Notice of Exemption

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Project Title: **Angelo Coast Range Reserve– Prop. 68 Facility and Infrastructure Improvement Project**
Project Location – Angelo Coast Range Reserve
Project Location – outside Branscomb, CA, incorporated County
Project Location – County: Mendocino County

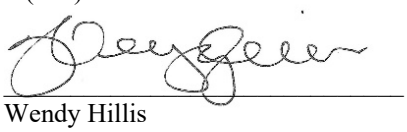
Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project (Project Description): the 4,450-acre Angelo Coast Range Reserve is managed by the University of California, Berkeley for research and teaching about watersheds and natural ecosystems. The Reserve, which hosts many staff and visitors has 20 buildings, including 11 for use of housing, as well as office, laboratory and storage space. A site map of the Reserve is included as Figure 1. Many of the facilities are in need of repair and upgrades to provide year-round service to researchers, as well as to meet current standards of public health and safety. The project involves two discreet renovation projects and subtasks to upgrade facilities that do not currently contribute to a safe and accessible educational environment that are described in Attachment A. Once completed, these two projects will provide greater comfort and convenience to staff and visitors, as well as provide more reliable electrical power while significantly reducing the carbon footprint of the facilities through the reduction in propane use. Additionally, these projects will extend the seasons of use of the site.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: University of California
Parties Undertaking Project: University of California
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. State type and section number: **Class 1 (15301): Existing Facilities; Class 3 (15303): New Construction; and 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 is categorically exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1 Existing Facilities, as it consists of the repair and minor alteration of existing deteriorated and damaged public structures, facilities and utility and mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, involving negligible expansion of existing use. On a separate and independent basis, the project is also categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, Class 3 New Construction, for new construction and location of new small structures (solar power array, shed and generator). The project is also categorically exempt from CEQA, on a separate and independent basis, under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land, for minor alterations to land, including grading and trenching for utilities and septic waste line on land with a slope less than 10 percent. None of the exceptions to the exemptions pursuant to CEQA Section 15300.2 apply and there are no unusual circumstances creating the possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, pursuant to CEQA Section 15300.2.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Raphael Breines, Senior Planner, Physical and Environmental Planning
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (510) 642-6796

Signature: 

Wendy Hillis
Title: Campus Architect, Assistant Vice Chancellor

Date: September 12, 2024

☒ Signed by Lead Agency
☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:

Angelo Coast Range Reserve, University of California, Berkeley
Prop 68 Proposal Facility and Infrastructure Improvement Project Tasks

Task 1: Solar System Replacement

This task includes replacing two existing, outdated and undersized, solar photovoltaic systems currently supplying electricity to two high-use facilities – Wilderness Lodge and Fox Creek Lodge – with one 17.5KW solar power system that will include ground mount panels and lithium storage batteries (see Figure 2, below). In recent years both the Wilderness Lodge and Fox Creek Lodge are often unavailable due to lack of electricity to the buildings. The components and power generating capacity and the storage capacity of the new solar power system would allow for nearly year-round use. Additionally, the new solar power system would be sized to meet all current needs and, with advances in all aspects of solar technology, will be easily expandable to meet future needs.

Task 1A: Install Shed to House Solar Equipment

As shown in Figure 2, below, this task involves constructing a small power shed (120 square feet) to house the solar power system charge equipment including controllers, inverters, batteries for storage and the main electrical panels, with an attached covered pad (20 square feet) to house a back-up propane generator. The system power solar array will have a footprint of approximately 335 square feet and will be located in Wilderness Lodge Meadow (Figure 2). This task will also require roughly 450 feet of trenching to install electrical power from the power shed to the Wilderness Lodge, Fox Creek Lodge and the Fox Creek bathhouse.

Task 1B: Remove Existing Solar Equipment

This task involves removing and disposing of the existing solar panels and equipment.

Task 1C: Install Range Hood and New Appliances

This task involves installing new appliances and a range hood in the Fox Creek Lodge.

Task 2: Bunkhouse Improvements

This task involves renovating an existing 8-bed, 416 square foot bunkhouse at the reserve's science center entry complex that is currently is a single open room with no partitions and four bunkbeds and no bathroom and add 66 square feet to the building footprint with a full bathroom and two interior partitions to the existing bunk area creating two separate rooms with two bunk beds each and small common area between the two rooms. Utility improvements will be needed to supply the new bathroom and other parts of the bunkhouse, and roughly 40 feet of trenching will be needed to connect the bathroom waste lines to the nearby east apartment septic tank. No expansion of the leach field shared by the two apartments will be needed.

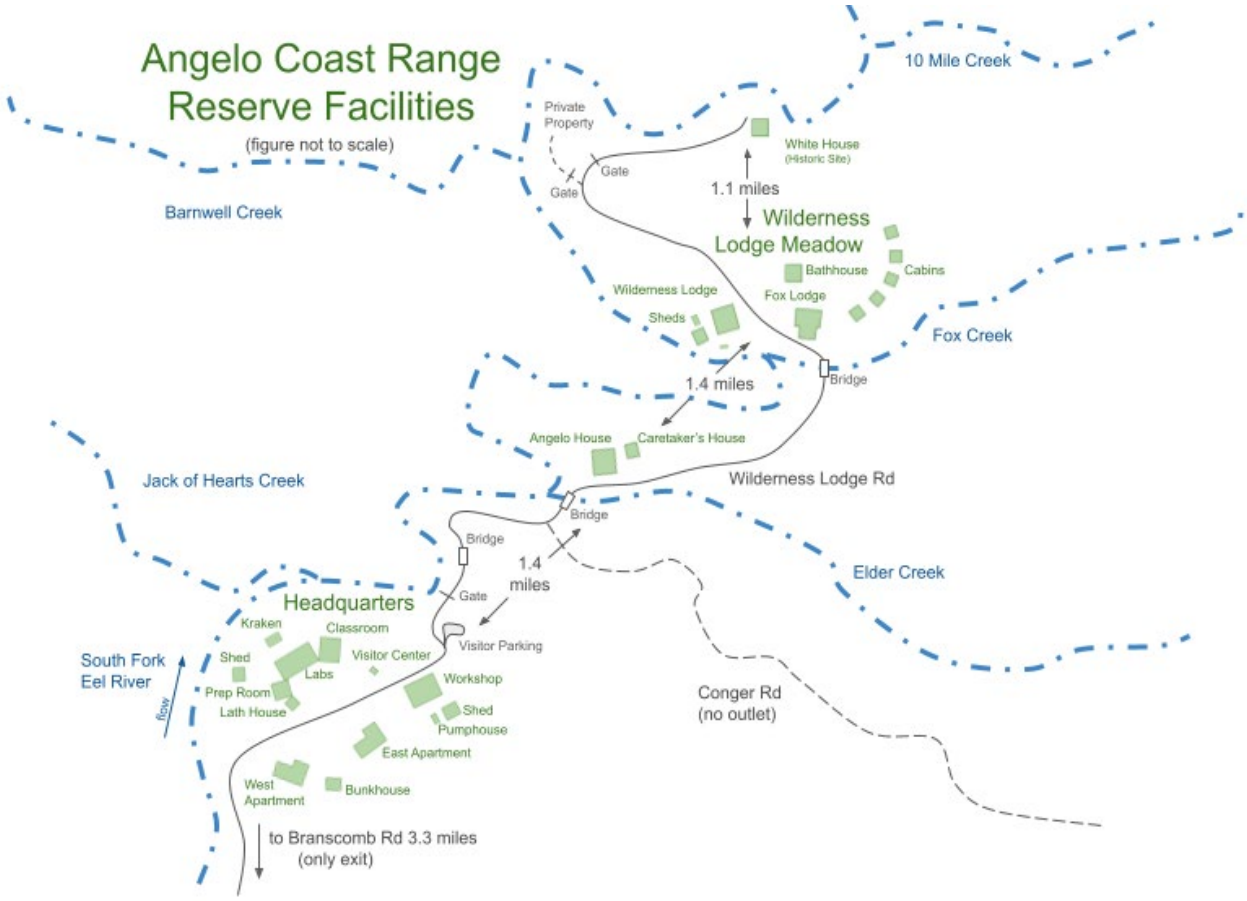


Figure 1: Angelo Coast Range Reserve Facilities Diagram

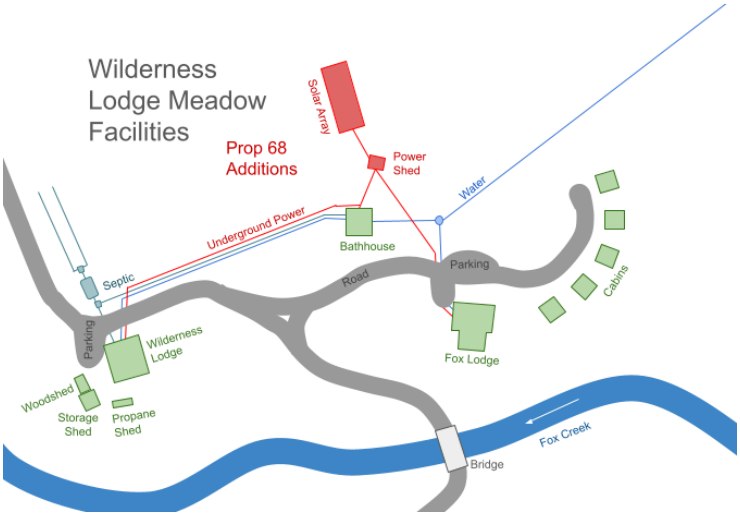


Figure 2: Task 1, Solar System Replacement,,with additions shown in red.

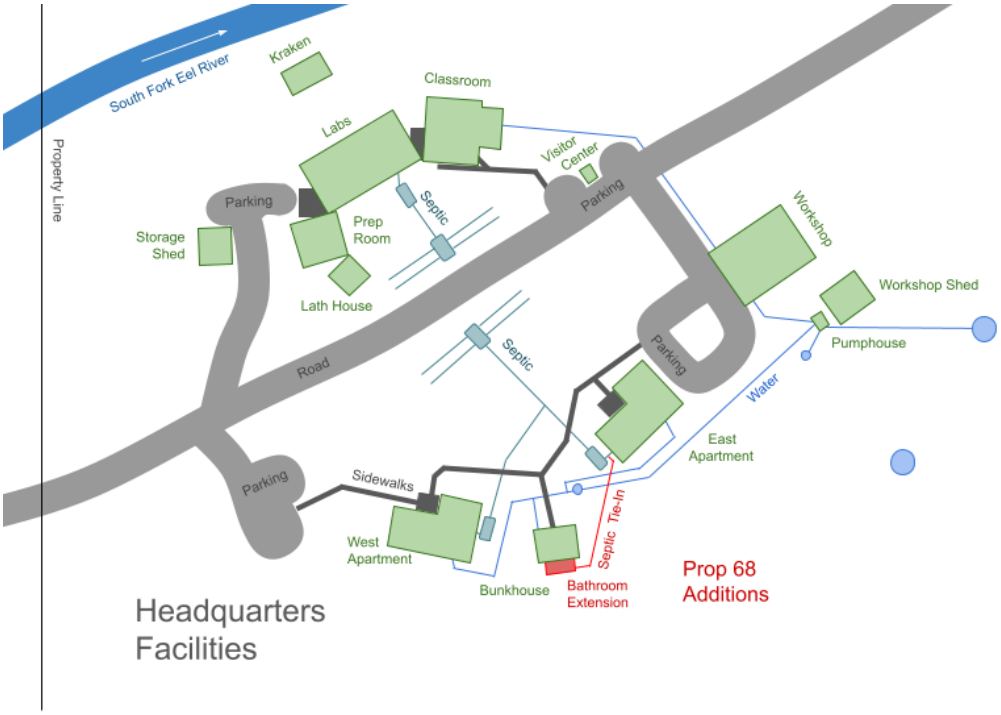


Figure 3: Task 2, Bunkhouse improvements, with additions shown in red.