

<b>NOTICE OF EXEMPTION</b>	<b>APPENDIX E</b>
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<b>To:</b> Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	<b>From:</b> California Polytechnic State University 1 Grand Avenue San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
County Clerk County of San Luis Obispo	

**Project Title:** Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Prescribed Fire Vegetation Treatment

**Project Applicant:** California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

**Project Location - Specific:** 3475 Gilardi Road East at the intersection of Watson Drive, Pennington Creek Road, and Gilardi Road - also known as Escuela Ranch, in San Luis Obispo County;  
 35.337374, -120.743845; APN 073-211-009

<b>Project Location—City:</b> N/A	<b>Project Location—County:</b> San Luis Obispo
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**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, in collaboration with The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s (CAL FIRE) San Luis Obispo Unit (SLU), proposes to conduct a 26-acre prescribed fire on Cal Poly’s campus. The project would serve to reduce fuels, improve forage for livestock, promote native species, and provide a training opportunity for students the Fire and Fuels program at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. This unit encompasses approximately 26 acres of annual grassland, dominated by nonnative grasses and forbs (e.g. Centaurea calcitrapa, Avena barbata, Bromus hordeaceus, Helminthotheca echioides), and is bordered to the south and west side by well-maintained dirt roads, and to the north and east by grazing pastures. No trees are located within the unit. Consistent with CAL FIRE requirements during Summer Preparedness, containment lines would be used to outline the unit boundary and keep fire from spreading outside of the desired area. By burning right up to containment lines, the project would create “black” (a term that describes burnt land with available fuels), which would add to the holding ability of the containment lines.

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

- 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: Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Lands (Section 15304)
  - Statutory Exemptions: State code number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other Exemptions: “Common Sense” Exemption - Section 15061(b)(3).

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The 14CCR§15304 Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land exemption applies to the proposed project. This project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation, and will not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project would treat a very small/specific area and is designed to minimize the risks and hazards associated with potential wildfire and threat to natural resources, while providing important training to Cal Poly students and local community members. This treatment would further steward the health and cultural benefits of the land, increasing native species diversity



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and abundance, and improving forage quality and yield to livestock. No protected status flora or fauna have been observed at the project unit. No sensitive cultural resources have been observed or documented within the project boundaries. Further, no excavation or other ground disturbance associated with typical construction would occur.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Scott Bloom, Campus Planner

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

805-756-1573

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: Scott Bloom Date: 20241018 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

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_