

PLEASE POST FOR 30 DAYS

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FROM: City of Fresno Planning & Development Department
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, California 93721-3604

TO: X Fresno County Clerk
2220 Tulare Street – First Floor Lobby
Fresno, California 93721

_____ Office of Planning & Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

Project Title: Environmental Assessment No. P19-03316

Project Location: 940 N. Broadway Street; located on the southeast corner of North Broadway Street and East Elizabeth Street, between North Broadway Street and North Fulton Street. (APN: 452-11-434T) Please see the attached vicinity map.

Project Location – city: City of Fresno **Project Location- county:** County of Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Lowell Community Development Corporation, a legally recognized non-profit organization operating within the state of California, is proposing the construction of a new park on a 0.64-acre parcel owned by the City of Fresno and located at 940 N. Broadway Street. Park improvements will consist of the installation of shade structures, lighting, vegetation planting, and underground work that will include irrigation, waterline for drinking fountain, and electrical utilities. Hardscape improvements will be comprised of a basketball court, stage, walkways, rebuilt curb, and sidewalk. Vegetation improvements will contain roughly 5,000 square feet of drought tolerant landscape, and approximately twenty (20) trees. Miscellaneous improvements involve the erection of a fence, drinking fountain, trash cans, benches, signage, stationary exercise stations and equipment, and public art. The zoning district is Public and Institutional, in which parks are permitted by right.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Fresno

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Esther Carver, Executive Director
Lowell Community Development-
Corporation
240 N. Calaveras Street
Fresno, CA 93701

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial - PRC § 21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines §15268
☐ Declared Emergency - PRC § 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines §15269(a)
☐ Emergency Project - PRC § 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines §15269(b) and (c)
☒ **Categorical Exemption – CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) – General Rule**
☐ Statutory Exemption – PRC § _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

See Attachment A for specific information

Lead Agency Contact Person: Rodney Horton, Planner III

Full telephone no.: (559) 621-8181

Signature: _____

Date: 7/25/2019

Printed Name and Title: Rodney Horton, Planner III
City of Fresno
Planning & Development Department

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by applicant

If filed/signed by applicant:

Attach certified document of exemption finding ☐ (check if attached)

Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Attachments: Vicinity Map
Exemption Finding

ATTACHMENT A

**CITY OF FRESNO
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. P19-03316**

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: Esther Carver, Executive Director
Lowell Community Development Corporation
240 N. Calaveras Street
Fresno, CA 93701

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Reasons why the project is exempt:

1. The Project qualifies for CEQA 15061(b)(3) – General Rule, which states:
The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

The proposed Project will not significantly negatively impact the environment. The proposed park will be located on an existing vacant parcel. The previous use of the parcel was for operational purposes of the City of Fresno Police Department.

2. According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 (Exceptions), a Categorical Exemption cannot be used if the Project will result in, or have an impact upon the following:

- a. **Cumulative Impact** – All exemptions are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same area over time is significant. The assessment of the significance of the cumulative effects of a project must be conducted in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects. The proposed Project would not contribute substantially to adverse cumulative conditions or create any substantial indirect impacts. The various improvements will occur within the existing footprint of the 0.64-acre parcel. There are no other proposed use-related projects adjacent to the parcel that would be considered similar in nature so as to produce a cumulative impact.
- b. **Significant Effect** – The various park improvements will occur within the existing footprint of the 0.64-acre vacant property, and an evaluation of potential environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed Project was conducted. The current condition of the site is vacant with limited vegetation. Ground disturbance activities associated with the Project include undergrounding electrical utilities, irrigation, vegetation planting, fencing, installation of public art and stationary equipment, basketball court, stage, walkways, and rebuilt curb and sidewalk. Because of the nature of the improvements, the City has determined that the Project would not result in significant impacts to any of the 19 impact areas outlined in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, as follows:
 - I. **Aesthetics** – The Project will not include any new buildings that will disrupt scenic vistas or aesthetic resources. Any new lighting will be shielded and directed downward so as to minimize glare. No significant impacts.
 - II. **Agriculture/Forest Resources** – No farmland or forests occur on site or in the City. No significant impacts.
 - III. **Air Quality** – Air emissions were not calculated due to the nature of the Project and the size of the site. However, Air District rules and regulations such as dust control measures will be adhered to. No significant impacts.

- IV. Biological Resources – No natural vegetation will be impacted by the Project, and there are no biological resources on the campus due to a building previously existing on the site. No significant impacts.
- V. Cultural Resources – There are no cultural resources on the Project site. However, in the event that undiscovered cultural resources are unearthed during ground disturbing activities, the City will be required to adhere to standard measures that include work stoppage and contacting local Native American Tribes and/or County Coroner so that potential cultural resources can be identified, preserved, or removed. No significant impacts.
- VI. Energy – The applicant is not proposing to erect buildings. The Project will consist of open space with park equipment. No impacts.
- VII. Geology and Soils – The District will be required to adhere to State and local building design guidelines pertaining to seismic hazards, soil stability, and related geotechnical issues. No significant impacts.
- VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions – The Project is a park consisting of open space with park equipment. The Project is not proposing to buildings or structures that will emit greenhouse gases. No significant impacts.
- IX. Hazards & Hazardous Materials – Any hazardous materials used during construction are required to be transported and stored in compliance with applicable standards and regulations established by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The Project is not listed as being on or near a hazardous materials site. No significant impacts.
- X. Hydrology & Water Quality – The Center receives its potable water from the City of Fresno. The new park will utilize water fountains and irrigation equipment but will generate relatively low water use. The Project will not impact water quality. No significant impacts.
- XI. Land Use & Planning - The Project will encompass the entire 0.64-acre parcel. The proposed park site has a planned land use designation of Public Facility (PF) with a zone district designation of "PI" (Public and Institutional). The Project has no characteristics that would physically divide the City of Fresno. The Project is consistent with the City's General Plan and the Parks Master Plan. The project is compliant with the Fresno High-Roeding Community Plan and the Tower District Specific Plan. No significant impacts.

- XII. Mineral Resources – There are no known mineral resources on or around the Project site. No significant impacts.
 - XIII. Noise - The improvements and new construction associated with the Project are not expected to generate new sources of noise within the site. Noise generated from construction will be temporary and will be limited to hours identified by the Fresno Municipal Code Section 10-109, which limits work hours “to between the hours of 7 AM and 10 PM on any day except Sunday.” No significant impacts.
 - XIV. Population & Housing – Since the proposed Project is the development of park, no housing will be added. Therefore, population growth is not expected to occur. No significant impacts.
 - XV. Public Services - Public services are currently provided to the site by the City of Fresno. The Project has no design, construction, or operational characteristics that would necessitate the need for new or expanded facilities related to fire protection, police protection, schools, or other public facilities. There is no housing related or population-inducing component of the Project. No significant impacts.
 - XVI. Recreation - The Project has no design, construction, or operational characteristics that would necessitate the need for new or expanded facilities related to recreational facilities which themselves would cause an environmental impact. No significant impacts.
 - XVII. Transportation & Traffic – The proposed Project is located in an established residential neighborhood. Access to and from the site will not change, and traffic is not expected to substantially increase as a result of the Project. No significant impacts.
 - XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources – Tribal consultation is not a requirement under CEQA when preparing a Categorical Exemption. No significant impacts.
 - XIX. Utilities & Service Systems – The proposed Project will not have any structures or buildings requiring the need for expanded water or waste water infrastructure. No significant impacts.
- c. **Scenic Highways** – There are no designated scenic highways located within the City. Therefore, there is no impact.
 - d. **Hazardous Waste Sites** – According to the Department of Toxic Substances Control *EnviroStor* database, the Project is not located near Hazardous Waste Sites. There is no impact.

- e. **Historical Resources** – The proposed Project is located in a developed residential area. There are no structures listed on the National Registrar of Historic Resources designated by the City as Local Register of Historic Places, and the subject site is not within a designated historic district. There is no impact.

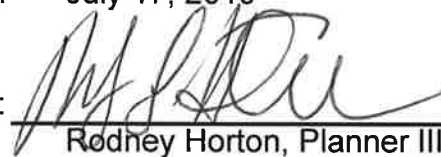
Conclusion

The City of Fresno has determined that the proposed Project qualifies for the exemption discussed herein.

1. The City will adopt the Exemption through Resolution.

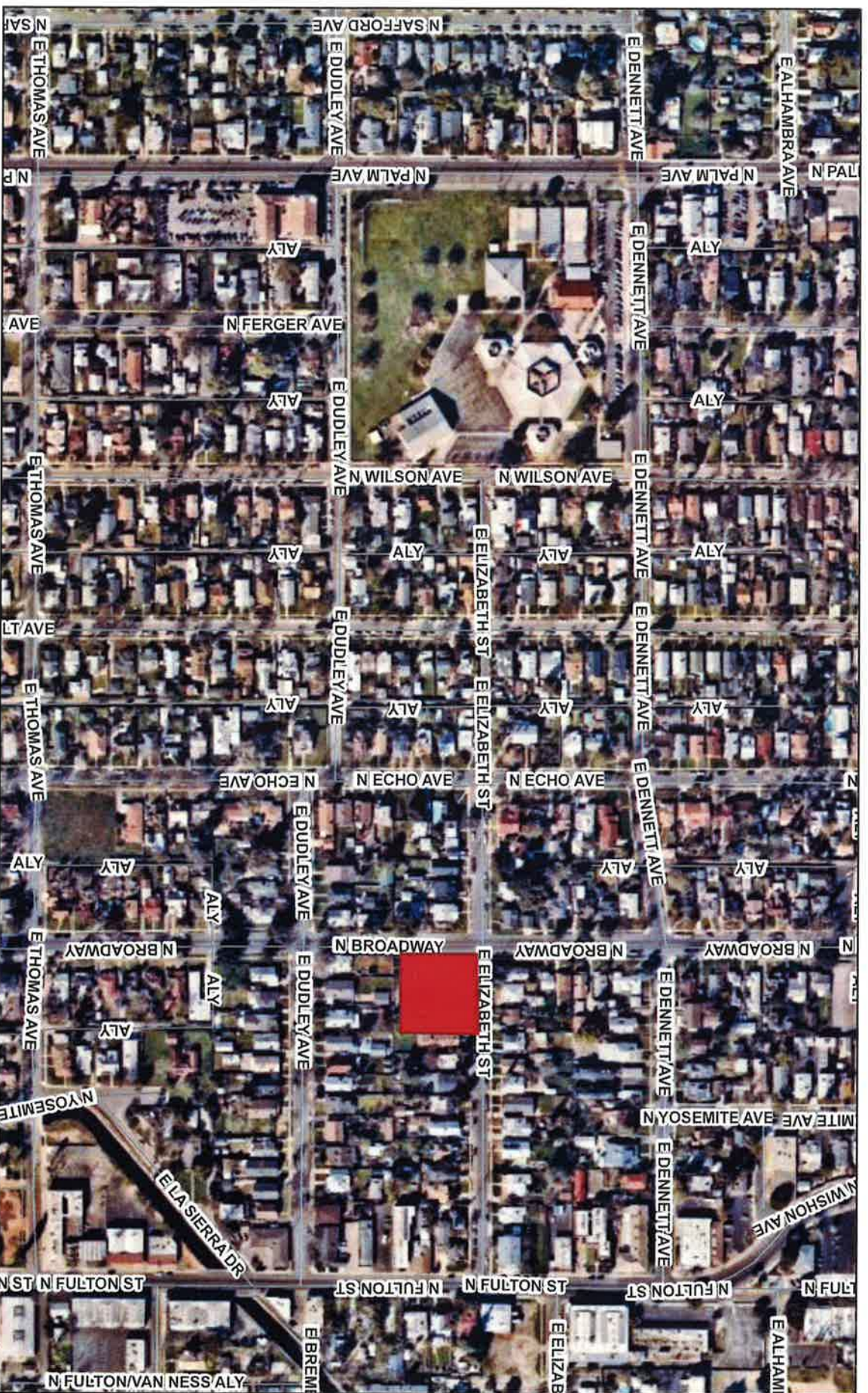
Date: July 17, 2019

Prepared by:



Rodney Horton, Planner III
City of Fresno
Planning & Development
Department
(559) 621-8181

Vicinity Map Environmental Assessment No.P19-3316



7/16/2019 11:03:09 AM

Subject _____

Project _____

