

Notice of Exemption

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

From: University of California, San Diego
Campus Planning, MC 0074
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, California 92093-0074

Project Title: Muir Pines and Roots Renovation

Project Location – West Campus; east of Scholars Dr., south of Muir Ln.; north of Scholars Ln.

Project Location – City: La Jolla

Project Location – County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project (Project Description): The proposed project would renovate approximately 18,000 gross square feet (GSF) of the existing Muir Pines and Roots dining facility (formally Stewart Commons) building within Muir College. The renovation aims to improve functionality, increasing indoor and outdoor seating, and meet growing demand from recent campus housing expansions. Scope of work includes an interior renovation, including back-of-house areas, new kitchen equipment, upgraded mechanical systems, and the addition of service/cooking platforms with hot and cold pickup zones to support online ordering. Pines and Roots would receive interior updates such as new paint, flooring, lighting, and kitchen equipment upgrades to support a pizza-focused menu. Exterior improvements include activating the existing outdoor seating areas, improved pedestrian flow through entry/exit points, updated signage and wayfinding, deteriorated areas of roof replacement, and façade restoration. The project would also address required seismic upgrades identified through a Tier 3 structural analysis, enhancing the building's lateral load system to improve performance during seismic events. The renovation is targeting LEED certification in accordance with the UC Sustainable Practices Policy.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: University of California, San Diego

Parties Undertaking Project: University of California, San Diego

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

Reason Why Project is Exempt: The project is exempt from CEQA, Class 1: Existing Facilities because it consists of the operation, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. No exceptions to an exemption apply per 15300.2.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Alison Buckley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (619) 204-6233

Signature:



Alison Buckley

Title:

Senior Environmental Planner, Campus Planning

Date: 2/9/2026

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant