

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SOUTH CENTRAL COAST AREA

89 SOUTH CALIFORNIA ST., SUITE 200

VENTURA, CA 93001

(805) 641 - 0142



## RECORD PACKET COPY

December 21, 2000

TO: Commissioners and Interested Persons

FROM: Charles Damm, Senior Deputy Director  
Melanie Hale, Regulatory Supervisor  
Steve Hudson, Coastal Program AnalystRE: **Notice of Impending Development 7-00, Pursuant to the University of California Santa Barbara Certified Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) for Public Hearing and Commission Action at the meeting of January 9, 2001, in Los Angeles.****SUMMARY AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The impending development consists of the installation of a Global Positioning System (GPS) Receiver Station for seismic research activities. The development will involve the installation of a 12 ft. high, 18 inch diameter receiver/antenna and a 16 sq. ft. pole-mounted solar panel within the Coal Oil Point Reserve on the West Campus at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

The notice of impending development was received in the South Central Coast Office on December 7, 2000, and deemed filed on December 15, 2000. Staff is recommending that the Commission determine that the impending development is **consistent** with the certified University of California at Santa Barbara Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) with one (1) special condition regarding future abandonment and removal of the GPS Station which is necessary to bring the development into conformance with the LRDP.

**I. Procedure**

Section 30606 of the Coastal Act and Article 14, §13547 through §13550 of the California Code of Regulations govern the Coastal Commission's review of subsequent development where there is a certified LRDP. Section 13549(b) requires the Executive Director or his designee to review the notice of impending development (or development announcement) within ten days of receipt and determine whether it provides sufficient information to determine if the proposed development is consistent with the certified LRDP. The notice is deemed filed when all necessary supporting information has been received.

Within thirty days of filing the notice of impending development, the Executive Director shall report to the Commission the pendency of the development and make a recommendation regarding the consistency of the proposed development with the certified LRDP. After public hearing, by a majority of its members present, the Commission shall determine whether the development is consistent with the certified LRDP and whether conditions are required to bring the development into conformance with the LRDP. No construction shall commence until after the Commission votes to render the proposed development consistent with the certified LRDP.

## II. Staff Recommendation

**MOTION:**        *I move that the Commission determine that the development described in the Notice of Impending Development 7-00, as conditioned, is consistent with the certified University of California at Santa Barbara Long Range Development Plan.*

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends a **YES** vote. Passage of this motion will result in a determination that the development described in the Notice of Impending Development 7-00, as conditioned, is consistent with the certified University of California at Santa Barbara Long Range Development Plan and adoption of the following resolution and findings. The motion passes only by affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present.

### **RESOLUTION TO DETERMINE DEVELOPMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH LRDP:**

The Commission hereby determines that the development described in the Notice of Impending Development 7-00, as conditioned, is consistent with the certified University of California at Santa Barbara Long Range Development Plan for the reasons discussed in the findings herein.

## III. Special Conditions

### 1. Future Abandonment and Removal of Facilities

In the event that the proposed Global Positioning System (GPS) Station is either abandoned (not used for a period of more than one year's time) or ceases to be utilized for a research related function, the University shall be required to either (a) submit a new notice of impending development to retain the development or (b) remove the GPS station from the project site within 60 days of such abandonment or cessation of research related function.

#### **IV. Findings and Declarations**

The Commission finds and declares as follows:

##### **A. Description of Impending Development**

The impending development consists of the installation of a Global Positioning System (GPS) Receiver Station<sup>1</sup> for seismic research activities. The development will involve the installation of a 12 ft. high, 18 inch diameter receiver/antenna and a 16 sq. ft. pole-mounted solar panel within the Coal Oil Point Reserve on the West Campus at the University of California at Santa Barbara (Exhibit 1).

Coal Oil Point Reserve is part of the University-wide Natural Reserve System. The purpose of the Reserve System is to protect and manage specific University-owned natural areas containing environmentally sensitive resources for the purpose of teaching and research. The project site is located in the western portion of Coal Oil Point Reserve (immediately adjacent to Reserve's western boundary) and is generally characterized as a relatively flat meadow area dominated by non-native grasses and invasive vegetation. Although the majority of Coal Oil Point Reserve, including the proposed project site, is designated as environmentally sensitive habitat by the certified University of California at Santa Barbara Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) no wetlands, native vegetation, or any other sensitive resources are actually present on the subject site.

The proposed installation of a GPS Receiver Station at Coal Oil Point Reserve is part of a larger regional research study by the Southern California Integrated GPS Network (SCIGN). SCIGN is a consortium of scientific institutions (including the Southern California Earthquake Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography) that use GPS technology, in part, to study active faulting and earthquake hazards in southern California. The regional SCIGN project involves the placement of 250 permanent continuously recording GPS receivers in and around the Los Angeles Basin (many of which have already been installed) in order to accurately measure otherwise imperceptible ground deformation that occurs on a constant basis. In addition, the University has indicated that information obtained from the proposed receiver station, in conjunction with the results of the larger regional study, will be directly utilized in research by University students and faculty for geologic and geographic studies.

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<sup>1</sup> The Global Positioning System (GPS) uses signals from 24 satellites orbiting the earth to determine the position of a "receiver" (any GPS antenna such as the hand held units commonly used by hikers to larger more sophisticated permanent antenna arrays such as the proposed project) on the surface of the earth. The precision of measurements determined by GPS depends on the quality of the "receiver" or ground antenna used. Using proper equipment, location and position may be determined by GPS to within a fraction of an inch.

**B. New Development**

On March 17, 1981, the University's Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) was effectively certified by the Commission. The LRDP has been subject to ten major amendments. Under LRDP Amendment 1-91, the Commission reviewed and approved the 1990 UCSB LRDP; a 15-year long range planning document, which substantially updated and revised the certified 1981 LRDP. The 1990 LRDP provides the basis for all new physical and capital development on campus. Coal Oil Point Reserve, located on West Campus, is part of the University-wide Natural Reserve System.

Specifically, the 1990 LRDP provides that allowable development within Coal Oil Point Reserve may include minor development to support research activities, public access and trail improvements, and the development of reserve management and maintenance programs. In this case, the proposed project for the placement of a GPS Receiver Station constitutes a minor development to support research activities and is, therefore, consistent with the new development policies of the LRDP. However, the Commission notes that in the event that the proposed GPS Receiver Station is abandoned or ceases to be used for a research related activity, then retention of the station within the Coal Oil Point Reserve may no longer be consistent with the new development policies of the LRDP. Therefore, to ensure consistency with the new development policies of the LRDP, Special Condition One (1) has been required to ensure that in the event that the proposed Global Positioning System (GPS) Station is either abandoned (not used for a period of more than one year's time) or ceases to be utilized for a research related function then the University shall be required to either (a) submit a new notice of impending development to retain the development or (b) remove the GPS station from the project site within 60 days of such abandonment or cessation of research related function.

Therefore, the Commission finds that this notice of impending development, as conditioned, is consistent with the applicable policies of the LRDP with regards to new development.

**C. Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area**

The LRDP contains several policies regarding the protection and management of coastal waters and sensitive habitat areas. Sections 30230 and 30231 of the Coastal Act, which have been included in the certified LRDP, require that marine resources and the biological productivity of coastal waters, including wetlands, shall be maintained and, where feasible, enhanced. In addition, Section 30240 of the Coastal Act, which has been included in the certified LRDP, provides that environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values and that development in areas adjacent to such areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade such areas.

Coal Oil Point Reserve is part of the University-wide Natural Reserve System. The purpose of the Reserve System is to protect and manage specific University-owned natural areas containing environmentally sensitive resources for the purpose of teaching and research. The project site is located in the western portion of Coal Oil Point Reserve (immediately adjacent to Reserve's western boundary) and is generally characterized by relatively flat topography. The majority of Coal Oil Point Reserve, including the proposed project site, is designated as environmentally sensitive habitat by the LRDP; however, the University has submitted a Biological Analysis of the specific project site which indicates that no wetlands, native vegetation, or any other sensitive resources are present on the subject site. The analysis further indicates that the project site is dominated by existing non-native and exotic grasses. The Biological Analysis of the project site by Dr. Cristina Sandoval, dated 12/18/00 states:

*I visited the site two times and surveyed for the presence of native vegetation and sensitive species. I found no native species or habitat that are sensitive or rare. The site is composed of 80% exotic annual grasses and 20% bare ground.*

The proposed installation of the proposed GPS receiver station (which consists of a 12 ft. high, 18 inch diameter receiver/antenna and one pole-mounted 16 sq. ft. solar panel) is relatively minor in nature and will not require any grading. In addition, the proposed project will not result in the removal of any existing wetlands, native vegetation, or any other sensitive resources on site. Therefore, the Commission finds that this notice of impending development, as proposed, is consistent with the applicable LRDP policies with regards to environmentally sensitive habitat areas.

#### **D. Public Access and Visual Resources**

Section 30210 of the Coastal Act, which has been included in the certified LRDP, mandates the provision of maximum public access and recreational opportunities along the coast. In addition, the LRDP contains several specific policies which provide for public access and recreation along the coast such as Policy 30210.2 which requires that all identified public access points and trails to the beach on campus (including the identified trails at Coal Oil Point Reserve) shall be maintained and remain open to public use at all times. In addition, Policy 30210.14 specifically provides that "bicycle and pedestrian accessways to the beach shall be maintained and improved as necessary to protect sensitive habitat areas and public safety." Further, Section 30251 of the Coastal Act, which requires that the scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas be protected, has also been included in the LRDP

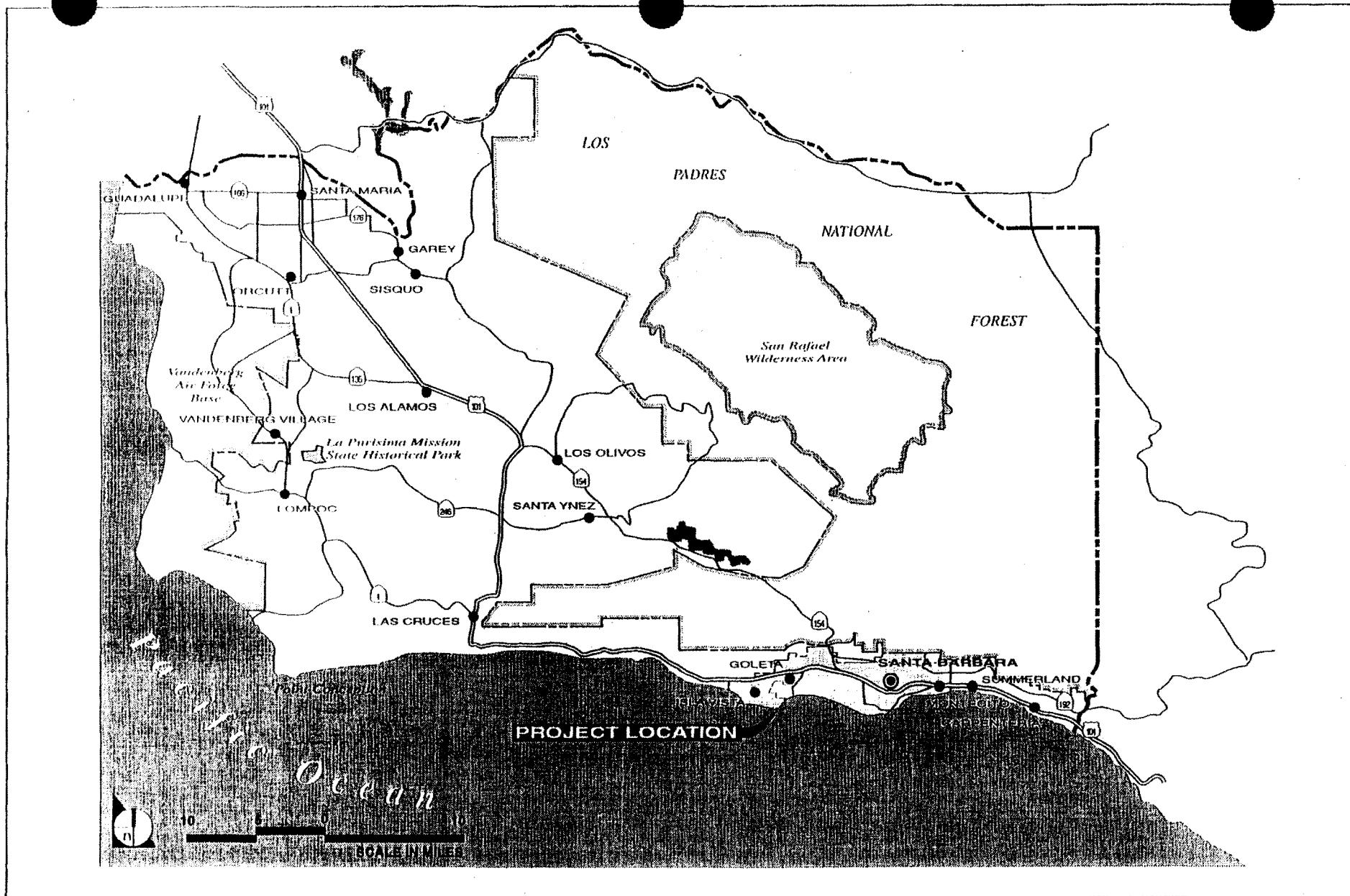
Consistent with the public access policies of the LRDP, public pedestrian access is available to and along the entire 2 ½ miles of coastline contiguous to the campus, including portions of Coal Oil Point Reserve. In this case, the proposed development will not be located near, or be visible from, any existing public trails or viewing areas. In addition, the Commission notes that the proposed antenna array (GPS Receiver Station) is relatively small and visually unobtrusive and will be located immediately

adjacent to an existing structure (the West Campus Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station) and will, therefore, not result in any adverse effects to public views.

Therefore, the Commission finds that the notice of impending development, as proposed, is consistent with the applicable LRDP policies with regards to public access and visual resources.

**SMH-VNT**

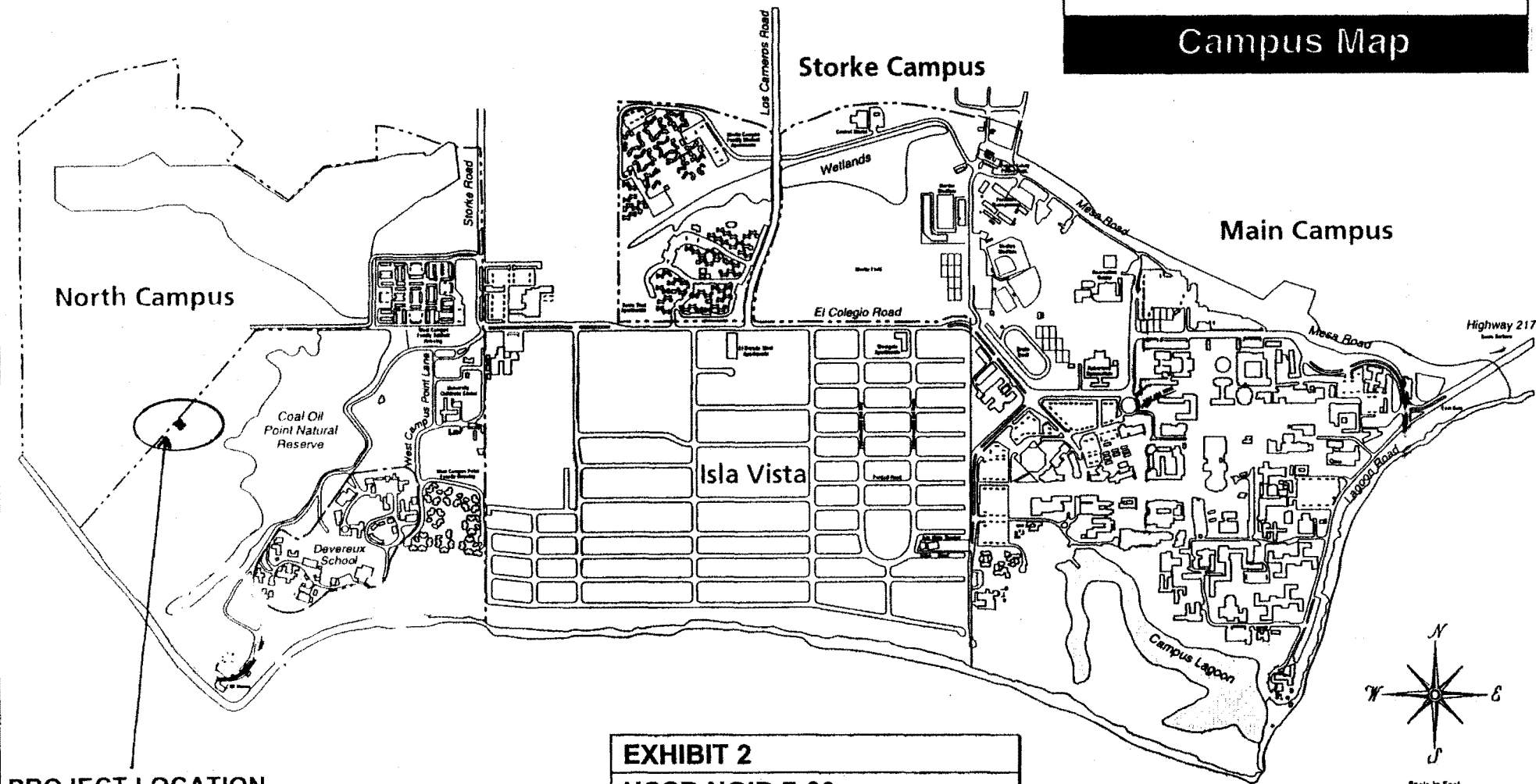
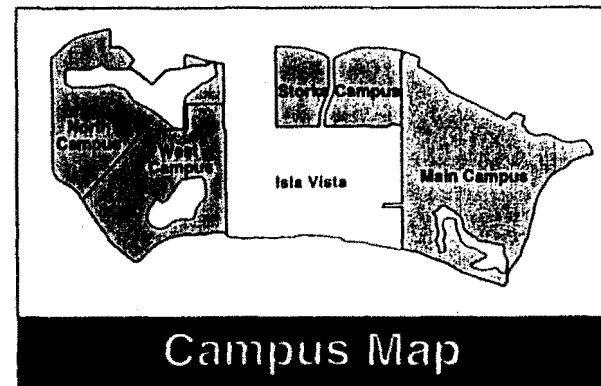
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SOURCE: U.S.G.S. "State of California (South Half) 1:500,000", 1981.

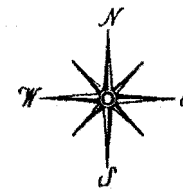
<b>EXHIBIT 1</b>
<b>UCSB NOID 7-00</b>
<b>Regional Map</b>

University of California, Santa Barbara



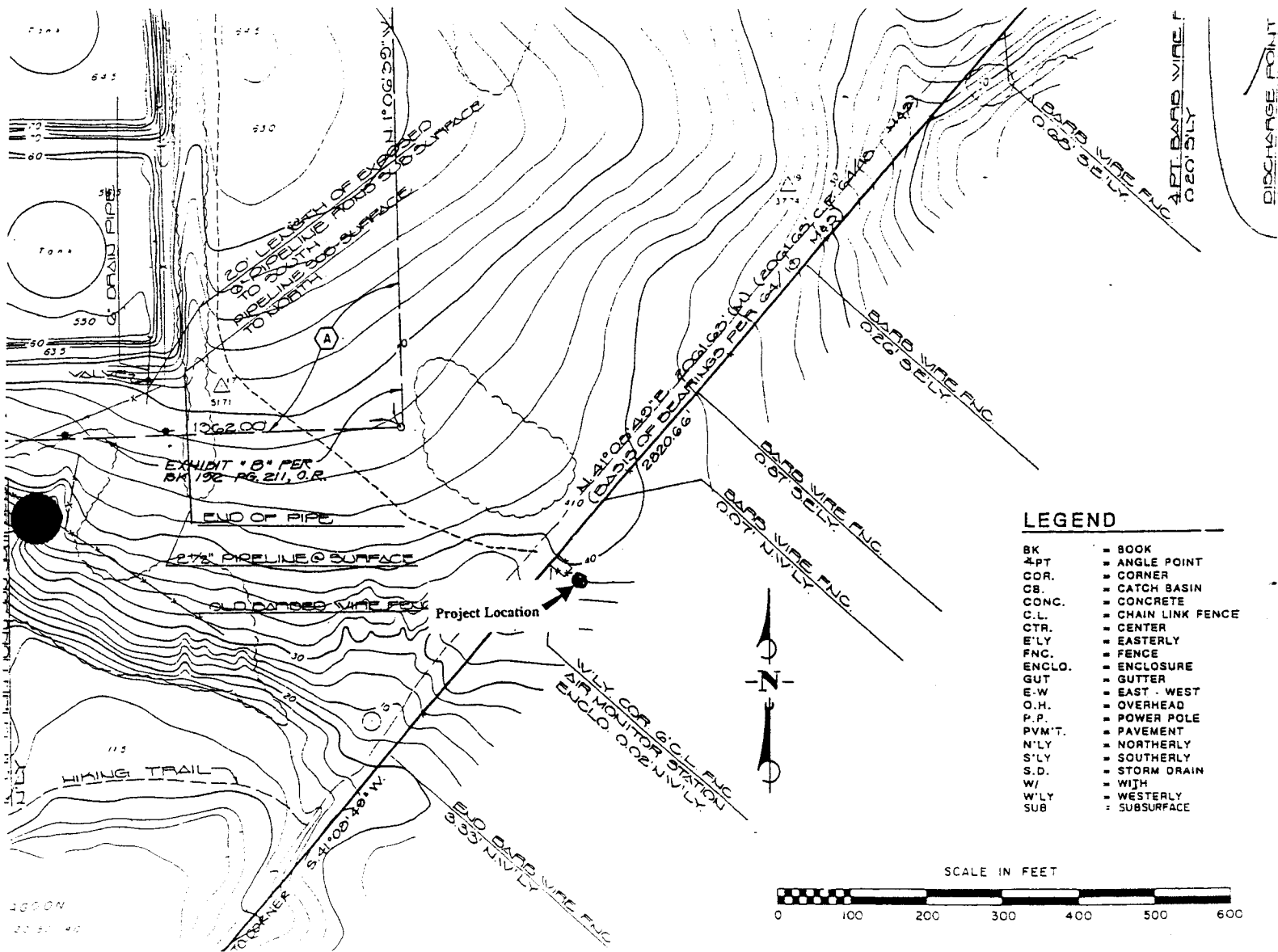
PROJECT LOCATION

EXHIBIT 2  
UCSB NOID 7-00  
Project Location Map



Scale in Feet  
0 500 1000

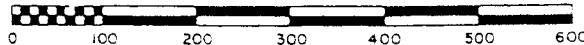




**LEGEND**

- |        |                    |
|--------|--------------------|
| BK     | = BOOK             |
| 4PT    | = ANGLE POINT      |
| COR.   | = CORNER           |
| CB.    | = CATCH BASIN      |
| CONC.  | = CONCRETE         |
| C.L.   | = CHAIN LINK FENCE |
| CTR.   | = CENTER           |
| E'LY   | = EASTERLY         |
| FNC.   | = FENCE            |
| ENCLD. | = ENCLOSURE        |
| GUT    | = GUTTER           |
| E-W    | = EAST - WEST      |
| O.H.   | = OVERHEAD         |
| P.P.   | = POWER POLE       |
| PVM'T. | = PAVEMENT         |
| N'LY   | = NORTHERLY        |
| S'LY   | = SOUTHERLY        |
| S.D.   | = STORM DRAIN      |
| W/     | = WITH             |
| W'LY   | = WESTERLY         |
| SUB    | = SUBSURFACE       |

SCALE IN FEET



**GPS Station at Coal Oil Point Reserve  
Notice of Impending Development**

**RECEIVED**  
DEC 07 2000

CALIFORNIA  
COASTAL COMMISSION  
SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

EXHIBIT 3
UCSB NOID 7-00
Site Plan

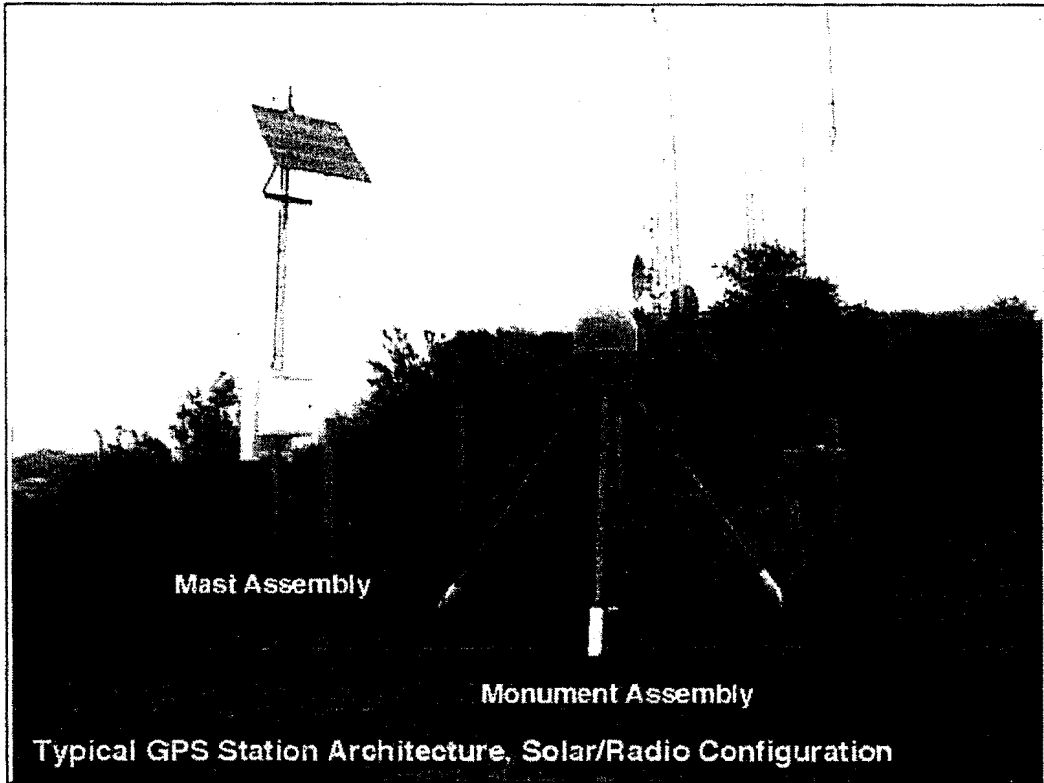


EXHIBIT 4

UCSB NOID 7-00

GPS Station to be Installed