



STAFF REPORT

7/23/2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Andrew Simmons, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer

SUBJECT: Determine the Avenue 53 Tot Lot Park Project, City Project P-29 to be Categorically Exempt from CEQA per section 15301 of the CCR and authorize City Staff to File a Notice of Exemption

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council determine the Avenue 53 Tot Lot Park Project, City Project P-29 to be Categorically Exempt from CEQA per section 15301 of the CCR and authorize City Staff to File a Notice of Exemption.

BACKGROUND:

The Avenue 53 Tot Lot project will rehabilitate the existing pocket park located at the Northeast corner of Avenue 53 and Calle Empalme. This project includes the removal and replacement of park equipment, a new perimeter fence, new park lighting and updated landscaping. The project will also include a traffic circle (round about) at the intersection of Avenue 53 and Calle Empalme. These improvements will ensure ADA compliance and pedestrian and bicyclists safety at the park. City staff has reviewed the CEQA guidelines and have determined the proposed project improvements are eligible to be categorically exempt. City staff recommends Council determine the project to be exempt and authorize City Staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the County of Riverside Clerk Recorder.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

The Project is exempt from CEQA per section 15301 of the California Code of Regulations, which includes: repair and maintenance of existing public facilities involving negligible expansion of existing or former use. Subsection (c) includes: *“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 alterations 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.)* Subsection (d) includes: *“ Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood”*.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Notice of Exemption