

**Campus Planning**  
100 Campus Center, Bldg 37  
Seaside, CA 93955-8001  
831-582-5098/aspear@csumb.edu

**Notice of Exemption**

**Appendix E**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  
**County of:** Monterey  
168 W Alisal Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

**From:** California State University,  
Monterey Bay 100 Campus Center, Bldg  
37  
Seaside, CA 93955

**Project Title:** Heat Recovery Chiller Central Plan Expansion Project

**Project Applicant:** California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)

**Project Location - Specific:** CSUMB campus, on Inter-Garrison Road between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues

**Project Location – City:** City of Seaside, on CSUMB campus.

**Project Location County:** Monterey

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

**Nature of Project:**

The CSUMB proposes to construct a heat recovery chiller plant to improve cooling capacity on campus and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The underground water supply and return pipelines would be extended from the existing Central Heating Plant to the proposed cooling towers. The heat recovery chiller plant equipment would consist of above-ground piping, underground piping, valves, pumps, a trim boiler, and heat pumps (**Figure 1**). The proposed project would incorporate up to three cooling towers to reject excess heat from the campus chilled water system during periods when more cooling is required and to absorb energy from the atmosphere during periods when more heating is required. The cooling towers would be external to the existing Central Heating Plant building and partially screened by landscaping. New heat pump chiller equipment would be located within the Central Heating Plant building.

**Project Purpose and Beneficiaries:**

The project would improve cooling capacity on campus and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The proposed project would constitute a significant step towards minimizing campus long-term GHG emissions in accordance with the American College & University's Presidents' Climate Commitment first signed in 2007 and reaffirmed by the campus in 2016.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** The Trustees of The California State University

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** CSUMB

**Exempt Status:**

The project qualifies for the common sense exemption (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)), which states, "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." Air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and noise analyses were conducted and it was determined that the proposed project would not result in significant impacts.

**Reasons why the project is exempt:**

The project consists of minor alteration of an existing public structure and will involve only minor modifications to the building exterior. Although the project is otherwise consistent with the qualifications for Class I and Class 3 categorical exemptions from CEQA per Sections 15301 and 15303 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the CSU Monterey Bay campus is located on the former Fort Ord Superfund site, and pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300(h), Hazardous Waste Sites, categorical exemptions are inapplicable for projects so located. Because the majority of the proposed improvements will take place interior to an existing building and underground, with the limited exception of the cooling towers described above, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Anya Spear

**Area Code/Telephone/Email:** (831) 582-5098 / [aspear@csumb.edu](mailto:aspear@csumb.edu)

**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:** 

**Title:** Associate Director for Regional Environmental Planning

X Signed by Lead Agency or Signed by Applicant

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

Authority cited: Public Resources Code Section 21083

State Code Number and Reference: Public Resources Code Section 21108;  
State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)) (Common Sense Exemption)

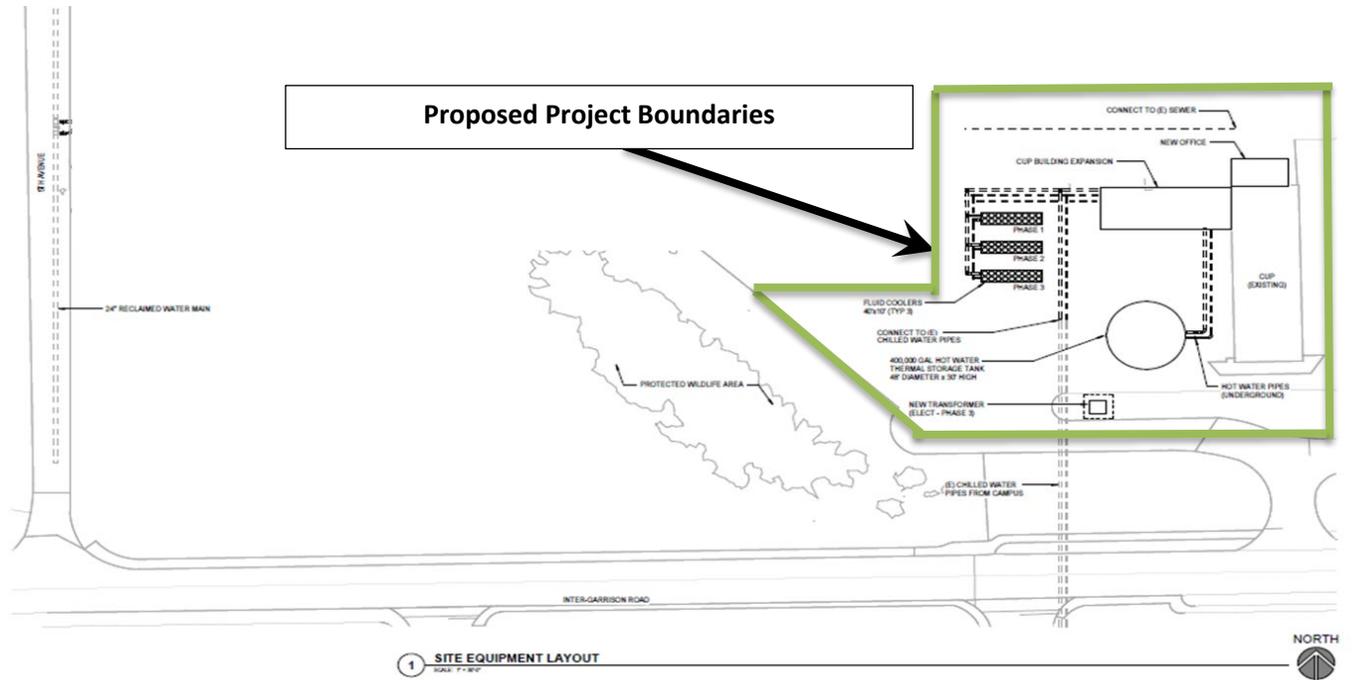


Figure 1. Site Layout