

**To:**  Office of Planning and Research  
 P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  
 County Clerk, County of \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** University of California Santa Cruz  
 Physical & Env. Planning Services  
 1156 High Street  
 Santa Cruz, California 95064

**Project Title:** Invasive Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Removal for Juvenile Chinook Salmon Predation Research Project

**Project Applicant:** University of California Santa Cruz

**Project Location – Specific:**

Eastern shoreline of Bacon Island, Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.  
 Coordinates: A: 38.001507°, -121.523957° and B: 37.995057°, -121.530264°

**Project Location – City:** Unincorporated San Joaquin County and Contra Costa County  
**Project Location – County:** Unincorporated San Joaquin County and Contra Costa County

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

The Invasive Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Removal for Juvenile Chinook Salmon Predation Research Project (project) includes the removal of approximately 656 linear feet of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) from the eastern shoreline of Bacon Island for a research project led by the University of California Santa Cruz. Bacon Island is located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in unincorporated San Joaquin County and Contra Costa County and is owned by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The research will assess the impacts of SAV on the predation risk of juvenile Chinook salmon and predator densities in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and contribute to the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) Decision Support Model (DSM) to assist in the prioritization of restoration activities. Research activities will utilize SCUBA divers, boats, and pickup trucks.

Equipment proposed to remove the SAV will include a combination of SCUBA divers and hand tools and the SAV which will be disposed of at authorized spoil sites to decompose. The bank of the channel would be protected from erosion by physically removing the SAV and stockpiling it before it is moved to the landside of the levee. The SAV collected shall be drained and temporarily stored in yard waste bags on the land side of the levee and then spoiled at an authorized location within 24 hours.

The University has entered into a license agreement for the project with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and will submit a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the research activities.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** University of California Santa Cruz

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** University of California Santa Cruz

**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: Section 15304, Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land and Section 15306, Class 6: Information Collection
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 20180.35
- General Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3)).

**Reason why project is exempt:**

The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 4 (Minor Alterations of Land) and Class 6 (Information Collection) as it would result in the removal of invasive submerged vegetation for research purposes. The project would not be constructed on a hazardous waste site and would not affect historic resources. The project will obtain the appropriate approvals from CDFW and will incorporate any applicable conditions during project activities. Therefore, the project would not have an adverse effect on biological resources. In addition, due to the nature of the project, it would not result in significant cumulative impacts. Therefore, none of the exceptions to this exemption apply. The project site is not located within a planning area of an established LRDP.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:**  
Erika Carpenter, Senior Environmental Planner

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:**(831) 212-0187

**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:** Erika Carpenter

**Date:** 12/17/2021

**Title:** Senior Environmental Planner

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: \_\_\_\_\_