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Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk
County of: San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway #260
San Diego, CA 92101

From: (Public Agency): Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
8800 Grossmont College Drive
El Cajon, CA 92020
(Address)

Project Title: Cuyamaca College Water Drainage, Increment 1

Project Applicant: Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

Project Location - Specific:

Cuyamaca College campus, west of Fury Lane and north of Jamacha Road

Project Location - City: unincorporated El Cajon Project Location - County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would involve drainage improvements at four locations to restore and improve stormwater conveyance and drainage performance. Work includes minor grading, repair, and restoration of existing drainage swale and ditch improvements, erosion control measures, asphalt, and curbs, as well as related site work.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

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, Section 15301)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project consists of repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The project was reviewed for potential exceptions pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2, and no exceptions apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Angleo Pellegrini Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 619.279.3937

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: Signed by: Angelo Pellegrini A438CCF083F04C1... Date: 7/21/2026 Title: Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning

▪ 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: _____

Cuyamaca College Water Drainage, Increment 1
Notice of Exemption Memo

Project Location: The project would involve improvements at four locations on the Cuyamaca College campus, west of Fury Lane and north of Jamacha Road in the unincorporated portion of El Cajon, San Diego County.

Existing Conditions: The Cuyamaca College campus includes a variety of features to convey stormwater flows through the campus. The function of several of these features has been impaired by erosion, sedimentation, and vegetation growth.

Description of Project:

The project would involve drainage improvements at four locations to restore and improve stormwater conveyance and drainage performance. Work includes minor grading, repair, and restoration of existing drainage swale and ditch improvements, erosion control measures, asphalt, and curbs, as well as related site work.

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt:

Article 19 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines includes a list of classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which are exempt from the provisions of CEQA and from the requirement for the preparation of environmental documents.

The project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public drainage facilities on the Cuyamaca College campus. All work would occur within previously disturbed areas and would not result in an expansion of use compared to existing operations. As such, the project is consistent with the Class 1 Categorical Exemption for Existing Facilities as described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

Additionally, the project would not involve any exceptions to a Categorical Exemption identified in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2, including location, cumulative impacts, significant effects, scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, and historical resources, as further discussed below.

- **Location**. Consideration of the project location applies to Categorical Exemption classes 3, 4, 5, 6 and 11, and does not apply to Class 1 Categorical Exemptions. This exception does not apply to the project.
- **Cumulative Impact**. The proposed project activities would be localized and minor and would not result in incremental impacts that could contribute to a cumulatively

considerable effect. The proposed project would not alter facility operations, and no long-term cumulative impacts would result.

- **Significant Effect (Unusual Circumstances)**. The project was reviewed for potential unusual circumstances across environmental resource areas. Based on field visits and available information, the project sites have been previously disturbed. The sites do not support sensitive habitats, special-status species, or jurisdictional resources. Previous surveys have not identified archaeological resources in the project area. The project involves operation, repair, maintenance, and minor modifications of drainage facilities on the campus to ensure that stormwater continues to be effectively conveyed through the site, to minimize potential impacts related to flooding, erosion, and sedimentation. No reasonable possibility exists that the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- **Scenic Highways**. The proposed project would not result in damage to scenic resources within officially designated scenic highways. The closest officially designated state scenic highway is State Route 125, located approximately four miles northwest of the project sites. In addition, State Route 94, which is eligible as a Scenic Highway, is approximately 0.4 mile to the southwest. The project sites are not visible from either of these roadways due to intervening topography and development. Furthermore, while two trees would be removed, they are non-native trees that do not constitute a scenic resource. No historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or other scenic resources would be removed.
- **Hazardous Waste Sites**. There are no known hazardous waste sites within or in the immediate vicinity of the project sites. Project construction would not involve disturbance of any hazardous waste sites.
- **Historical Resources**. The Cuyamaca College campus was previously evaluated for historical resources (including archaeological sites) and none were identified within the proposed project sites. The proposed improvements would not cause a substantial adverse effect to the significance of a historical resource and this exception does not apply to the project.