

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
 P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
 County Clerk, County of _____

From: University of California Santa Cruz
 Physical & Env. Planning Services
 1156 High Street
 Santa Cruz, California 95064

Project Title: Bay Tree Bookstore Renovation Project

Project Applicant: University of California Santa Cruz

Project Location – Specific: On the University of California Santa Cruz campus near the intersection of Hagar Drive and Steinhart Way

Project Location – City: Santa Cruz, CA

Project Location – County: Santa Cruz County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The University proposes to renovate approximately 21,500 assignable square feet (ASF) of the Bay Tree Bookstore (bookstore) to repurpose spaces originally designed for bookstore use, reducing the campus store program area and providing for uses that meet current needs for student-focused services in this prominent central campus location. The proposed work would address circulation issues on all three floors of the bookstore, accessibility and code upgrades, renewal of building systems, and completion of deferred maintenance, including repair to third floor deck spaces to improve utilization of existing space and provide a renewed Student Services-oriented Student Center. The renovated bookstore layout will provide a new campus store, food service area and a Student Well-Being Center at the plaza level and will expand student resource centers and program spaces on the two upper floors. The project will extend the central stair and elevator to connect all three floors. The footprint of the existing building would not change under the project.

The project will also include exterior façade and site improvements that will improve interior daylight and connections between indoor and outdoor spaces. Site improvements include the realignment of the existing large boulder in the center of the plaza to provide adequate emergency access. Trenching for utilities including installation of a new sanitary sewer and reclaimed water line will also occur.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: University of California Santa Cruz

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: University of California Santa Cruz

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: Section 15301, Class 1: Existing Facilities
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 20180.35
- General Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3)).

Reason why project is exempt: The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 1, Existing Facilities because it involves the renovation of an existing bookstore with minor exterior improvements, which would not involve significant expansion of an existing use. The project would not result in the disturbance of hazardous materials, damage scenic resources, result in a significant adverse change to a historical resource and would not result in significant cumulative impacts. Therefore, none of the exceptions to this exemption apply. The project is consistent with the 2021 Long Range Development Plan (LDRP).

Lead Agency Contact Person:
 Erika Carpenter, Principal Environmental Planner

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:(831) 212-0187

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

Bay Tree Bookstore Renovation Project

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DocuSigned by:
Signature: Erika Carpenter
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Date: 3/11/2025

Title: Principal Environmental 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: _____