

# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo  
1 Grand Avenue  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93410

Project Title: Cal Poly Escuela Water Storage Tanks Addition

Project Location – Specific: Escuela Ranch north of the main Cal Poly campus, south-east of the SLO County Office of Education, east of SR-1, offset by 1,500 feet from Pennington Creek Road, in unincorporated San Luis Obispo County, California

Project Location - City: N/A

Project Location - County: San Luis Obispo County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) and Creek Lands Conservation (Arroyo Grande, CA) is proposing to add two (2) additional water storage tanks at Escuela Ranch to be constructed adjacent to the existing four (4) water storage tanks, a final count of six (6) water storage tanks. The work will include some grubbing of the site for the water tanks base material, and the project will include some trenching for utilities, all in proximity to the water tanks and well site. The existing and new tanks are filled from alluvial wells, and this water serves the cattle at the Beef Unit at Escuela Ranch. The goal of the project is to capture enough water in the wet season and store said water in the six water storage tanks so that during the dry season water pumping from the alluvial wells is limited. As alluvial wells are hydrologically connected to surface flow in Pennington Creek, filling the water tanks during peak winter flow conditions preserves the summer lower water conditions for creek habitat. Cal Poly's Beef Unit also collects rainwater that is stored in the tanks to support the cattle at the Beef Unit.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Creek Lands Conservation, Arroyo Grande, CA

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 1 – Existing Facilities (Section 15301); Class 3 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (Section 15303); Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land (Section 15304); Class 33 – Small Habitat Restoration Projects (15333)  
 Statutory Exemption. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project consists of surface installed water storage tanks on the Escuela Ranch of the Cal Poly campus. The modifications are consistent with existing infrastructure at the site. Limited site grubbing and utility trenching will be performed. The project site has been reviewed for sensitive biological or cultural resources; nothing found within the project construction area. The added water storage tanks do not exceed 50% of the existing facility and is a development of less than 2,000 square feet. The project aims to limit alluvial well extraction in the summer months so to maintain water levels in Pennington Creek for the native habitat.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Scott Bloom, Campus Planner, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (805) 756-1573

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:   
Scott Bloom (Jun 21, 2024 15:19 PDT)

Date: 06/21/2024

Title: Campus 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.