

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SOUTH CENTRAL COAST AREA
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W8a



NOTICE OF IMPENDING DEVELOPMENT DE MINIMIS: CONSENT CALENDAR

DATE: July 21, 2011

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Impending Development (NOID) 1-11 (Harder Stadium West Open Space Enhancement) at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Based on project plans and information submitted by the applicant regarding the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission believes the proposed development is *de minimis* with respect to the purposes and provisions of the certified LRDP and has therefore scheduled it for review by the Commission on its Consent Calendar, pursuant to Section 13550(c) of the Commission's Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 5.5).

Applicant: University of California Santa Barbara

Location: Southeast corner of East Storke Wetland on Storke Campus, University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Description: Restoration of an approximately 19,000 sq. ft. area, including removal of approximately 50 non-native trees and vegetation, replacement with 50 native trees and native plants, installation of a temporary irrigation system, and implementation of a 5-year habitat restoration and monitoring program located in the southeast corner of the East Storke Wetland area on Storke Campus at UCSB.

Rationale: The proposed project is minor in nature involving restoration of an approximately 19,000 sq. ft. area through the removal of non-native and invasive species and replacement with native species, including the planting of 50 trees (coast live oaks, black cottonwoods, sycamores, and elderberries) and native understory vegetation. In addition, the University has submitted a proposed 5-year habitat restoration and monitoring program which is part of the proposed project. The presence of several habitat types, including coastal sage scrub, oak and willow woodlands, riparian, and freshwater seeps, makes the proposed project site a suitable location to mitigate for the 15 trees removed as part of the previously approved Robertson Field Turf Expansion project (NOID 6-10). The proposed restoration project is consistent with the subject site's land use designation as "Open Space" pursuant to the certified 1990 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). Surrounding land uses include Harder Stadium to the east, a paved road, tennis courts, Parking Lot 38, and San Clemente Graduate Student housing to the south, and East Storke Wetland to the west and north.

According to the 2005 Biological Survey, titled "Birds of Prey Using the East Storke Campus Eucalyptus Row at UCSB," prepared by the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER), the project site is located within potential raptor habitat (Red-tailed Hawks and White-tailed Kites). However, the University has conducted site specific biological surveys confirming that the proposed site does not support any active nests for any known sensitive bird or raptor species. Additionally, to ensure that no potential adverse impacts occur to any sensitive bird species, the University has included as part of the proposed project, implementation of bird nesting surveys by a qualified biologist 30 calendar days prior to project activities to detect any active nests and any other such habitat within 500 feet of the project site. A follow-up survey is proposed 3 calendar days prior to project activities. The biologist will also be present during all tree and vegetation removal activities. As proposed by the University, and approved pursuant to this NOID, if an active raptor, rare, threatened, endangered, or species of concern nest is found, or any unforeseen sensitive habitat issues arise, work will immediately cease and the appropriate State and Federal agencies will be notified within 24 hours. Project activities will resume only upon written approval of the Executive Director.

As part of the proposed Habitat Restoration Plan, the restoration site will be monitored for 5 years to ensure the successful establishment of native vegetation with a requirement of 90% of the tree species to establish and persist. During this 5-year period, a qualified biologist or resource specialist will prepare and submit, for the review and approval of the Executive Director, an annual monitoring report that includes a performance evaluation indicating the status of the restoration project in relation to the

performance standards, as well as recommendations and requirements for additional restoration activities in order for the project to meet the 90% success criteria. Pursuant to the proposed Habitat Restoration Plan, if the final monitoring report indicates that the restoration project has, in part or in whole, been unsuccessful based on the performance standard, the University will submit a revised or supplemental restoration and monitoring program within 90 days, for the review and approval of the Executive Director, to compensate for those portions of the original restoration plan which did not meet the success criteria. The Executive Director will determine whether a new NOID is necessary to implement the revised or supplemental mitigation program.

Thus, as proposed to incorporate the requirements for implementation of sensitive bird species surveys prior to construction, biological monitoring during restoration, and a 5-year habitat restoration and monitoring program, the impending project will not result in any adverse effects to coastal resources and the project is consistent with UCSB's certified LRDP.

IMPORTANT: This NOID is not valid unless the project site has been posted and until the NOID has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This NOID is proposed to be reported to the Commission at the meeting of August 10, 2011 in Watsonville. If three Commissioners request that this NOID be scheduled for a public hearing on the regular permit calendar, this NOID shall be removed from the consent calendar, pursuant to Section 13103 of the Commission's Regulations.

Persons wishing to object to or having questions regarding this NOID should contact the Commission office at the above address or phone number prior to the Commission meeting date.

Sincerely,

PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

By: Kanani Brown, Coastal Program Analyst