

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): University of California, Los Angeles
UCLA Capital Programs

1060 Veteran Avenue, Box 951365, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1365

County Clerk

County of: _____

(Address)

Project Title: Sunset Campus Edge Landscape Study

Project Applicant: University of California, Los Angeles

Project Location - Specific:

Between Sunset Blvd and Charles E. Young Dr. North, west of Westwood Plaza

Project Location - City: Los Angeles

Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project consists of the emergency removal of approximately 90 eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) trees following three recent tree failures and subsequent evaluations identifying poor tree health. Recent arborist inspections have identified decay within structural roots and tree heartwood, fungal infection, buried root flares/root collars, poor crown growth, and compromised wood strength. Given these conditions and ongoing rains causing saturated soil conditions, and in light of the high levels of pedestrian use and vehicular traffic on the adjacent sports fields and Sunset Boulevard, respectively, immediate removal of the eucalyptus trees in this area is proposed in order to protect public safety and prevent further property damage. The area will be re-landscaped based on guidance from the 2022 UCLA Landscape Plan and will include tree replacements at a minimum 1:1 ratio.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: University of California, Los Angeles

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: University of California, Los Angeles

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: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

In January and February 2023, three large eucalyptus trees located on the UCLA campus fell during heavy rains and required immediate removal. Subsequent arborist inspections, including visual assessments, fungal sampling, and sonic tomography have identified poor tree health, specifically decay within structural roots and tree heartwood, fungal infection, buried root flares/root collars, poor crown growth, and compromised wood strength. Based on the professional arborists' recommendations, removal is proposed as the primary course of action to prevent additional tree failures among a series of diseased trees, particularly in light of continued storm conditions and resulting saturated soils. Given the location of the remaining trees adjacent to several campus sports fields regularly utilized by students and Sunset Boulevard, which experiences high and congested levels of vehicular traffic, emergency removal of a total of up to 90 eucalyptus trees is proposed to avoid or mitigate an immediate threat of further property damage, to protect public safety, and to prevent the potential loss of human life. The determination that the project is statutorily exempt is based upon evidence contained in the record.

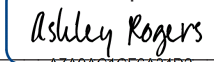
Lead Agency

Contact Person: Ashley Rogers

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 310.923.6747

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:  Date: 3/21/2023 Title: Assistant Director, Environmental Planning

▪ 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: _____