

**CITY OF FRESNO
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
PLANNING APPLICATION NO. P22-02936**

THE PROJECT DESCRIBED HEREIN IS DETERMINED TO BE CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT FROM THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19 OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES.

APPLICANT: Michael Osborne
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
286 West Cromwell Avenue
Fresno, CA 93711

PROJECT LOCATION: 2444 Fresno Street (466-09-301T & a portion of 466-09-305T)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Revised Major Exhibit (Development Permit) was filed on August 3, 2022 by Michael Osborne of Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, on behalf of the City of Fresno PARCS Department and pertains to 0.25 acres of property.

The proposed accessibility upgrades to the site will, generally, consist of:

1. Reconstruction of a portion of the existing colored, stamped concrete plaza as shown on the site plan;
2. Reconstruction of the accessible route to O Street sidewalk;
3. Construction of a new accessible route from the Fresno Street sidewalk;
4. Construction of a new van accessible parking space and access aisle to serve the Water Tower Building; and
5. Perimeter security fencing with pedestrian gates at the three access points at the top of the existing stairs and at the accessible routes connecting to the sidewalks.

This project is exempt under Section 15331/Class 31 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines as follows:

Under Section 15331/Class 31, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA requirements when the project consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (1995), Weeks and Grimmer.

The subject property is a listed property on the local register, identified as HP#001. The project proposes minor site alterations, accessibility improvements, repair to existing non-listed facilities,

and site perimeter fencing.

The proposed scope of work will not adversely affect the historicity, architectural style or character defining features of the historic resource. The removal and replacement of the plaza, installation of accessibility features, and the fencing of the site is consistent with The Secretary of the Interior Standard for Rehabilitation 1. As it is being placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment; Standard 9 since new additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials that characterize the property and the new work is 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; and Standard 10. Since the new additions and adjacent or related new construction will 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.

None of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 apply to the project. Furthermore, the proposed project is not expected to have a significant effect on the environment. A categorical exemption, as noted above, has been prepared for the project and the area is not environmentally sensitive.

Date: August 22, 2022

Prepared By: Jennifer Clark, Director

Submitted by:

Jennifer Clark
Director
City of Fresno
Planning & Development
Department