

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SOUTH CENTRAL COAST AREA
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W7a

NOTICE OF IMPENDING DEVELOPMENT DE MINIMIS: CONSENT CALENDAR

DATE: July 23, 2015

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Impending Development UCS-NOID-0002-15 (UCen Road Realignment Project) at Main Campus at the University of California at Santa Barbara

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 (UCSB)

Location: UCen Road adjacent to the University Center Building on Main Campus, University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Description: Realignment and circulation improvements of UCen Road, including 11 new metered parking spaces along UCen Road, improvement and expansion of Parking Lot 9 with the addition of 30 additional parking spaces, new proposed 29 parking spaces in Parking Lot 9a, removal of sixteen non-native mature eucalyptus trees, and the removal of approximately 4,000 cu. yds. of soil. The University also proposes tree replacement at a ratio of 3:1 for the sixteen non-native trees to be removed. The replacement trees will be monitored to ensure restoration success. Additionally, the proposed project incorporates Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion control purposes during construction.

Rationale: The proposed development is minor in nature involving the realignment, repaving, and vehicle and bicycle circulation improvements to an existing road (UCen Road) located within a fully developed portion of Main Campus. The project also includes the improvement and expansion of an existing parking lot, construction of a new parking lot, and the removal of 16 non-native mature eucalyptus trees. The University has submitted two raptor surveys completed within the last year to evaluate and document foraging and nesting activity of the sixteen eucalyptus trees proposed for removal. The raptor surveys did not identify any raptor nesting activity within the sixteen non-native trees and therefore the

trees do not constitute environmentally sensitive habitat area (ESHA). Although the trees proposed for removal are not ESHA, they still have the potential to provide habitat for sensitive bird species. Therefore the University is proposing to mitigate for the removal of these mature trees to ensure that there are no adverse impacts or permanent loss of potential raptor nesting habitat by planting replacement trees at a ratio of 3:1 for each non-native eucalyptus tree removed and by monitoring the replacement trees to ensure restoration success. The 3:1 ratio is consistent with the certified requirement to provide 3:1 tree replacement for trees that are not ESHA but have the potential to provide raptor habitat based on location or other site-specific circumstances. In addition, the University is proposing to conduct preconstruction bird surveys to ensure that potential impacts to nesting bird species are avoided during construction activities. Furthermore, the project will not result in the removal of any native vegetation and will not adversely impact any environmentally sensitive habitat area. The impending development will not result in potential adverse effects to any coastal resources and the project is consistent with UCSB's certified 2010 Long Range Development Plan (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 12, 2015 in Chula Vista. If three Commissioners request that this NOID be scheduled for a public hearing on the regular 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,

CHARLES LESTER
Executive Director

By: Denise Venegas
Title: Coastal Program Analyst