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: _____

_____

_____

From: (Public Agency): Heather Davis, Director
Campus and Environmental Planning
255 Cousteau Pl, University of California, Davis, CA 95618
(Address)

Project Title: PG&E-Bodega Marine Reserve Tree Removal License

Project Applicant: University of California, Davis

Project Location - Specific:

2099 Westshore Road, Bodega Bay, California 94923;

Project Location - City: Bodega Project Location - County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

UC Davis is proposing to enter a new license with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to allow PG&E access to the UC Davis Bodega Marine Reserve at 2099 Westshore Road, Bodega Bay, California 94923. PG&E proposes to remove 70 Monterey cypress trees that are located at the marine lab and housing entrances and along utility corridors. These aging trees are in declining condition and have been dropping limbs or falling entirely down. The trees pose a threat to public safety, wildfire, and infrastructure. Furthermore, PG&E is required under applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95, California Public Resources Code section 4203, and FAC-003-X, to maintain required safety clearances between vegetation and overhead electric powerlines to reduce the risks outlined above. The area will be restored with native coastal dune scrub habitat. The license agreement will extend from August 30 to November 30, 2026.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: University of California, Davis

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: University of California, Davis

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

The licensing for the use of existing space qualifies as categorically exempt under Exemption Class 1 of the Guidelines for the Implementation to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Exemption Class 1 applies to the operation, repair, permitting, leasing, licensing, maintenance or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities or mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of an existing use; including example (h), which is for the maintenance of existing landscaping, and native growth. In a separate and independent basis, the project qualifies as categorically exempt under Exemption Class 4 (Minor Alternation to Land). Exemption Class 4 consists of minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The non-native trees being removed pose a safety risk and removal will maintain safety clearances within an existing transportation and utility corridor and allow for reestablishment of native habitat. In addition, none of the exceptions for application of a categorical exemption apply to this project.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Heather Davis Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-752-6043

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: Heather Davis Date: 8/31/26 Title: Director

☒ 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: _____