



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLERK  
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET**

**2025 261892**



**FILED**

Nov 20 2025

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by MARY JOANNE PUAINA

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk

**TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY**

**Project Title**

**Ordinance No. 3172 - Temporarily Suspending the City of Whittier Parkway Tree  
Manual**

**Check Document being Filed:**

- ☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- ☐ Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- ☒ Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- ☐ Other (Please fill in type):



## CEQA Exemption Memorandum

**To:** Kyle Cason, City of Whittier

**From:** Jessica Ditto, Michael Baker International

**Date:** November 20, 2025

**Subject:** Ordinance No. 3172, Temporarily Suspending the City of Whittier Parkway Tree Manual – CEQA Exemption Memorandum

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This memorandum substantiates the use of a CEQA Exemption pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15301(c), 15060(c)(2), and 15061(b)(3) for the proposed temporary suspension of the City of Whittier Parkway Tree Manual (Ordinance No. 3172). This memorandum provides an overview of the project location and setting, background, project description, and CEQA exemption analysis.

CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(c), 15060(c)(2), and 15061(b)(3) state the following:

- 15301(c). Based on CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, “Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.”
  - c) “Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and other alternations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes.”
- 15060(c)(2). Based on CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c), “Once an application is deemed complete, a lead agency must first determine whether an activity is subject to CEQA before conducting an initial study. An activity is not subject to CEQA if:”
  - 2) “The activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.”
- 15061(b)(3). Based on CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b), “a project is exempt from CEQA if:”
  - 3) “The activity is covered by the common sense exemption 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.”

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Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by MARY JOANNE PUJANA

## **CEQA EXEMPTION ANALYSIS**

City of Whittier Ordinance No. 3172 is exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c) because the ordinance allows for the maintenance of existing facilities. Further under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2), the adoption of the ordinance would not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is further and independently exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), in that it can be seen with certainty there is no possibility the adoption of this ordinance would have a significant effect on the environment. Accordingly, the following analysis is presented for informational purposes only.

Ordinance No. 3172 would not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Ordinance No. 3172 would suspend Municipal Code Section 12.40.100(D) and the provisions of the Parkway Tree Manual until June 30, 2026. The proposed suspension of Municipal Code Section 12.40.100(D) would allow City staff to conduct a comprehensive review and update of the Parkway Tree Manual and Municipal Code Chapter 12.40, which would result in streamlined processes related to City trees to better protect the City's urban forest and preserve public safety. Additionally, during the proposed suspension, the City Manager would exercise discretion based on the health of the tree and as recommended by the City designated certified arborist in determining whether a tree should be removed and replaced in a manner that comports with the purposes of the Parkway Tree Manual. Removed trees would be replanted with a minimum 15-gallon replacement tree, consistent with the Parkway Tree Manual, *Tree Preservation Guidelines*. Future activities that involve potential impacts to trees would continue to be subject to applicable existing local, State, and federal regulations. Ordinance No. 3172, in and of itself, would not result in any cumulative impacts or physical effects on the environment, including those to aesthetics, hazards and hazardous waste, biological resources, and historical resources. No changes in land use designations or zoning are proposed. Lastly, Ordinance No. 3172 would only apply to areas within the City's municipal boundaries.

Overall, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that Ordinance No. 3172 would have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, the project meets the criteria for an exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(c), 15060(c)(2), and 15061(b)(3) and is not subject to CEQA.

# Notice of Exemption

## Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Los Angeles

12400 Imperial Highway

Norwalk, CA 90650

From: (Public Agency): City of Whittier  
13230 Penn Street  
Whittier, CA 900602

(Address)

Project Title: Ordinance No. 3172, Temporarily Suspending the City of Whittier Parkway Tree Manual

Project Applicant: City of Whittier

Project Location - Specific:

City of Whittier (Citywide)

Project Location - City: Whittier

Project Location - County: Los Angeles

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed Ordinance No. 3172 would suspend Municipal Code Section 12.40.100(D) and the provisions of the Parkway Tree Manual until June 30, 2026. Municipal Code Section 12.40.100(D) and the Parkway Tree Manual contain extensive procedures governing tree inspections, removal, notice, hearing, and appeal requirements. During this period of suspension, City staff would conduct a comprehensive review of the Parkway Tree Manual and Municipal Code Chapter 12.40 for potential revisions as part of a comprehensive update associated with all liability policies. These revisions would be designed to promote efficiency by streamlining the processes related to City trees to better protect the City's urban forest and preserve public safety. Additionally, during this suspension period, the City Manager would exercise discretion based on the health of the tree and as recommended by the City designated certified arborist in determining whether a tree should be removed in a manner that comports with the purposes of the Parkway Tree Manual. The City would continue the practice of replacing trees that are removed (removed trees would be replanted with a minimum 15-gallon replacement tree).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Whittier

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Whittier

### Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(c), 15060(c)(2), and 15061(b)(3)

### Reasons why project is exempt:

City of Whittier Ordinance No. 3172 is exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c) because the ordinance allows for the maintenance of existing facilities. Further under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2), the adoption of the ordinance would not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is further and independently exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), in that it can be seen with certainty there is no possibility the adoption of this ordinance will have a significant effect on the environment.

### Lead Agency

Contact Person: Kyle Cason

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 562-567-9500

### If filed by applicant:

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: [Signature] Date: 11/20/25 Title: Director

▪ Signed by Lead Agency      Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

**2025 261892**



FILED  
Nov 20 2025

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED

ON November 20 2025

UNTIL December 22 2025

Dean C. Logan, Registrar - Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically signed by MARY JOANNE PUAINA

REGISTRAR - RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

Revised 2011

# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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Norwalk, CA 90650

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13230 Penn Street

Whittier, CA 900602

(Address)

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Project Applicant: City of Whittier

**ORIGINAL FILED**

Project Location - Specific:

City of Whittier (Citywide)

NOV 20 2025

Project Location - City: Whittier

Project Location - County: Los Angeles

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLERK**

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Lead Agency

Contact Person: Kyle Cason

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 562-567-9500

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2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 11/20/25

Title: Director

▪ Signed by Lead Agency      Signed by Applicant

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