

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
ROOM 395, CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
(Articles II and III – City CEQA Guidelines)**

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

LEAD CITY AGENCY AND ADDRESS: Environmental Management Group Los Angeles City Engineer 1149 S. Broadway, MS 939 Los Angeles, CA 90015	COUNCIL DISTRICT 4
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PROJECT TITLE: Mt. Lee Pumping Station and Pipe Line (G944) (W.O. E1907739)	LOG REFERENCE
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PROJECT LOCATION: Within and Between the Mt Lee Communication Complex (3800 Mt Lee Dr.) and the Tyrolean Water Tank and Wright Pump House complex (5929 Mulholland Dr.) T.B. Page 563 Grid F-6

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT: The project consists of the following: Replacement of existing water pumps and water pipes at the Pump House, to permit increased volume, flow and pressure; Provide controls and monitoring system (i.e., flow and pressure sensors, etc.) for the new pumps and pipeline; A new six-inch (6") pipeline (600' in length) and water meter will be installed from the existing LADWP distribution system to the pump station; The existing meter on the four-inch (4") pipeline will be removed and the existing four-inch (4") pipeline capped; A six-inch (6") backflow preventer will be installed adjacent to the pump house; A new 600' pipeline will be installed between the existing water tank and the pump house; Replacement of the existing three-inch (3") water line with the installation of 2, four-inch (4") water lines, from the Pump House to the cistern atop the Mt Lee Communications Complex (there is no expansion of the cistern capacity (80,000 gallons)); The length of the pipeline from the Pump House to cistern is approximately 1,200 feet; The existing three-inch (3") water line will be left in place; Expansion loops will be provided along the pipeline at a maximum of one loop every one hundred-feet (100'); Installation of pipeline supports will be located approximately ten-feet apart; The monitoring and control system wiring will be installed within a conduit and attached to the pipeline supports; The height of the pipeline and supports will be designed and located to permit large animals to go over the top of the pipeline and small animals to go under the pipeline at the intersection with at-least two wildlife trails; The project will require the grubbing/clearing of a narrow portion of the hillside to permit an adequate work area for employees to permit the installation of pipeline supports and foundations; (see attached)


CONTACT PERSON: James R Tebbetts	TELEPHONE NUMBER: (213) 485-5732
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EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)	CITY CEQA GUIDELINES	STATE CEQA GUIDELINES
<input type="checkbox"/> MINISTERIAL	Art. II, Sec. 2.b	Sec. 15268
<input type="checkbox"/> DECLARED EMERGENCY	Art. II, Sec. 2.a(1)	Sec. 15269(a)
<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY PROJECT	Art. II, Sec. 2.a(2)(3)	Sec. 15269(b)(c)
<input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL EXEMPTION	Art. II, Sec. 1	Sec. 15061(b)(3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION*	Art. III, Sec. 1 Class 1 (2) Art. III, Sec. 1 Class 2 (3)	Sec. 15301 (b) Sec. 15302 (c)
<input type="checkbox"/> STATUTORY* Art. _____ Sec. _____		

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

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION: This project falls under Class 1 (15301 (b)) and Class 2 (15302 (c)) exemptions under CEQA as well as Class 1 (2) and Class 2 (3) exemptions of the *City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines*. The project consists of the minor alteration of existing public structures, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The project also consists of the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The limiting factor of the Mt Lee Complex and Helispot water system is the capacity of the cistern (80,000 gallons), of which there will be no expansion of its capacity. None of the limitations set forth in State CEQA Guidelines 15300.2 apply (see attached narrative).

IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT OF EXEMPTION FINDING

SIGNATURE:  Maria Martin	TITLE: Environmental Affairs Officer Environmental Management Group	DATE: 6/24/15
FEE: \$75.00	RECEIPT NO.	REC'D BY
		DATE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NARRATIVE

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT (continued): Only hand-held tools (i.e. shovels, weed whackers, augers, etc.) will be used except in the area within the Mt Lee Complex in which mechanical equipment will be utilized; and During construction activities, a portable power generator will be onsite to provide power to the Pump House pumps as needed.

The purpose of the project is to provide increased water volume, flow and pressure to support fire-fighting capabilities of the LAFD-ASD Mt Lee Helispot, located adjacent to the Mt. Lee Communication Complex. The Mt Lee Helispot is the single most important and strategic Helispot location in the City. Aircraft operating from this Helispot will protect the adjoining communities from the one of the highest life and property threats that is found in the City, wild fires. The beneficiaries of this project are those buildings, structures and city residents and visitors that are in the service area of the LAFD-ASD Mt Lee Helispot, which is comprised of Griffith Park and the Communities of Hollywood Hills and Mulholland

I. HISTORY – Mount Lee is a peak in the in the Santa Monica Mountains and located within Griffith Park. Mount Lee is the third tallest mountain in the Park. The famous Hollywood Sign is located on its southern slope. The current flattened top of Mt Lee was the result of silent movie pioneer Mack Sennett's unfulfilled plans to build an elaborate home on the property.

The Mt Lee Helispot is the single most important and strategic Helispot location in the City. Aircraft operating from this Helispot will protect the adjoining communities from the one of the highest life and property threats that is found in the City, wild fires. This is the only Helispot used for fire-fighting activities located within Griffith Park.

The purpose of the project is to provide increased water flows and pressures to support fire-fighting capabilities of the LAFD-ASD Mt Lee Helispot. The cistern has a capacity of approximately 80,000 gallons, the project proposed no expansion of this capacity. The cistern can easily be depleted during water re-filling activities of helicopters during wild land fire-fighting operations. The rate of re-filling is depending on the number of helicopters utilized and water tank carrying capacity. The quicker the cistern can be re-filled, the quicker aircraft can be refilled, the more water that can be placed on the wild fire, and the sooner the fire can be put out. The service area of the LAFD-ASD-Helispot is comprised of the entirety of Griffith Park and the Communities of Hollywood Hills and Mulholland.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW - The State CEQA Guidelines (CCR Sec 15300.2) limit the use of categorical exemptions in the following circumstances:

1. Location. Exemption Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may be significant in a particularly sensitive environment. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely

mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

This locational circumstance, noted above, does not apply to Class 1 and 2 exemptions. Therefore, this exception has no application here.

2. Cumulative Impact. This exception applies when, although a particular project may not have a significant impact, the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

This project will not have a cumulative impact when included with successive projects in the same place and over time. No other projects are proposed that would affect this water system. There is a proposal to construct a small building addition to house an emergency power generator, but this project is approximately 150' to the pipeline within the Mt Lee Complex and 600' to the cistern

Therefore, this exception has no application here.

3. Significant Effect. This exception applies when, although the project may otherwise be exempt, there is a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

Biological Effects - A biological survey was conducted for the project site (*Biological Resources Assessment Report for the Mt. Lee Pumping Station and Pipe Line Project*. Prepared by: AECOM, Contact Arthur Popp, May 2015). The survey found that there were nine special-status plant species and twelve wildlife species have some potential to occur within suitable habitats present within or adjacent to the Project.

Cultural Effects - See historical resources below (Number 6)

Landslide Effects - According to the State of California's Seismic Hazard Zones map, the site is located within an area that has the potential for earthquake-induced landslides. There is no evidence of land sliding on the Project Site. The design and construction of the foundations and supports will take in this potential impact.

There are no other unusual circumstances known to this office. Inclusion of the avoidance, minimization, best management practices, City standard construction specifications and design of the pipeline, foundation, and supports as found in the project design package would reduce or eliminate any potential impacts.

Therefore, this exception has no application here.

4. Scenic Highway. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

The proposed project is not within sight of any state designated scenic highway or other scenic resources.

Therefore, this exception has no application here.

5. Hazardous Waste Site. This exception applies when a project is located on a site listed as a hazardous waste site under Government Code Section 65962.5.

On May 27, 2015 the web site of the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (at Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) was visited. The ENVIROSTOR data base and the State of California Water Resources Control Board (SWQCB) GEOTRACKER data base indicate that there are currently no hazardous waste sites or leaking underground storage tanks (LUST) within the project area. A LUST site was found in the early 1990's in the Mt Lee Communication Complex. From review of the GEOTRACKER data base, it appears the leak was found, reported and stopped, in December 1992. It is now carried as a closed case on the GEOTRACKER data base (RB Case #: 900680043).

Therefore, this exception has no application here.

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

A cultural survey was conducted for the project site (*Mount Lee Pumping Station and Pipe Line Project Phase I Archaeological Assessment, Los Angeles County, California.* Prepared by: AECOM, Authors: Marc A. Beherec, Ph.D., RPA, M. K. Meiser, M.A. and Allison N. Hill, B.A, May 2015). The survey found that activities in the area of the Tyrolean Water Tank and Wayne R. Wright Pump House has a low potential for historic resources due to recent disturbance. The ridgeline also has a low potential for historic resources due to its slope. There is a moderate to high potential for buried cultural resources at the Mt. Lee Communication Center. Anecdotal evidence gathered during the cultural resources survey indicates that a refuse deposit consisting of cans and glass bottles was found during subsurface disturbance of the area just east of the communication complex between the security office and the diesel gas tank. Additional buried archaeological materials might be anticipated at the top of Mount Lee, which may yield information regarding the development of Hollywood in the 1920s and emergency preparedness during the early Cold War.

There are no other unusual circumstances known to this office. Inclusion of the avoidance, minimization, best management practices, City standard construction specifications and design of the pipeline, foundation, and supports as found in the project design package would reduce or eliminate any potential impacts.

Therefore, this exception has no application here.

FIGURE 1 - PIPELINE ALIGNMENT

