

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: East Campus Medical Center Seismic Improvements and Modernization
Project Location – East Campus Medical Center, 6655 Alvarado Road, San Diego, CA 92120
Project Location – City: San Diego
Project Location – County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project (Project Description): UC San Diego proposes to implement seismic and infrastructure upgrades at the 6.05-acre East Campus Medical Center site at 6655 Alvarado Road, San Diego, CA 92120, to bring the existing 302-bed acute care hospital into compliance with California Senate Bill 1953 which requires all California General Acute-Care Hospitals to meet graduated structural and nonstructural seismic strengthening requirements. The proposed improvements would occur within approximately 316,000 gross square feet of existing hospital facilities, excluding the parking structure. The project includes replacement and modernization of aging building systems - including steam, roof, electrical distribution, HVAC components, hot water, nurse call, security, overhead paging, building automation systems, and other interior service systems - to improve safety, reliability, and operational efficiency. To meet required Nonstructural Performance Category (NPC) 4D and NPC 5 standards, the project would anchor critical equipment and install life-safety and emergency support systems, including new underground storage tanks located within existing paved and landscaped areas north, south and east of the Hospital. Tank installation would involve standard excavation and construction practices within previously disturbed areas, followed by site restoration. In addition, the project would implement SPC-4D compliance which includes structural retrofits to bring the East Tower and associated structures into compliance with Seismic Performance Category 4D. Improvements include reinforced structural elements such as concrete shear walls, fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) strengthening, shotcrete bands, and foundation upgrades. All work would occur within the developed hospital campus, would not expand capacity or change the hospital's use, and would support UC San Diego Health's ability to maintain essential medical services. The project would comply with the University of California 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 as it involves the operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing hospital facilities with no expansion of use or increase in capacity. The project would bring the current facilities to meet current standards and safety. None of the exceptions to the exemption pursuant to 15300.2 apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Alison Buckley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (619) 204-6233

Signature:

Alison Buckley
Senior Environmental Planner, Campus Planning

Title:

Date: 3/31/2026

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant