

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: ☒ Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
PO Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812 – 3044
state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

☒ County Clerk
County of Los Angeles
12400 Imperial Hwy, Rm 2001
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: Los Angeles County
Department of Health Services
238 E. 6th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90014

PROJECT TITLE: Illumination South Whittier Fence

PROJECT LOCATION -- Specific: 14330 Telegraph Road, Whittier, CA 90604

PROJECT LOCATION – City: City of Whittier

PROJECT LOCATION – County: Los Angeles

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT: On June 26, 2025, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) signed a Work Order indicating a commitment to provide funding for the proposed project. The project consists of removing a temporary six-foot-tall construction fence and replacing it with an eight-foot-tall permanent steel fence around a former Days Inn that is currently being operated as a recuperative care center for people experiencing homelessness by the Illumination Foundation. The project responds to neighbor concerns regarding appearance and security and would enhance community compatibility thereby facilitating continued operation of the center. The fence will include a privacy screen on one side to enhance the appearance and provide for greater security. The fence will include automated entry and exit gates (entry on Corley Drive, exit on Telegraph Road) and egress man gates at all exit points. Power for the automated gates will be provided from the existing building infrastructure. There will also be a manual sliding gate along the alley to the west. Construction would take three to four weeks. (Further renovations are not reasonably foreseeable.)

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Los Angeles County

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Los Angeles County

EXEMPT STATUS:

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(91); 15268).
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☒ Emergency Project (Sec 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
☒ Categorical Exemptions: 15301 – Class 1 Existing facilities, 15302 – Class 2 Replacement of Existing Facilities, 15303 – Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, 15304 – Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land, 15311 – Class 11 – Accessory Structures; County of Los Angeles Environmental Document Procedures and Guidelines -- Class 1 (h4, m); Class 2 (a), Class 3 (b), Class 4(c) and Class 11 (f).
☐ Statutory Exemption:

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: See attachment which is incorporated herein.

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Sarah Mahin, Director, Housing for Health Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (LADHS) Telephone: (213) 833-5350

IF FILED BY APPLICANT: Not Applicable

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature:  **Date:** July 8, 2025 **Title:** Director, Housing for Health, LADHS

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant Date Received for Filing at OPR: Not applicable

Illumination South Whittier Fence

Summary of Reasons Why Project is Exempt Attachment

Detailed documentation of the applicable exemptions is available for review at Department of Health Services, 238 E. 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014. A summary of this documentation is provided below.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 - Class 1 - Existing Facilities

The project would replace an existing six-foot tall construction fence with an eight-foot-tall steel fence and would facilitate community compatibility and ongoing operations of an existing facility with no change or expansion in use.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 - Class 2 – Replacement or Reconstruction

The project would replace the existing six-foot-tall temporary construction fence and replace it with an eight-foot-tall steel fence in approximately the same location.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 - Class 3 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

The installation of a fence qualifies as a small new structure. The project involves minor post installations and anchoring, which are standard activities under this exemption.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 - Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land

The fence requires digging post holes and setting posts in concrete, which is a minor alteration to land. This exemption provides for "minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored."

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15311 - Class 11 – Accessory Structures

The fence is an accessory structure to an existing facility and would not expand the use.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 – Exceptions to Exemptions

None of the exceptions to exemptions, found in Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines would apply to invalidate the categorical exemptions identified. The County has determined the following: (a) the site is not located in a sensitive environment; (b) the construction and operation of the fence would not create significant cumulative impacts by contributing to impacts of successive acquisitions of the same type in the same place; (c) there is no potential for the fence to result in a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; (d) the fence would not result in damage to scenic resource; (e) the site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; and (f) the fence does not have the potential to cause a substantial change to the significance of an historical resource.

CEQA Section 21080(b)(4), CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) -- Emergency Project

This project would provide permanent fencing to facilitate the continued use of a former motel to provide recuperative care for people experiencing homelessness. Homelessness in the County of Los Angeles experienced a large increase from 2016 to 2023, with 2024 remaining similar to 2023 (2025 data is not yet available). According to the 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, the County of Los Angeles had approximately 75,518 people experiencing homelessness in January 2023 (a 9% increase from the previous year). The County of Los Angeles represents approximately 25 percent of the State of California's population, but over 40 percent of the state's unhoused population. On January 10, 2023, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to proclaim a local emergency for homelessness in the County of Los Angeles. Previously, on October 30, 2018, the LA County Board of Supervisors declared a shelter crisis to address homelessness in unincorporated LA County.