

# APPROVED

JAN 04 2024

## BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

**BOARD REPORT**

NO. 24-005

DATE January 04, 2024

C.D. 14

### BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: HOLLENBECK PARK & I-5 FREEWAY ADJACENT BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT (W.O. M0016623) – REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PERFORM WORK IN PARK PROPERTY – CONSIDERATION OF THE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) FILED WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLERK ON MARCH 28, 2023

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

General Manager

Approved   X  

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the Bureau of Street Services to perform construction in the Department of Recreation and Parks property as described in this Report, for the Hollenbeck Park & I-5 Freeway Adjacent Beautification Project (W.O. M0016623); and,
2. Concur with the Bureau of Street Services' determination pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on March 28, 2023.

### BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) was awarded a Clean California Grant for \$4.9 million dollars to provide safety and beautification improvements in and around Hollenbeck Park (Park). The goal of the Project is to address community concerns, particularly from the Park Advisory Board and Friends of Hollenbeck Park, about safety and accessibility. Residents consistently voiced their concerns about poor lighting and the lack of sidewalks around the Park. StreetsLA, in partnership with Council District 14, took note of these concerns and applied for the grant to secure funding in order to implement these much needed improvements.

### OVERALL PROJECT SUMMARY

The proposed Project is located in and adjacent to Hollenbeck Park (Park) and the I-5 Freeway in the Boyle Heights community of the City of Los Angeles. The proposed improvements are located in the City of Los Angeles Public Right-of-Way and in the Department of Recreation & Parks (RAP) owned property. This Project was initiated after identifying a need for safer access where the park edges meet the public right-of-way space. Although the Park provides some

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amenities, there are no sidewalks along the eastern and southern border of the Park. The Project will construct new ADA compliant sidewalks along the eastern and southern perimeter of the Park to provide a safe and continuous path of travel for people of all abilities. This continuous path of travel also includes the construction of ADA compliant curb ramps and the reconstruction of all existing park driveways, as well as the construction of a new driveway on the 4th Street side of the Park for RAP maintenance vehicle access.

As part of the Project, 202 trees will be planted to enhance the environmental benefits of the area. These trees will provide additional shade, help reduce the urban island effect, and contribute to the global fight against climate change. To maximize the amount of shade, 100 trees will be planted in the public right of way, and 102 trees are proposed to be planted inside the Park. This transformation will greatly improve the pedestrian experience and make the area more pleasant and enjoyable for all users.

The Project will install pedestrian lighting around the Park, which will provide much needed illumination for the new sidewalk, in an effort to improve safety during the night hours. The light poles will be installed along the northern, eastern, western, and southern border of the Park.

The Project will install decorative fencing in the public right-of-way on the west side of the Park along Cummings Street, between the Park and Caltrans property. The decorative fence will serve to beautify the area as well as help deter breaching, as is commonly done on the existing chain-link fencing along this area.

Lastly, the Project proposes to update the existing gateway monument at the northerly entrance of the Park. The updated gateway monument will contain sustainable elements such as permeable pavers that can allow the capture of rainwater and will have a high Solar Reflectance Index (SRI) that will reduce surface temperatures and minimize heat absorption into the concrete. Another sustainable element will be the implementation of a drought tolerant California native plants garden within the gateway.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

On September 14, 2023, StreetsLA and CD14 hosted a community meeting to solicit feedback on the proposed Project improvements. The overall Project was very well received and garnered much support and excitement. In this meeting, the attendees were asked to select their desired pedestrian lighting style, pole color, and their preferred tree species. Additionally, they weighed-in on the proposed design for the new gateway monument. They emphasized the historical importance of the Park, and it was suggested that the gateway monument include inlaid plaques that commemorate the history of the Park. StreetsLA and CD14 will conduct additional meetings to obtain further community feedback for the monument and will subsequently return to the RAP Board for approval to implement this component of the Project.

### IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

The overall Project aims to create a seamless connection for persons of all abilities to access the Park. Although most of the Project's improvements will be within the public right-of-way, there are a few improvements that necessitate the use of RAP property.

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A key component of the Project involves providing pedestrian access along Hollenbeck Drive, which is wholly within RAP property. The Project proposes to construct a curb extension, ADA curb ramps, sidewalk, a driveway, and install five pedestrian lights along the northerly side of Hollenbeck Dr, between St. Louis Street and Boyle Avenue. Without this key component, there would be a gap in accessibility between St. Louis Street and Boyle Avenue.

Secondly, the pedestrian improvements along St Louis Street will construct sidewalks, driveways, and pedestrian lights within the public right-of-way, from 4th Street to Hollenbeck Drive. These pedestrian improvements will create minor elevation differences between the new improvements and the existing infrastructure on RAP property. Minor modifications to existing RAP infrastructure will be needed to mitigate the proposed elevation differences to ensure a smooth transition. These modifications can range from simply grading the soil behind the new sidewalk to the removal and reconstruction of concrete or asphalt pavement to match the new back of sidewalk elevations.

Also, StreetsLA noticed that there is a need for a driveway along 4th Street to provide RAP maintenance vehicles access to the Park from the northern side. To provide safer access for maintenance vehicles, the Project proposes the installation of a new driveway within the public right-of-way along 4th Street.

Lastly, the Project is committed to plant a total of 202 new trees. Of these 202 trees, 102 trees are proposed to be planted inside the Park. Details about the quantity and species of the trees are in the Trees and Shade section of this Report.

As mentioned previously, the Project proposes to update the existing gateway monument at the Park's northern entrance, however this component is still in the development phase and requires further community input before the design is finalized. Once finalized, StreetsLA will return to the RAP Board at a future date to seek approval.

StreetsLA requests Board authorization to implement the following improvements in RAP property:

1. Construct a curb extension, curb ramps, sidewalk, a driveway, and pedestrian lights on the north side of Hollenbeck Drive between St. Louis Street and Boyle Avenue.
2. Minor modifications to RAP infrastructure along St Louis St to match the elevation differences and transitions resulting from the new improvements constructed on the Public Right-of-Way.
3. Construct a new driveway along 4<sup>th</sup> Street for RAP maintenance vehicle access.
4. Plant 102 trees inside the Park.

### PROJECT FUNDING:

The Clean California Local Grant Program awarded the Bureau of Street Services \$4,993,180 to implement the Project.

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### CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

The construction for the improvements in the Public Right-of-Way started in November 2023, with an expected duration of 8 months. The construction start date for the elements in RAP property is dependent on the approval of the RAP Board. Per the grant agreement, all Project elements must be completed by June 30, 2024.

### TREES AND SHADE

As mentioned in the summary above, a total of 202 trees will be planted in the Park and the public right-of-way along St Louis St., 4th St, and 6th St. To maximize shade, a mix of (17) Desert Willow, (19) Fern Pine, (27) London Plane, (3) Jacaranda, (1) "Red Push" Pistache, (3) "Marina" Strawberry, (3) Australian Willow, (22) Chinese Elm, (3) Hong Kong Orchid Tree, and (5) Pink Trumpet will be planted in the public right-of-way. Inside the park, (18) Jacaranda, (13) Red Flowering Gum, (16) Torry Pine, (14) "Red Push" Pistache, (8) "Marina" Strawberry, (13) Queensland Lacebark, (15) Cork, and (2) Brisbane Box are proposed to be planted.

This proposed Project will not remove or affect any existing trees and the new trees will be planted in spaces that are currently vacant, in coordination with RAP personnel recommendations.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The Project was evaluated and determined to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) consists of minor construction of existing public facilities and topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing. City CEQA Guidelines Class 1(3) consists of minor alterations of sidewalks. CEQA Guidelines Class 1(12) consists of outdoor lighting and fencing for security and operation. CEQA Guidelines Class 2(3) consists of the replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity that will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose. CEQA Guidelines Class 4(3) consists of new tree planting, but not including tree removal except dead, damaged or diseased trees or limbs. StreetsLA has filed a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk on March 28, 2023.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved on December 6, 2023, this area resides in a liquefaction zone. This site is not within a coastal or historic zone, but it is located in the methane zone. However, since the proposed Project involves only outdoor improvements it is not likely to increase the exposure of park patrons to methane emissions, so there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of December 6, 2023, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov)) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site. They listed RB Case #: 900230289, RB Case #: 900330307, and RB Case #: 900330307A near the Project area (within 1,000 feet). These three cases are leaking underground storage tanks. The Regional Water Quality Control Board analyzed them and closed the cases in 2004, 1990

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and 2012 respectively. According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map there is no scenic highway located within the vicinity of the proposed Project or within its site. Furthermore, the proposed Project is located in proximity of Santa Fe Hospital, a City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument (HCM #713), listed in the National Register of Historic Places with No. 05001499. However, as a beautification project of the adjacent sidewalks, the proposed Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource.

Based on this information, RAP Staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners concur with StreetsLA's CEQA determination.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The Project will be funded by the Clean California Local Grant program. There is no impact on RAP's General Funds.

### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

**Goal No. 1:** Provide Safe and Accessible Parks

**Outcome No. 1:** Every Angeleno has walkable access to a park in their neighborhood.

**Outcome No. 2:** All parks are safe and welcoming.

**Goal No. 5:** Ensure an Environmentally Sustainable Park System.

**Outcome No 2:** A Healthy Urban Forest across the Park System.

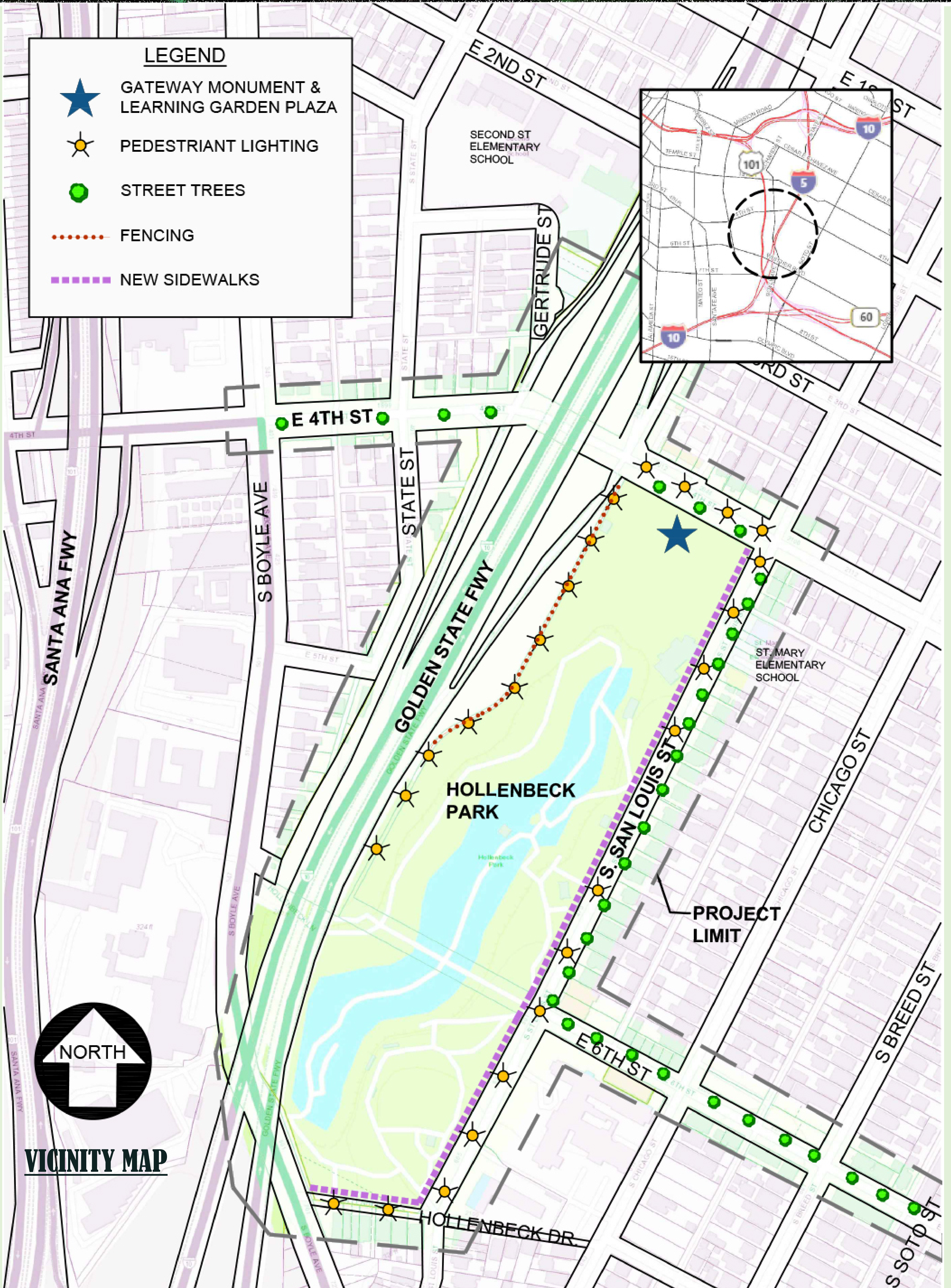
This Report was prepared by David Bou, Project Manager, StreetsLA Engineering Service Division; and reviewed by Victor Cortes, Senior Civil Engineer, StreetsLA Engineering Service Division; and Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance, and Construction Branch.

### LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Attachment No. 1 – Vicinity Map
- 2) Attachment No. 2 – CEQA Notice of Exemption

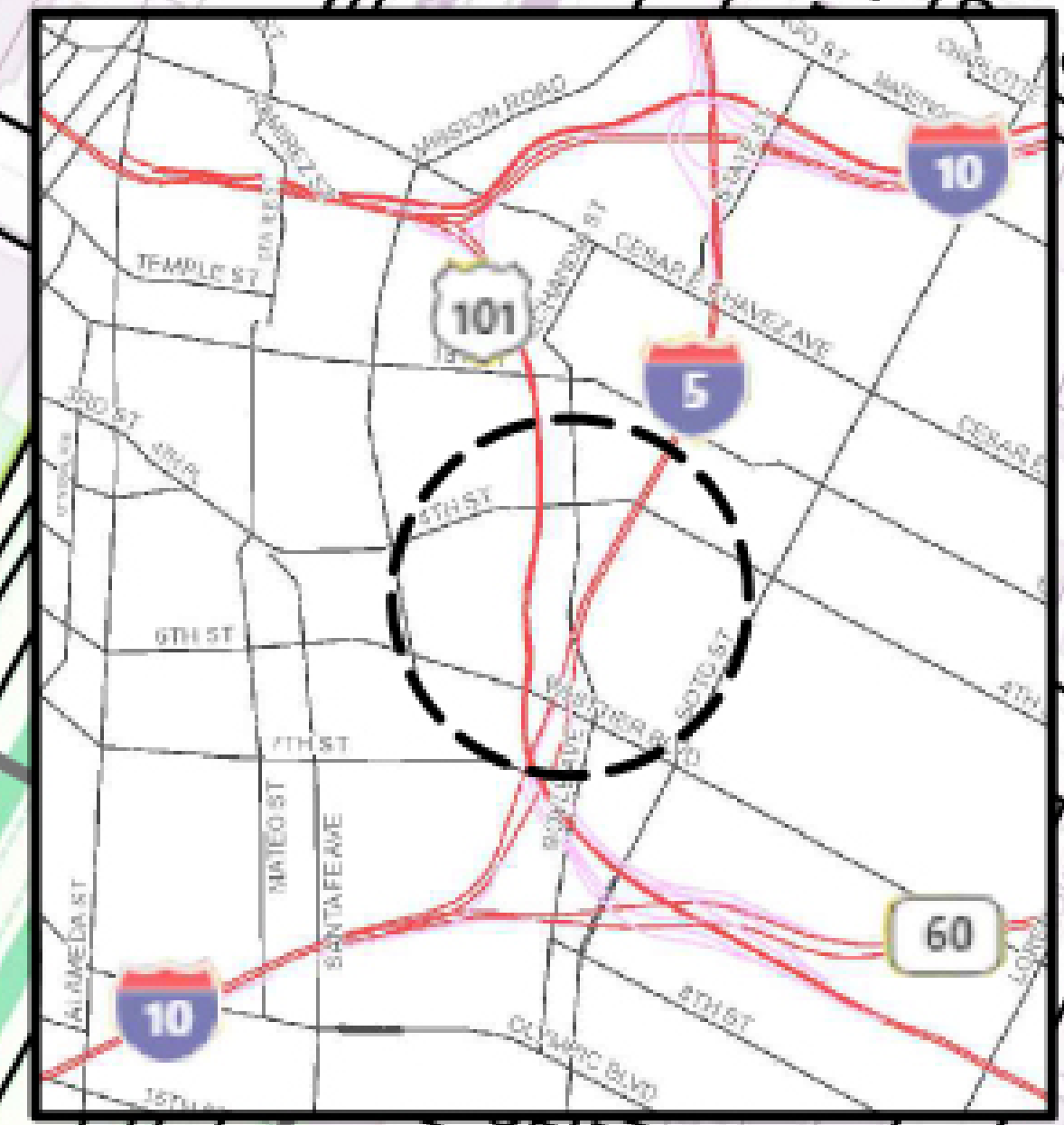
# CLEAN CALIFORNIA GRANTS

## HOLLENBECK PARK ADJACENT AND I-5 FREEWAY ADJACENT BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT



**LEGEND**

- GATEWAY MONUMENT & LEARNING GARDEN PLAZA
- PEDESTRIANT LIGHTING
- STREET TREES
- FENCING
- NEW SIDEWALKS



**VICINITY MAP**

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED

ON March 28 2023

UNTIL April 27 2023

REGISTRAR - RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
 BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES  
 1149 S. BROADWAY, SUITE 400  
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015  
**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**  
**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**  
 (Article III - City CEQA Guidelines)

CITY CLERK'S USE

**2023 067674**



**FILED**  
Mar 28 2023

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by TERESA QUEVEDO

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

**LEAD CITY AGENCY**  
City of Los Angeles - Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA)

**COUNCIL DISTRICT**  
14

**PROJECT TITLE**  
Hollenbeck Park Adjacent and I-5 Freeway Adjacent Beautification Project

**LOG REFERENCE**  
T.G. pg. 634-J5, 634-J6,  
635-A5, 635-A6

**PROJECT LOCATION**  
4<sup>th</sup> St - Boyle Ave to St Louis St; St Louis St - 4<sup>th</sup> St to Hollenbeck Dr; Hollenbeck Dr - St Louis St to Boyle St; 6<sup>th</sup> St - St Louis St to Breed St; Cummings St - 3<sup>rd</sup> St to 4<sup>th</sup> St

**DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:**  
The proposed project consists of installing ADA access ramps, sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, street tree plantings, construction of a monument plaza, and fencing adjacent to CALTRANS right-of-way. The proposed project will enhance City services that make city neighborhoods livable and improve the quality of life for Council District 14 residents and business owners through the use of sustainable design.

**NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT, IF OTHER THAN LEAD CITY AGENCY:** N/A

**CONTACT PERSON**  
Victor Cortes, Senior Civil Engineer

**AREA CODE | TELEPHONE NUMBER | EXT.**  
(213) 847-0871

**EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)**

- |                                     |   |                           |                         |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | MINISTERIAL   | CITY CEQA<br>GUIDELINES   | STATE EIR<br>GUIDELINES |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | DECLARED EMERGENCY  | Art. II, Sec. 2b          | Sec. 15073              |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | EMERGENCY PROJECT   | Art. II, Sec. 2a(1)       | Sec. 15071(a)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | GENERAL EXEMPTION   | Art. II, Sec. 2a(2) & (3) | Sec. 15071(b) & (c)     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION   | Art. II, Sec. 1           | Sec. 15060              |
|                                     | Class <u>1, 2, &amp; 4</u> Category <u>1(1), 1(3), 1(12), 2(3), 4(3)</u> (City CEQA Guidelines)   | Art. III, Sec. 1          | Sec. 15100              |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | OTHER (See Public Resources Code Sec. 21080(b) and set forth state and city guideline provision.) |                           |                         |

**JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:**

The project is exempt under City CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines Class 1(1) consists of minor construction of existing public facilities and topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing. City CEQA Guidelines Class 1(3) consists of minor alteration of sidewalks. CEQA Guidelines Class 1(12) consists of outdoor lighting and fencing for security and operation. CEQA Guidelines Class 2(3) consists of the replacement or reconstruction of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity that will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose. CEQA Guidelines Class 4(3) consists of new tree planting, but not including tree removal except dead, damaged or diseased trees or limbs.

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

**SIGNATURE:**

Digitally signed by Victor Cortes  
DN: cn=Victor Cortes, o=ou,  
email=Victor.Cortes@lacity.org, c=US  
Date: 2023.02.13 13:55:13 -08'00'

**TITLE:**

Senior Civil Engineer

**DATE**

2/13/2023

**FEE: \$75.00**

**RECEIPT NO.**

**REC'D BY**

**DATE**

This is a true and certified copy of the record  
if it bears the seal, imprinted in purple ink,  
of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

**AUG 02 2023**

*Deane C. Logan* REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

