



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Certificate of Determination EXEMPTION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Case No.: 2013.0925E
 Project Title: California Academy of Sciences West Garden Cafe
 Zoning: P (Public Use)
 OS (Open Space) Height and Bulk District
 Block/Lot: 1700/001
 Project Site Area: 410,000 square feet
 Project Sponsor: Kevin Manalili – 415 379-5470, California Academy of Sciences
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project site is within Golden Gate Park along the easterly edge of the Music Concourse at 55 Music Concourse Drive. The proposed project includes construction of a new structure to the south of the California Academy of Sciences (Academy) building. The new building would incorporate the existing one-story, 320-square-foot aviary building, and include a café to supplement the Academy’s existing food services. The new building would be approximately 1,450 square feet (sf) in size and one-story tall at approximately 13 feet high, detached from the main Academy building, within the Academy property footprint. The covered structure would be open to the West Garden when weather permits, but could be fully enclosed to allow for year-round use. No demolition of existing structures would be involved.

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption, Class 3 [State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303(c)]

DETERMINATION:

I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and Local requirements.


 Sarah B. Jones
 Acting Environmental Review Officer

July 24, 2013
 Date

cc: Kevin Manalili, CA Academy of Sciences
 Karen Mauney-Brodeck, Recreation and Parks Department
 Eric Mar, Supervisor District 1

Virna Byrd, M.D.F.
 Bulletin Board / M.D.F

REMARKS:

The new café building would be used only by paid Academy patrons as it would supplement the Academy's existing food services. No new person trips nor an increase in existing daily attendance to the Academy would be anticipated with the addition of this 1,450 sf café.

Exemption Status. CEQA State Guidelines Section 15303, or Class 3, provides an exemption from environmental review for the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. Additionally, CEQA State Guidelines Section 15303(c) provides that in urbanized areas the exemption also applies to the construction of up to four such commercial buildings not exceeding 10,000 sf on sites zoned for such use. The proposed project would include the construction of a new 1,450-sf café building. Therefore, the proposed project meets the criteria for exemption under Class 3.

CONCLUSION:

CEQA State Guidelines Section 15300.2 states that a categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. There are no unusual circumstances surrounding the current proposal that would suggest a reasonable possibility of a significant environmental effect. The project would be exempt the above-cited classification. For all of the above reasons, the proposed project is appropriately exempt from environmental review.