

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

APPENDIX E

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

From: (Public Agency):
California Polytechnic State University
1 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

County Clerk County of San Luis Obispo

Project Title: PJ7711 Shepard Reservoir Emergency Repair Project

Project Applicant: California State University, San Luis Obispo

Project Location - Specific: Located between the Equine Unit and the Upper Sports Complex turf fields, north of Sports Complex Road and west of Via Carta Road at 35.1836, -120.4002

Project Location—City:

Project Location—County: San Luis Obispo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project involves the design and construction of corrective measures to address persistent seepage and embankment instability at Shepard Reservoir, located on a 2.46-acre site on the Cal Poly Campus in San Luis Obispo County. The project is necessary following a severe storm in January 2023, which resulted in an uncontrolled breach and significant downstream damage. Emergency improvements will consist of constructing an in-situ Soil-Bentonite (SB) protective concrete collar with Vinyl Sheet Pile Composite cutoff wall, and implementing robust erosion and sediment control practices to stabilize the embankment, including fully biodegradable burlap-wrapped fiber rolls, silt fencing, and hydroseeding on sloped surfaces and prevent future flooding. Construction activities will be staged in existing developed areas, using specialized equipment over an estimated six-week period. The project will benefit the Cal Poly Campus community and surrounding areas by ensuring reliable water management, protecting public safety, and reducing the risk of future infrastructure damage.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California State University, San Luis Obispo

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Facilities Planning and Capital Projects, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

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: Class 1, Existing Facilities: Sec. 15301; Class 11 Accessory Structures: Sec. 15311
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions: Sec. 15269 (b) & (c) - Emergency Projects

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project qualifies for Statutory Exemption under State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15269(b) and 15269(c), which allow emergency repairs and specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency at publicly owned service facilities essential to public health, safety, and welfare. An environmental assessment by staff confirms that the project meets these requirements, as Shepard Reservoir plays a vital role in downstream flood protection and supplies water for agricultural and domestic irrigation on the Cal Poly campus. The planned emergency repairs, recommended by Cal Poly's geotechnical consultant to be completed before the winter of 2025–2026, are urgently needed to stabilize the embankment and prevent uncontrolled flooding and further damage following the January 2023 storm event. These measures involve careful planning and engineering to address an imminent safety hazard. Therefore, the project is exempt from further environmental review under CEQA.

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Lead Agency Contact Person: Scott Bloom, Campus Planner

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 805-756-1573

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

Signature: Scott Bloom Date: 2025/11/04 Title: CAMPUS 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: _____