

To: Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: University of California  
Santa Barbara  
Office of Campus Planning and Design  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1030

Project Title: Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve Weather Station Project

Project Location – Specific: Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve, Carpinteria, CA

Project Location – City: Carpinteria Project Location – County: Santa Barbara

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of the Project: The UC Santa Barbara Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve proposing to install a research grade, fully automated meteorological station capable of collecting aerial, terrestrial and aquatic environmental data within the Carpinteria Salt Marsh from a key research location within the Reserve. All sensor equipment will be installed upon a free-standing aluminum tripod, which stands at a maximum height of 15 feet. The meteorological station consists of various sensors to measure: wind speed and direction, air and sea water temperature, rainfall, barometric pressure, sea-level height and other environmental parameters. The weather station is considered mobile and anchored to the ground at, or beyond, the feet of the tripod, with 3-6 12", or similar, stakes driven into the ground. No concrete footings are needed to secure the proposed weather station. The site would be accessed from a dirt road currently used by researchers and classes to access the Reserve. There will be no camera and no lights on the weather station and the station will be solar powered. The project site area is disturbed, and no native vegetation would be removed. Data from these weather stations are used in operational climate monitoring activities.

Name of Public or Agency Approving Project: University of California, Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: UCSB Campus Planning and Design

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080 (b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a);
- Emergency Project (Se. 21080(b)(4); 15269 (b) (c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15303, Class 3, New Construction
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reason why project is exempt:

There would be minimal ground disturbance for the proposed project and the project would have a beneficial outcome in facilitating the research and education mission of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Shari Hammond Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 805 893-3796

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: Shari Hammond Date: 6.26.2019 Title: Principal Planner  
Dept Name: Campus Planning and Design

Signed by Lead Agency

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

Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 01 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Revised 2005

cc: Michael Kisgen, UCOP Natural Reserve System  
Marion Whittmann, UCSB Natural Reserve System

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve Weather Station

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 01 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

**DATE:** June 2019

**CAMPUS:** Santa Barbara

**PROJECT TITLE:** Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve Weather Station

**PROJECT LOCATION:** University of California, Santa Barbara, Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve (see attached site maps)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The University of California, Santa Barbara's (UC Santa Barbara) Carpinteria Salt Marsh (Reserve) is proposing to install a research grade, fully automated weather station capable of measuring wind speed and direction, air and sea water temperature, rainfall, barometric pressure, sea-level height and other environmental parameters within the Carpinteria Salt Marsh, from a key research location within the Reserve.

**Background:** The University of California (UC) Natural Reserve System (NRS) maintains a system of weather stations at most of its 41 locations across the state of California. These weather stations are part of a Natural Reserve System-wide cyberinfrastructure project for real-time sensor data storage, retrieval, management, and curation. The UC NRS partners with other climate monitoring organizations such as U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN), a network of climate stations which are a part of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) initiative, to support environmental monitoring and data collection to provide future long-term homogeneous observations of temperature and precipitation that can be coupled to historical observations for the detection and attribution of present and future climate change. Data from these weather stations are used in operational climate monitoring activities.

**Purpose and Need:** Installation of the weather station supports the Reserve's research mission and one of the Natural Reserve System's priorities is to obtain accurate climate data that is networked with other sites throughout the State of California. The information gathered from the weather station will directly contribute to prediction and planning associated with the impacts of California's changing climate on goods and services provided by the state's natural areas and resources. The accurate climate data collected from the proposed weather station will contribute to the pre-existing sensor network on a statewide scale, but also will also produce information useful to land managers and planners at the local scale, in Carpinteria and Santa Barbara County. The proposed meteorological station will fill the critical need for accurate environmental data to quantify current base-line environmental conditions and provide the data needed to document long-term environmental trends.

**Setting and Program:**

The Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve is located at latitude 34° 0' 24" N and longitude 119° 0' 31' 30" W, about 12 miles (19.4 km) east of Santa Barbara and immediately west of the City of Carpinteria, along the South Coast of Santa Barbara County, California (Figure 1; Ferren et al. 1996). This estuary is characterized by a series of natural and artificial tidal channels and adjacent emergent estuarine wetlands that occur at the base of the watersheds of Franklin and Santa Monica creeks. The Reserve's location is ideal for a weather station because there are no obstructions from trees or buildings enabling the collection of coastal climate data. The project site area land use is currently designated as *Natural Reserve Area*. The specific area proposed for the weather station is at the end of a gravel road, a site formerly developed for oil extraction and access (Figure 2). There are no trees in the project site area.

The weather station consists of the installation of various sensors to measure wind speed and direction, air and sea water temperature, rainfall, barometric pressure, sea-level height and other environmental parameters. All sensor equipment will be installed upon a free-standing aluminum tripod, with a maximum height of 15 feet. The weather station is considered mobile and anchored at, or beyond, the feet of the tripod, with 12" or similar stakes driven into the ground. No concrete footings are needed to secure the proposed weather station. The site would be accessed from a dirt road currently used by researchers and classes to access the Reserve. The project site area is disturbed, and no native vegetation would be removed.

**Demolition and Construction:** Equipment would be driven to the site and no heavy machinery is required for installation. The equipment will be installed by hand. No trees or vegetation would be removed. There will be no land disturbance. There will be no camera and no lights on the weather station and the station will be solar powered. An example of a completed weather station with installation specifications is attached.

**Schedule:** The proposed project is expected to begin in October 2019 and will take approximately 2 to 3 days to complete.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:**

This project is considered Categorical Exempt under CEQA Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and Section 15304, Minor Alternations to Land as supported by the discussion below. There are no unusual circumstances which would create an exception to the Exemption.

**Aesthetics:** The weather station is small in scale and would be located in a disturbed area of the Reserve. The weather station would not obstruct views of the coast or mountains and would not significantly change the visual character of the project area.

**Agricultural Resources:** There are no agricultural resources on the Reserve or at the University.

**Air Quality:** Site preparation is minimal to install the weather station and would not cause an air quality impact. The weather station would not have emissions during operation.

**Biological Resources:** No biological resources would be impacted from installation of the weather station. The site is accessed from a dirt road and no biological resources on the Reserve would be impacted.

**Cultural Resources:** There are no cultural resources identified in the proposed project area. The proposed project does not involve significant ground disturbance and no cultural resources would be impacted.

**Geology:** The proposed project does not involve major grading or excavation and would not impact geological resources. The weather station would not be located within 50 feet of a known earthquake fault.

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** There are no hazardous materials associated with the installation or operation of the weather station.

**Hydrology/Water Quality:** There would be no impact to hydrology or water quality from the installation or operation new greenhouse. Impervious area and surface water runoff quantities would be the same before and after construction.

**Land Use:** The proposed project is located in an area designated as *Natural Reserve Area*. The weather station would be consistent with this land use as its purpose is for research and instruction and is in alignment with the Reserve's mission.

**Mineral Resources:** There would be no impact to mineral resources as a result of the proposed project.

**Noise:** Site preparation would create minimal noise and there are no sensitive receptors in the project area. Operation of the weather station would not create a noise impact.

**Population and Housing:** There would be no impact to population and housing from the proposed project.

**Public Services:** The proposed project would not increase the need for public services at the University. There would be no impact to public services as a result of the proposed project.

**Recreation:** There would be no impact to recreational resources as a result of the proposed project.

**Traffic:** There would not be an increase of traffic or the need for parking from the proposed project. The site would be accessed through the dirt road for occasional maintenance.

**Utilities:** The weather station is wholly operated utilizing solar power. All necessary utilities are available via a localized solar array.

**DETERMINATION:** Based on the above project assessment, the proposed project is classified as exempt from the provisions of CEQA under Section 15303 Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures. None of the exceptions cited in Section 15300.2 apply to this project.

Shari Hammond  
Shari Hammond  
Principal Planner

6.26.2019  
Date

#### REFERENCES

Ferren WR, Page HM, Saley P. 1996. Management Plan for Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve: A Southern California Estuary. Accessible: <https://carpinteria.ucnrs.org/managementplan.html>

Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. 2003. Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement Plan Final Environmental Impact Report. SCH# 2003021016. June 2003

Brooks, AJ. 2019. Personal communication with Dr. Andrew Brooks, Director of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve.

Figure 1. Carpinteria Salt Marsh, Santa Barbara County, CA.



Figure 2. Proposed location for weather station at the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve.

