

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-304

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

County of Monterey
168 W Alisal Street, 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 9390

Project Title 2025 Vegetation Management within PG&E Electrical Transmission Facilities Easement
Project Applicant California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)
Location - Specific Moss Landing-Del Monte #1 and #2 and the Salinas-Fort Ord #1 and #2 Electrical Transmission Lines in CSUMB's East Campus Open Space (APN) 031101022000
Location - City Unincorporated Monterey County
Location - County Monterey County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project

The proposed project requires PG&E to clear and manage vegetation along a portion of the Moss Landing-Del Monte #1 and #2 and the Salinas-Fort Ord #1 and #2 electrical transmission lines in CSUMB's East Campus Open Space. PG&E plans to remove brush vegetation as well as 13 trees (coast live oak) with a DBH of greater than four inches. The project locations have been identified and mapped using coordinates provided by PG&E's contracted vegetation management supervisor. This project will require ground disturbance in the form of foot traffic and vehicles needed to mobilize equipment.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)

Exempt Status (check one):

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption** Section 15301 (b)(h) (Existing Facilities)
- Statutory Exemptions** Section 15269 (b)(c) (Emergency Projects)
- Common Sense Exemption**

Reasons why the project is exempt:

The project consists of clearing, removing and thinning vegetation along the East Campus Open Space portion of the Moss Landing-Del Monte #1 and #2 and the Salinas-Fort Ord #1 and #2 electrical transmission lines in previously identified locations. The project will remove a total of 39 trees while clearing, removing and thinning brush vegetation growing close and adjacent to electrical transmission line towers. Crews will access the area via Inter-Garrison Road between 8th Avenue and Abrams Drive at the emergency and utility access road known as the "horse crossing." The project location is limited to the area along a utility access corridor approximately 1 half mile in length. This project would not require extensive site preparation beyond that needed to access the area for the purposes of vegetation management and clearing.


- **Section 15301(b):** Existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services;
- **Section 15301(h):** Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth and water supply reservoirs (excluding the use of pesticides, as defined in Section 12753, Division 7, Chapter 2, Food and Agricultural Code);
- **Section 15269 (b):** Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare. Emergency repairs include those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency.
- **Section 15269 (c):** Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term, but this exclusion does not apply (i) if the anticipated period of time to conduct an environmental review of such a long-term project would create a risk to public health, safety or welfare, or (ii) if activities (such as fire or catastrophic risk mitigation or modifications to improve facility integrity) are proposed for existing facilities in response to an emergency at a similar existing facility.

Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (14 CCR Sec. 15061), the project is exempt pursuant to the above-named (1) Statutory Exemption, (2) Categorical Exemption, and is not barred by one of the exceptions set forth in Section 15300.2. The proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a Scenic Highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Sec. 65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Julie Wyrick, CSUMB Associate Vice President of Facilities Management

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Signature:


Julie Wyrick (Jan 10, 2025 14:05 PST)

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Public Resources Code Section 21083 and 21110, Public Resources code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.