

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: The Trustees of The California State University
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

Project Title: 2000 Foster Avenue Vegetation Clearing

Project Location – Specific: 2000 Foster Avenue (Assessor’s Parcel No. 505-161-011)

Project Location - City: Arcata

Project Location - County: Humboldt County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt (Cal Poly Humboldt) is proposing the removal of vegetation within a portion of the property located at 2000 Foster Avenue (approximately 12.1 of 18.8 acres) to conduct a topographic survey of the site and to improve safety and visibility on the site. The site is currently dominated by dense nonnative cover, primarily Himalayan blackberry, which precludes an accurate survey of the site and preventing University Police from safely patrolling the property. Vegetation removal would require approximately 80 hours, assuming a single loader with a masticating head attachment. Minimal ground disturbance would be necessary, and all masticated vegetation debris would remain onsite. Work would be avoided within exclusion areas that would be established at the riparian dripline associated with McDaniel Slough along the eastern edge of the project site and along the northern extent of the freshwater emergent wetland located at the southern property boundary.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Cal Poly Humboldt

The project is exempt from CEQA under the following authority:

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: Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land (Section 15304); Class 6 – Information Collection (Section 15306)

Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____

Other: “Common Sense” Exemption (15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

Consistent with Class 6 exemption requirements, the primary purpose of the proposed activity is to collect information needed to support a topographical survey of the project site and construction would not involve substantial grading of the site. Additionally, the activity qualifies for a Class 4 exemption because the proposed action would be limited to removal of Himalayan blackberry and other nonnative vegetation on vacant land previously developed as a lumber mill and would not involve removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Because the proposed activity would involve limited land disturbance using a single piece of equipment for the purpose of the removal of non-native, invasive species (e.g., Himalayan blackberry), and site ingress/egress would be provided by the existing driveways from Foster Avenue, the proposed activity does not trigger any of the exceptions listed under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. Additionally, per the criteria contained in the common sense exemption, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this activity may have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Deirdre Clem, Project & Space Analyst

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 826-5894

If filed by applicant: Not applicable

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: 1/30/2024 Title: Project & Space Analyst

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.