

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: California State University,
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182

County of: San Diego
5500 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Project Title: Aztec Circle Drive Utility Relocations and Barrier Removal

Project Applicant: California State University, San Diego State University (SDSU)

Project Location - Specific: San Diego State University campus, NW of Chemical Sciences Laboratory building adjacent to Aztec Circle Drive and Canyon Crest Drive

Project Location City: San Diego

Project Location County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project

The proposed project consists of upgrades to electrical and data infrastructure to support existing buildings in the northeast quadrant of the SDSU campus that are served by SDSU's Substation A:

- New electrical route, including underground conduit & electrical vaults for new 12kV line from Aztec Circle Drive to Canyon Crest Drive (linking to Parking 16);
- New data route, including underground conduit for fiber;
- After completion of new electrical route, demolition & removal of existing 4160V electrical feed;
- Tree removal & minor clearing/grubbing of hillside between Geology, Mathematics & Computer Science Building/Aztec Circle Drive and Canyon Crest Drive;
- Demolition & removal of non-accessible ramp pathway from Canyon Crest Drive to Aztec Circle Drive - pedestrians should be routed to the elevator from Parking 16 to Chemical Sciences Laboratory.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Diego State University

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))
X	Categorical Exemption: Sec. 15301, Class 1: Existing Facilities
	Statutory Exemption
X	Common Sense Exemption: Sec. 15061(b)(3)

Reasons Why the Project is Exempt:

The proposed project consists of upgrades to electrical and data infrastructure to support existing buildings in the northeast quadrant of the SDSU campus that are served by SDSU’s Substation A, which was recently replaced as part of an upgrade from 5kV to 12kV service. The project will consist of demolition of a non-accessible pedestrian path, tree removal, minor clearing and grubbing of the hillside, placement of conduit and vaults and installation of electrical and data infrastructure, and demolition of abandoned electrical and data infrastructure.

Biological surveys of the project area were conducted in Spring 2024.

There is no USFWS-designated critical habitat for wildlife species mapped within the project site, and there was determined to be minimal habitat in the project site suitable for endangered, rare or threatened species. Thus, potential impacts to endangered, rare or threatened species are not expected to occur as a result of project activities. Construction will not begin during the bird breeding season (January 1 through August 31), bird nesting season (February 1 through September 15), or western yellow and western red bat maternity roosting season (March 1 - August 31).

There is no USFWS-designated critical habitat mapped for plant species within the project site. All four vegetation communities/land covers within the project site are disturbed/developed or naturalized and therefore, not considered sensitive vegetation. Approximately 133 trees within the project site may be subject to removal; the number of trees removed will be offset by an equal number of trees planted on the SDSU campus.

The project does not trigger any of the CEQA Section 15300.2 (a) through (f) exceptions for the use of Categorical Exemptions. It is not located in a sensitive environment, would not result in cumulative impact from successive projects of the same type in the same location, would not have a significant effect on the environment, would not damage scenic resources within a designated state scenic highway, is not located on or adjacent to a hazardous waste site, and would not cause substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. As such, the demolition of a non-accessible pedestrian path, removal of trees, minor clearing and grubbing, and placement of conduit and vaults for installation of electrical and data infrastructure is within the scope and intent of the Class 1 Categorical Exemption. The project falls within the CEQA Section 15301, Class 1 "Existing Facilities" Categorical Exemption, which applies to operations, repair, and maintenance of existing facilities. In addition, there is no possibility that the proposed project would cause a significant effect on the environment, therefore the proposed project is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kara Peterson, Director of Planning

Area Code/Telephone/Email: 619-594-6930, kara.peterson@sdsu.edu

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 _____ N/A X

Signature: 

Title: Director of Planning

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: CEQA Guidelines §§ 15301 and 15061