



SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET

FILED
Oct 14, 2026 10:50 AM
JORDAN Z. MARKS
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CLERK
File # 2026-000945
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TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Project Title

DISTRICTWIDE FIREBREAK & WEED ABATEMENT

Check Document being Filed:

- ☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- ☐ Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)
- ☒ Notice of Exemption (NOE)
- ☐ Other (Please fill in type):

Posted: 10/14/26

Filed by: ELVA STOPKE

Deputy County Clerk

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office. For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.

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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: Districtwide Firebreak & Weed Abatement

Project Applicant: Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

Project Location - Specific:

Grossmont and Cuyamaca College campuses

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would involve clearing of a firebreak around the perimeter of the Grossmont and Cuyamaca community colleges, as well as weed abatement on portions of the campuses.

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), Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land, Section 15304)
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project consists of fuel management activities and maintenance 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: Sahar Abushaban **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 619.392.6336

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: Sahar Abushaban **Date:** 10/13/2026 **Title:** Vice Chancellor-Business Services

■ 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: _____

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**Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
Districtwide Firebreak & Weed Abatement
Notice of Exemption Memo**

Project Location: The project would involve improvements at (1) the Grossmont College Campus, northeast of Grossmont College Drive and west of State Route 125 in the City of El Cajon, San Diego County; and (2) 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 Grossmont and Cuyamaca college campuses contain a number of structures, surrounded by native and non-native vegetation. Firebreak creation and weed abatement have occurred in the past, but vegetation has regrown, resulting in a potential fire hazard to campus structures.

Description of Project:

The project would involve clearing of a 30-foot firebreak around the majority of the perimeter of the Cuyamaca College campus and 30- and 15-foot fire breaks around the majority of the perimeter of the Grossmont College campus, as well as weed abatement on portions of both campuses. Work for the firebreaks would involve removal of weeds, brush, and dead, dry, and readily combustible vegetation, without disturbing the underlying soil or root structure. Work for weed abatement at both campuses would involve selectively removing dry grasses, weeds, invasive vegetation, and other combustible materials primarily through hand-cutting, trimming, and weed-whipping. Existing trees and sensitive native vegetation would be protected through installation of fencing along the approved limits of disturbance, flagging by a qualified biologist of native plants designated for avoidance, and biological monitoring. Work will be scheduled outside of the nesting bird season and Crotch's bumble bee flight season to the extent feasible. If work must occur within the nesting bird season (February 1 to August 31) in areas that provide potential nesting habitat, a nesting bird survey would be required prior to the start of work, and the recommendations of the biologist would be followed to avoid impacts to nesting birds. If work must occur within the Crotch's bumble bee flight season (April 1 to August 31) in portions of the proposed Cuyamaca College weed abatement areas with potential to provide Crotch's bumble bee habitat, protocol surveys for the species would be required prior to the start of work and the recommendations of the biologist would be followed to avoid impacts to the species.

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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 maintenance of native growth at existing public facilities/minor alteration of the condition of vegetation on the Grossmont and Cuyamaca College campuses. Activities would not result in the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees 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 and the Class 4 Categorical Exemption for Minor Alterations to Land as described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15304.

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.** The project would not be located such that it would have the potential to result in an impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern.
- **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. Project boundaries have been clearly delineated to avoid impacts to jurisdictional habitats and other sensitive biological resources. The project area includes previously disturbed lands as well as limited areas of native vegetation; however, work within native vegetation areas is restricted to hand tools only. Designated sensitive trees and plants have been identified for avoidance, and environmental protection measures require all work to remain within approved disturbance limits. The project consists of firebreak maintenance and weed abatement activities intended to reduce wildfire risk while minimizing impacts to existing biological resources. Previous surveys have not identified archaeological resources in the project area and the project would not involve ground disturbance. Based on the project design, avoidance measures, and limited scope of vegetation management, no reasonable

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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 to the Cuyamaca College campus is State Route 125, located approximately four miles northwest. In addition, State Route 94, which is eligible as a Scenic Highway, is approximately 0.4 mile to the southwest. From the Grossmont College campus, the closest designated state scenic highway is State Route 125 south of Interstate 8, approximately 2.5 miles to the south. Interstate 8, approximately 2.5 miles to the south, and State Route 52, approximately 1 mile to the north, are eligible for designation. The project sites are not visible from either of these roadways due to intervening topography and development. No trees, 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 implementation would not involve disturbance of any hazardous waste sites.
 - **Historical Resources.** The Cuyamaca and Grossmont College campuses were previously evaluated for historical resources (including archaeological sites) and none were identified within the proposed project sites. The proposed improvements would not result in ground disturbance and would not cause a substantial adverse effect to the significance of a historical resource.
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