study, Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or EIR may be required. Refer to the Significance Threshold for Archaeological Resources, and review the associated Methodology to Determine Significance, as appropriate.

A "no" response to the preceding question indicates that there would normally be no significant impact on Archaeological Resources from the proposed project.

### **D. Evaluation of Screening Criteria**

The following sources may provide assistance in identifying the presence or potential presence of archaeological resources: existing archaeological surveys and documented historical accounts; the Information Center at the UCLA Institute of Archaeology; the Native American Heritage Commission; California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE); State Park Service; National Register; local, county, and state landmarks lists; Sanborn Fire Insurance maps; the Environmental and Public Facilities Map, Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sites and Survey Areas; and other appropriate resources.

Where sufficient information or research is not available to determine the presence or absence of archaeological resources, consider the following:

- Presence of elements or features that are historically or culturally important to a significant earlier community.

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<sup>1</sup> For federal eligibility criteria regarding listing of archaeological resources in the National Register, see Exhibit D.3-1 in D.3. HISTORICAL RESOURCES.



- Features of the area that would create a favorable environment for prehistoric or historical use, such as:
  - A water source, travel corridor, native plants or animals, or sources of rock for construction, making tools, or artwork; or
  - Location in an area with unusual views, a defensive position or other values for ceremonial, ritual or astronomical observances.

Evaluate the degree of disturbance to the project site. Consider if the site has been vacant or covered by surfaces that required little or no excavation or grading, such that there has been little surface or subsurface disturbance (sites from which native topsoil has been removed, such as landfills, are unlikely to retain archaeological resource potential). Compare this information to the Screening Criteria.

## **2. DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **A. Significance Threshold**

A project would normally have a significant impact upon archaeological resources if it could disturb, damage, or degrade an archaeological resource or its setting that is found to be important under the criteria of CEQA because it:

- Is associated with an event or person of recognized importance in California or American prehistory or of recognized scientific importance in prehistory;
- Can provide information which is both of demonstrable public interest and useful in addressing scientifically consequential and reasonable archaeological research questions;
- Has a special or particular quality, such as the oldest, best, largest, or last surviving example of its kind;
- Is at least 100-years-old<sup>2</sup> and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity; or

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<sup>2</sup>

*Although the CEQA criteria state that "important archaeological resources" are those which are at least 100-years-old, the California Register provides that any site found eligible for nomination to the National Register will automatically be included within the California Register and subject to all protections thereof. The National Register requires that a site or structure be at least 50-years-old.*

- Involves important research questions that historical research has shown can be answered only with archaeological methods.

## **B. Methodology to Determine Significance**

### Environmental Setting

In a description of the environmental setting, include the following information:

- Description of the physical setting, archaeology, and geology of the project site and surrounding area;
- Summary of surveys and research for the project site; and
- Summary of requirements and/or policies for archaeological resources that apply to the project. (See 3. Data, Resources, and References).

### Project Impacts

If the project site is located in an area with known or potential presence of an archaeological resource, archaeological study area, or human remains having archaeological associations, reviews the description of the project and construction/operation activities. Assess the amount of grading, excavation, erosion and increased human activity (e.g., opening of previously closed lands, new access routes through sensitive areas, or through removal of vegetation) that would occur with project implementation.

Estimate the importance of archaeological resources likely to be contained on the site and the consequences that would likely result from the project. The significance of a site is measured by eligibility of the resource to the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) or the National Register. Criteria for listing in the National Register include association with events, persons, history or prehistory or embodiment of distinctive characteristics. These criteria are based on context (theme, place, and time), integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling), and association. The California Register uses the National Register criteria for listing resources significant at the national, state, or local level.

Consider compliance with guidelines and regulations such as the California Public Resources Code, Federal Antiquities Act (and subsequent federal legislation), Conservation

Element, and, for public projects, Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction. Assistance from the Information Center or a professional consultant may be required.

Most existing archaeological site records, information about what areas have already been surveyed, information concerning sites that have been tested or evaluated, and a library of excavation reports, are maintained as part of the State Inventory at the Information Center. The most immediate and complete source of updated site information is a "Quick Check" conducted by the Information Center. Under new directives, the Information Center is beginning to gather information about designated landmarks, historical sites, and historical maps, but this archive is not yet complete. The Information Center maintains a list of qualified archaeological consultants which is made available on request.

Determine whether construction or operational activities would disturb, damage, or degrade an important resource or its setting. Consider excavation and grading that directly impacts a resource; construction of permanent buildings that result in loss of access to buried resources; added human activity that may lead to scavenging or uncovering of resources; and increases in soil erosion. If the area has been disturbed through previous grading or excavation or installation of subsurface utilities, it is likely that resources would have been discovered at that time or have been destroyed.

#### Cumulative Impacts

Review the list of related projects and identify those in areas with known or the potential presence of archaeological resources. In the same manner as for project impacts, estimate the extent and importance of archaeological resources likely to be contained on the sites and the consequences that would likely result from these related projects. Determine the cumulative impact from the related projects combined with the proposed project. In particular, consider cumulative impacts to the population of resources which would remain and impacts to groupings (e.g., same camp, village, or settlement). Evaluate the destruction of resources exposed on the surface by considering the cumulative increase in human activity and soil erosion.

#### Sample Mitigation Measures

Potential mitigation measures include the following:

- Cover archaeological sites with a layer of fill before building surface facilities such as tennis courts, parking lots, or gardens above them, when the following

conditions can be met:

- The underlying site will not be seriously compacted;
  - The fill will not be chemically active;
  - The site is protected against natural deterioration; and
  - The site has been recorded and tested, and full parameters are known, i.e., horizontal extent, depth, age, cultural complexity, etc;
- 
- Deed archaeological sites into permanent conservation easements;
  - Undertake data recovery. Data recovery requires the preparation of an excavation plan<sup>3</sup> which sets forth the size of the sample to be acquired, the methods and techniques of excavation, methods and techniques of laboratory studies to be conducted, documentation procedures, and the place where all materials and documentation will be curated; and
  - Conduct resource recovery. Some features or objects (rock rings, rock art, structural elements, architectural elements, etc.) can be documented in place, and then either relocated for public interpretation on the subject property, or removed to a museum or other institution for safekeeping and display.

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<sup>3</sup> *Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format. Preservation Planning Bulletin No. 4 (a).*

### **3. DATA, RESOURCES, AND REFERENCES**

Information Center: UCLA Institute of Archaeology, Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles, California 90095; Telephone: (310) 825-4361.

California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296-0001; Telephone: (916) 653-6624. Maintains many publications, including Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, 1995, and California Register: Proposed Guidelines for the Nomination of Properties, 1995.

The Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC), Los Angeles Conservancy, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) of the City of Los Angeles, have limited inventories of historical landmarks, but their data do not include archaeological sites and should be augmented by consultation with the Information Center.

CEQA, Appendix K, Archaeological Resources, contains standards for review and mitigation.

Archaeological Resource Management Report (ARMR): Recommended Contents and Format, OHP, 1989. Contains a useful checklist and guidelines for reviewing the adequacy of the preparation and organization of archaeological reports.

CEQA and Archaeological Resources, 1994. Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR).

Conservation Plan Element: Section II-3, Preservation of Archaeological Sites and Paleontological Findings, 2001.

#### **City of Los Angeles -- Archaeological Resources Information:**

In a comprehensive review of the City's archaeological resources completed in August 1993, the Information Center, which assigns site numbers and curates site records, estimated that only two percent of the City's approximately 800 square miles has been surveyed for archaeological resources. At that time, however, 196 prehistoric sites, 50 historical sites, and 10 undefined isolated occurrences had already been recorded. Of these, at least 26 sites were known to contain human burials, and 10 sites had both prehistoric and historic components. The prehistoric sites include named Native American villages, buried deposits and features, pit houses, occupied caves and rockshelters, bedrock mortars, camp sites, cemeteries and rock art. Historical sites were distinctly underrepresented in the records, since standing historic structures have not been regularly assigned archaeological site numbers or assessed for the potential existence of associated buried features until

recent state guidelines advised that this should be done. The historical sites already recorded are as varied as pre-1830s limekilns, stage stops, mission structures and dams, a log cabin, many adobes, quarries, oil exploration and development features, a submerged ship, a Civil War asphalt mine, aspects of the Pueblo and early water canal features, Chinatown, and a Japanese labor camp.

## **Selected Legislation**

### Federal

Federal Antiquities Act of 1906 (P. L. 59-209; 16 U.S.C. 431-433)

Basis for all following legislation. The government, acting for the people, should protect archaeological and historical sites and "any object of antiquity," and preserve them for public availability. Forbids disturbance of said objects of antiquity on federal lands without a permit issued by the responsible agency. Establishes criminal sanctions for unauthorized use or destruction of antiquities.

Historic Sites Act of 1935 (P. L. 74-292, 16 U.S.C. 461-467, 49 Stat. 666)

Declares, "it to be national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, properties, buildings, and objects of national significance." Gives the National Park Service (NPS) (through the Secretary of the Interior) broad powers to execute this policy, including criminal sanctions, on both federal and non-federal lands. It also sets up an advisory board to aid the Secretary of the Interior in implementing this Act.

Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 (P. L. 86-523; 74 Stat. 220)

Requires Secretary of the Interior to institute an archaeological salvage program in connection with federally funded reservoir programs requiring the responsible agencies to comply with this program.

Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P. L. 89-665; 80 Stat. 915)

Expansion of the National Register to include sites of not only national, but local significance; authorizes program of matching funds for their acquisition and preservation; and establishes the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to help implement and monitor this Act.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (P. L. 91-190; 83 Stat. 852)

Requires that cultural resources be considered in assessing the environmental impact of proposed federal projects.

Executive Order 11593 of May 13, 1971: "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" Richard M. Nixon (36 F.R. 8921)

States that the federal government shall provide leadership in preserving, restoring and maintaining the historic and cultural environment; specifies that all federal agencies shall institute inventories for historic and archaeological sites, and shall provide for their protection as specified by P. L. 89-665.

Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974 (P. L. 93-291, U.S.C. 469-469c; 88 Stat. 174)

Amends the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 to include all federal programs which may impact cultural resources; authorizes expenditure of program funds for salvage projects; and requires Secretary of the Interior to report annually to Congress on the effectiveness of the program.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (P. L. 94-579; 90 Stat. 2743)

Directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage lands on the basis of multiple use in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, historical, and archaeological values. It provides the guidelines for the acquisition and management of these resources.

American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (P. L. 95-341; 92 Stat. 469)

States that it is the policy of the United States to protect and preserve for Native Americans their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions of the American Indian including access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rites.

Native American Heritage Bill - Chapters 1492 (1984) and 370 (1992)

Policy to protect Native American remains and maintain integrity of their archaeological database; and to establish guidelines for recordation of reburial of human remains and grave goods.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) - (P. L. 101-601; 104 Stat. 3048, 25 U.S.C. 3001)

Conveys to Native Americans, of demonstrated lineal descent, human remains and funerary or religious items that are held by federal agencies and federally-supported museums, or that have been recovered from federal lands. Also makes the sale or purchase of Native American human remains, "whether or not they derive from federal or Indian lands, illegal."

#### State

#### California Public Resources Code

Section 5097.5 (Stats. 1965, C. 11362792)

Defines as a misdemeanor the unauthorized disturbance or removal of archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources located on public lands. Prohibits the knowing destruction of objects of antiquity without a permit (expressed permission) on public lands, and provides for criminal sanctions. Amended in 1987 to require consultation with the California Native American Heritage Commission whenever Native American graves are found. Violations for taking or possessing remains or artifacts are felonies.

Chapter 1332, Section 5097.9

Establishes the California Native American Heritage Commission to make recommendations to encourage private property owners to protect and preserve sacred places in a natural state and to allow appropriate access to Native Americans for ceremonial or spiritual activities. The Commission is authorized to assist Native Americans in obtaining appropriate access to sacred places on public lands, and to aid state agencies in any negotiations with federal agencies for the protection of Native American sacred places on federally administered lands in California.

Section 5097.98-99 (Stats. 1982, C. 1492. Amended 1987)

Requires that the Governor's California Native American Heritage Commission be consulted whenever Native American graves are found. Makes it illegal to take or possess remains or artifacts taken from Native American graves. Does not apply to materials taken before 1984. Violations occurring after January 1, 1988, become felonies.



CEQA (P. R. C. Section 21001)

Requires that cultural resources be considered in assessing the environmental impact of proposed projects.

California Register (1993, AB 2881, Chapter 1075)

Amends the Public Resources Code as it affects historical resources. Purpose is to develop and maintain, "an authoritative guide to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state's historical resources and to indicate which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change." Sites, places, or objects which are eligible to the National Register (50-years-old or more) are automatically included in the California Register.

California Penal Code, Title 14, Part 1, Section 622.5

Provides that any person, not the owner thereof, who willingly destroys or injures objects of archaeological or historical value, whether on public or private land, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

California Administrative Code, Title 14, Section 4307

States, "no person shall remove, injure, disfigure, deface or destroy any object of paleontological, archaeological, or historical interest or value."

Local

Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, Section 6-3.2

Requires that grading, excavation, or other ground disturbing activities for a public project be halted in the area of a paleontological or archaeological find, until such time as a resource expert can review the find, determine its significance, and if required, determine appropriate mitigation measures.

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## **D.3. HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

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### **1. INITIAL STUDY SCREENING PROCESS**

#### **A. Initial Study Checklist Question**

V.a): Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

#### **B. Introduction**

Historical resources are found throughout the City of Los Angeles and are reminders of the City's historical and cultural development. Resources include, for example, buildings, structures, street lighting systems, spaces, sites, or components thereof. Uses include residential, non-residential (e.g., commercial, industrial, institutional), and public facilities. Resources may be important individually or as part of a district or grouping of complementary resources.

Significant historical resources include those designated or eligible for designation in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register); the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) or other state program; as a City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument; or in a City of Los Angeles Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ). Historical resources may also include resources listed in the State Historic resources Inventory as significant at the local level or higher and those evaluated as potentially significant in a survey or other professional evaluation.

Agencies with jurisdiction over historical resources include the National Park Service (NPS), the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), and the City of Los Angeles (see Exhibits D.3-1 to D.3-4 for additional information). The NPS maintains the National Register. Criteria for listing in the National Register include association with events, persons, history, or prehistory or embodiment of distinctive characteristics. These criteria are based on context (theme, place, and time), integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association), and, if a recent resource, exceptional importance.

OHP implements state preservation law and is responsible for the California Register. The California Register uses the National Register criteria for listing resources significant at the national, state, or local level.

Within the City of Los Angeles, the Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) is responsible for designating resources as Historic-Cultural Monuments. Monuments, which must meet criteria similar to those for the National Register, are designated and protected. The City assigns an HPOZ to an area that meets certain criteria in order to preserve historical resources and ensure that new development is compatible with the area. Projects within an HPOZ are monitored by the City Planning Department in order to maintain the historic integrity of the area.

Projects that affect historical resources, such as by demolition, relocation, rehabilitation, conversion, alteration, or construction, may have a significant impact. The stock of significant historical resources cannot be replenished and is finite. Thus, the permanent loss of a resource is irreversible. While, in some circumstances, the resource's integrity can be maintained after rehabilitation, conversion, alteration, or construction, insensitive work also may result in a significant impact.

### **C. Screening Criteria**

- Are there historical resources on the project site or in the vicinity, which would be adversely impacted by the project through, for example, demolition, construction, conversion, rehabilitation, relocation, or alteration?

A "yes" response to the preceding question indicates further study in an expanded Initial Study, Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration or EIR may be required. Refer to the Significance Threshold for Historical Resources, and review the associated Methodology to Determine Significance, as appropriate.

A "no" response to the preceding question indicates that there would normally be no significant impact on Historical Resources from the proposed project.

### **D. Evaluation of Screening Criteria**

Evaluate the historical significance of the resource by considering the following questions. In general, a "yes" response to any of the questions indicates an historical resource may be involved.

1. Has the site been coded by the Department of Building and Safety with a Zoning Instruction (ZI) number in the 145 series (which indicates prior identification of the property as historic)?
2. Has the resource been designated by the City of Los Angeles as an Historic-Cultural

Monument or as a contributor to an HPOZ?

3. Is the resource included within the California Register maintained by the OHP and ranked with an evaluation code of 1 (National Register listed resource) or 2 (determined eligible for listing in the National Register)?
4. Has the resource been classified as historic in an historical resources survey conducted as part of the updating of the Community Plan, the adoption of a redevelopment area or other planning project?
5. Is the resource subject to other federal, state, or local preservation guidelines or restrictions?
6. Does the resource have known associations with an architect, master builder or person or event important in history such that the resource may be of exceptional importance?
7. Is the resource over 50-years-old and a substantially intact example of an architectural style significant in Los Angeles? (Age is calculated from an original building permit or the Land Use Planning and Mapping System (LUPAMS) maintained by the City Planning Department. See Exhibit D.3-5 for significant architectural styles.)

Review the description of the proposed project and determine the type of activities proposed during site preparation, construction, and operation. Projects that affect historical resources, such as demolition, relocation, rehabilitation, conversion, alteration, or construction, may have a significant impact if the project results in a substantial adverse change which would impair historical significance. Insensitive rehabilitation, conversion, alteration or construction may also result in a significant impact. Compare this information to the Screening Criteria.

## **2. DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **A. Significance Threshold**

A project would normally have a significant impact on historical resources if it would result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource.

A substantial adverse change in significance occurs if the project involves:

- Demolition of a significant resource;
- Relocation that does not maintain the integrity and significance of a significant resource;

- Conversion, rehabilitation, or alteration of a significant resource which does not conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings; or
- Construction that reduces the integrity or significance of important resources on the site or in the vicinity.

## **B. Methodology to Determine Significance**

### Environmental Setting

In a description of the environmental setting, include the following information:

- Architectural description and condition of the resource(s);
- Listing, designation, or determination from city, state, or federal agency (e.g., listed or determined eligible for the National Register or California Register; designated as a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument; included within an HPOZ as a contributor);
- Construction history (date of construction and major alterations, architect, builder and owner);
- Significance of owner, architect, builder, or architectural style in history; and
- Context of resource (population, district, grouping, etc.).

### Project Impacts

Conduct an evaluation of the historical resource to determine its significance (based on listing or eligibility for listing). Field surveys and research, in addition to the review of the Initial Study screening process may be necessary to determine whether a resource is listed or eligible for listing. If a resource is not listed on the National Register, California Register, City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments, or, if applicable, HPOZ, use the appropriate criteria for listing to determine whether it is eligible. Assistance is available from the agencies with jurisdiction over such resources and from the information included in 3. Data, Resources, and References. A professional consultant may be required.

Review the description of the proposed project and consider the potential impacts. When the demolition of an historical resource is proposed, weigh the impact given the significance of the resource and the population of similar resources which would remain. If the resource to be demolished is part of a district or grouping, also assess the impact to the listing or eligibility of the district or grouping.

When a significant historical resource is relocated, the ability to retain listing or eligibility depends upon individual circumstances. For example, relocation of a resource whose most significant feature is setting or position on a parcel would be more detrimental than if the key element is the architectural style and structural features. The style and feature would relocate with the building; however, the setting would not. Also, consider changes in the context (e.g., removal from a district).

Evaluate conversion, rehabilitation, or alteration to a significant historical resource in terms of the extent of the work and the impact on the listing or eligibility of the resource. Also, determine whether the work meets the standards for rehabilitation established by the Secretary of the Interior and the OHP (see Exhibits D.3-1 and D.3-4). Consider whether the conversion, rehabilitation, or alteration work would be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features of the resource. Projects more sensitive to historic integrity include minor repairs or temporary work that does not permanently affect significant elements and character.

If new construction is proposed, give key consideration to compatibility with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features of the historical resource(s). Determine the impacts to the setting and character of the area as well as whether the new construction might indirectly reduce the viability of a district or grouping of historical resources.

#### Cumulative Impacts

Review the list of related projects and identify those that:

- Are located within the same National Register district, HPOZ, general area, neighborhood, or community; or
- Involve resources with the same historical context or use (e.g., by the same architect or in the same period).

Determine the impact of the related projects. Consider the cumulative impacts of the proposed and related projects to the population of resources which would remain, and to districts and groupings.

### Sample Mitigation Measures

Potential mitigation measures include the following:

- Prepare a preservation plan or element which provides guidelines to ensure that the project conforms to the standards for rehabilitation established by the Secretary of the Interior and the OHP;
- Require new construction to be compatible with historical resources on the site and in the vicinity (e.g., mass, height, materials, setback, retention of mature landscaping);
- Require the project sponsor to relocate the historical resource or offer it for relocation by another individual or organization (provided that eligibility will be maintained following the relocation);
- Require the project sponsor to adaptively reuse the historical resource or incorporate it into the project;
- Undertake documentation according to the requirements of the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) such as large format photography, measured drawings and written narrative. Make available copies of this documentation to the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) and local preservation organizations and historical societies; and
- Require the project sponsor to allow local preservation organizations and historical societies to document the resource and/or remove significant historic elements for archives.

### **3. DATA, RESOURCES, AND REFERENCES**

NPS, Pacific Great Basin Support Office, 1111 Jackson St., Suite 700, Oakland, CA. 94607, Telephone: (510) 817-1396. NPS maintains the National Register.

OHP, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296-0001; Telephone: (916) 653-6624. OHP duties include: administration of National Register, California Register, State Historical Landmarks and State Points of Historical Interest programs, and State Historical resources Inventory; Section 106 process (National Historic Preservation Act); and Responsible Agency for CEQA review.

CHC and the Cultural Affairs Department, 433 South Spring Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, California 90013; Telephone: INFO Desk (213) 473-7700. Responsible for designation and monitoring of City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments.

Department of Building and Safety. Customer Call Center (888)-LA4-BUILD or outside Los Angeles County: (213) 977-6941, 201 N. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Maintains ZI codes for property parcels. The ZI 145 series is currently used for historic buildings.

City Planning Department; Telephone: (213) 482-7077; Bureau of Engineering; Telephone: (213) 847-8704; and Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) of the City of Los Angeles; Telephone: (213) 977-1600, maintain historical resources surveys.

Bureau of Street Lighting; 600 S. Spring St. 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90013. Telephone: (213) 847-6400, is responsible for historic street lights in the City.

Los Angeles Conservancy, a regional non-profit preservation organization; 523 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Los Angeles, CA 90014, Telephone: (213) 623-2489. This organization's activities include:

- Historical resources surveys;
- Information regarding how to obtain the results of surveys; and
- Information regarding the significance of particular architects and buildings.

Recording Historic Structures, HABS/Historic American Engineering Record, John A. Burns, ed, Washington: American Institute of Architects Press, 1989.

References to other sources are included within HABS/Historic American Engineering Record, An Annotated Bibliography, compiled by James C. Massey, et al, NPS, 1992.



**Exhibit D.3-1**  
**NATIONAL CRITERIA AND STANDARDS**

**National Register**

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a resource must possess significance in American history and culture, architecture, or archaeology. These criteria are the Register's standards for determining the significance of properties. Buildings, sites, districts, structures, or objects of potential significance must possess integrity of location, design, setting, and materials and meet one or more of four established criteria:

- A. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. Yield, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings**

- 1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
- 2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic material or alteration of features and spaces shall be avoided.
- 3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
- 4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
- 5. Distinctive features, finishes and construction techniques or examples of skilled craftsmanship, which characterize an historic property, shall be preserved.
- 6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive historic feature, the new feature shall match

the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities, and where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

**Exhibit D.3-2**  
**CALIFORNIA REGISTER CRITERIA AND EVALUATION SYSTEM**

The evaluation instructions and classification system proscribed by OHP in its "Instructions for Completing the California Historical resources Inventory Form, June 1990" provide the following general categories of evaluation. Categories 1 through 4 involve various levels of National Register eligibility. The California Register may include surveyed resources ranked from 1 - 5.

1. Listed in the National Register.
2. Determined eligible for listing in the National Register in a formal process involving federal agencies.
3. Appears eligible for listing in the National Register in the judgment of the persons completing or reviewing the form.
4. May become eligible for listing in the National Register.
5. Ineligible for the National Register, but of local interest.
6. None of the above.
7. Undetermined.

Resources eligible to be nominated for listing in the California Register include:

- Individual historical resources;
- Historical resources contributing to the significance of an historic district under criteria adopted by the Commission;
- Historical resources identified as significant in historical resource surveys, if the survey meets the criteria listed in California Public Resources Code , 5024.1(g); and
- Locally designated resources if the criteria for local designation have been determined by the Commission to be consistent with California Register criteria adopted by the Commission.

**Exhibit D.3-3**  
**CITY OF LOS ANGELES CRITERIA**

**City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Designation**

In the City of Los Angeles, resources may be designated as Historic-Cultural Monuments under Sections 22.120, et seq., of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). An historical or cultural monument is defined as:

"any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon), building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the nation, state or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, state or local history, or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural-type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age."

**City of Los Angeles Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs)**

HPOZs are essentially locally designated historic districts or groupings of historical resources. Under the HPOZ ordinance (LAMC Section 12.20.3.), to be significant, structures, natural features or sites within the involved area or the area as a whole shall meet one or more of the following criteria:

- (A) has substantial value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of, or is associated with the life of a person important in the history of the city, state or nation;
- (B) is associated with an event that has made a substantial contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- (C) is constructed in a distinctive architectural style characteristic of an era of history;
- (D) embodies those distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or engineering specimen;
- (E) is the work of an architect or designer who has substantially influenced the development of the City;
- (F) contains elements of design, details, materials or craftsmanship which represent an important innovation;
- (G) is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area and should be developed or preserved according to a plan based on a historic, cultural, architectural or aesthetic motif;
- (H) owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristics, represents an established feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or
- (I) retaining the structure would help preserve and protect an historic place or area of historic interest in the City.

**Exhibit D.3-4**  
**STATE OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION (OHP)**  
**LIST OF NON-ADVERSE REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS**

According to the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the following work does not usually involve adverse effect on historical resources:

1. Electrical work, limited to upgrading or in-kind replacement;
2. Plumbing work, limited to upgrading or in-kind replacement, with the exception of historic fixtures which shall be repaired when possible;
3. Installation of mechanical equipment, which does not affect the exterior of the building or require installation of new ductwork throughout the interior;
4. Repainting of existing painted surfaces if destructive surface preparation treatments are not used, including, but not limited to, water blasting, sandblasting, and chemical removal;
5. In-kind repair/partial replacement of porches, cornices, exterior siding, doors, balustrades, stairs, or other trim;
6. In-kind replacement of deteriorated windows;
7. Replacement of windowpanes in-kind or with double or triple glazing so long as glazing is clear and not colored and replacement does not alter existing window material and form;
8. Caulking and weather stripping with compatibly colored materials;
9. In-kind repair/replacement of roof materials;
10. Installation of insulation, with the exception of urea formaldehyde foam insulation or any thermal insulation with a water content into wall cavities, provided that decorative interior plaster or woodwork or exterior siding is not altered by this work item;
11. Installation of fire or smoke detectors;
12. Installation of security devices, including deadbolts, door locks, window latches, and door peepholes, and the installation of electronic security systems;
13. In-kind repair/replacement of driveway or walkways;
14. In-kind repair/replacement of fencing;

15. Floor refinishing;
16. In-kind repair/replacement of floors;
17. Installation of grab bars and minor interior modifications for handicap accessibility;
18. In-kind repair/replacement of signs and awnings; and
19. In-kind repair/replacement of interior stairs.

**Exhibit D.3-5**  
**ARCHITECTURAL STYLES AND PERIODS**

The following architectural styles and related periods of significance are historically important in Los Angeles:

Adobe	1800-1870
Monterey	1840-1870
Greek Revival	1825-1860
Classical Revival	1840-1870
Italianate	1870-1900
Gothic Revival	1870-1900
Eastlake	1870-1900
Second Empire	1870-1885
Queen Anne	1880-1905
Chateausque	1890-1915
American Foursquare	1894-1908
Turn of the Century	1895-1905
Beaux Arts	1895-1930
Mission Revival	1890-1915
Craftsman	1895-1925
Pueblo Revival	1900-1930
Commercial Vernacular	1910-1925
Spanish Colonial Revival	1915-1930
Modernism	1920-1940
Art Deco	1920-1940
Monterey Revival	1925-1940
Colonial Revival	1930-1945
Tudor Revival	1930-1945
Streamline Moderne	1935-1945
PWA Moderne	1930-1940
California Ranch House	1935-1990
Corporate International	1945-1990

Source: Los Angeles Conservancy, 1995.

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