

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: University of California
Physical & Environmental Planning
200 A & E, Berkeley
California 94720-1382

Project Title: *Water Utility Easement for Albany Village Student Housing along Monroe Street*

Project Location – Along Monroe Street, and at 1051 Monroe Street Albany, CA

Project Location – City: Albany

Project Location – County: Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project (Project Description):

UC Berkeley proposes to grant a water service easement and use agreement to the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and their contractors for the installation and operation of an underground water line to serve the Albany Village Student Housing project in University Village Albany. The easement is located at the eastern portion of University Village Albany along Monroe Street. The easement area of an approximate 12,733 square feet will allow EBMUD to access, install the underground water line, and maintain the constructed water line in the easement area. This easement covers both a physical easement to construct the water utility line and an agreement to operate in the easement area. The water utility line includes trenching and installation of an underground line within the easement area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: University of California, Berkeley

Parties Undertaking Project: University of California, Berkeley; EBMUD

Exempt Status:

- 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. **Class 1 (15301): Existing Facilities, Class 4 (15304) Minor Alterations to Land**
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 20180.35
- General Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3)).

Reason Why Project is Exempt:

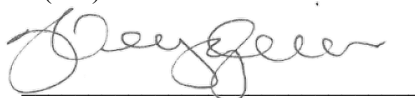
The Project would involve granting of an easement, construction, installation and maintenance of an underground water line within the proposed easement area in an existing roadway and previously disturbed site of the housing project. The Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301: Class 1 Existing Facilities. This exemption applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alterations or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities or mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of an existing use. The easement includes trenching and undergrounding of the utility facilities, which falls under minor alterations of an already disturbed roadway and site. No environmentally sensitive habitat exists within the easement.

The project is also categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304: Class 4 Minor Alterations to land. The project is exempt because it includes minor trenching and backfilling for access and installation of the utility line.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 includes a number of exceptions to categorical exemptions, which include the following: location; cumulative impact; significant effect; scenic highways; hazardous waste sites; and historical resources. These exceptions have been determined not to apply to the Project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Shraddha Navalli Patil, Senior Planner, Physical and Environmental Planning
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Signature:



Wendy Hillis

Title: Assistant Vice Chancellor and Campus Architect, Capital Strategies

Date: April 13, 2023

Signed by Lead Agency
Date received for filing at OPR