

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
Physical & Environmental Planning
1111 Franklin Street, 7th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

Project Title: Birch Aquarium Living Seas project
Project Location: Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego
Project Location – City: San Diego
Project Location – County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project (Project Description): The Proposed project consists of renovation of approximately 14,000 GSF, including the existing “Hall of Fishes” Exhibit Gallery to create the “Living Seas” Gallery within the same interior footprint and would replace and relocate existing exhibit tanks and create five new exhibit tanks: the Jellyfish Tumbler, Giant Pacific Octopus, Pier Pilings, Pelagic and Coral Reefs, and Mangroves. The proposed scope would also include upgrades to mechanical, electrical and plumbing infrastructure to support the Living Seas exhibit elements; addition of automatic sprinkler and fire alarm systems; and new interpretive signage, finishes, and audio-visual systems. No exterior modifications are required.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: University of California
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: University of California

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 (15301 & 15302)
- Statutory Exemptions (21080(a))
- Common Sense Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3)).

Reason Why Project is Exempt: The project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under a Class 1, Existing Facilities (CEQA Guidelines Section 15301) because it consists of the renovation of an existing structure with negligible expansion of an existing use. On a separate and independent basis, the project is also categorically exempt pursuant to Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (CEQA Guidelines Section 15302) because as it would replace aging components of an existing facility. No exceptions to the exemptions apply per CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Brian Harrington
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (510) 587-6116

Signature:



Brian Harrington

Title: Director, Physical and Environmental Planning

Date: August 2, 2024

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant