

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SOUTH CENTRAL COAST AREA
89 SOUTH CALIFORNIA ST., SUITE 200
VENTURA, CA 93001
(805) 585-1800



Item Th 4a

NOTICE OF IMPENDING DEVELOPMENT DE MINIMIS: CONSENT CALENDAR

DATE: October 13, 2011

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Impending Development (NOID) 5-11 (Fuel Cell Demonstration Project) 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: East of bicycle path, northwest of Parking Lot 25, south of El Colegio Road, and north of Cervantes Road on the western edge of Main Campus, University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Description: Implementation of a fuel cell demonstration project including installation of an approximately 250 sq. ft., 7 ft. high modular solid-oxide fuel cell (SOFC) unit on a concrete pad, unit power control module, step-up transformer, 16 kilovolt conductor, access path, perimeter fencing, lighting with downward deflection shields, minimal grading, approximately 460 linear ft. of trenching to install underground utility and communication conduit/wires, removal of two twenty-inch diameter non-native Eucalyptus trees, removal of eight invasive Myoporum shrubs, and 70 sq. ft. of horticultural landscaping located on the western edge of Main Campus at the University of California Santa Barbara.

Rationale: The proposed project is relatively minor in nature involving installation a fuel cell (capable of producing 200 kilowatts), in partnership with Southern California Edison, and associated infrastructure within existing landscaped and paved areas along the western edge of Main Campus for a ten-year demonstration project. The site of the proposed fuel cell has previously been developed with landscaping, the adjacent bicycle path and utilities, including a natural gas main to the north. There are several mature non-native Eucalyptus trees directly west of the proposed site and eight invasive Myoporum shrubs adjacent to the proposed staging area in Parking Lot 25. Surrounding land uses include off campus parking in Isla Vista to the west and Campus Open Space with Parking Lot 25 to the southeast. The proposed development is intended as a scientific demonstration project for the purpose of research, consistent with the subject site's land use designation as "Academic Uses" pursuant to the certified 1990 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP).

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The project site is not located within or near any environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) and the two trees to be removed are non-native Eucalyptuses that would be removed outside of bird nesting season. 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 a bird nesting survey by a qualified biologist two weeks prior to project activities. Furthermore, no native tree root zones will be encroached upon.

The project is proposed to be completed in three phases over four months. Construction staging would occur in Parking Lot 25 and approximately six parking stalls would be temporarily closed. A bicycle and pedestrian path would be temporarily detoured during construction and restored upon completion of construction. With the exception of minor trenching for the underground power line, no grading is proposed. Thus, the impending project is not expected to result in any potential 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 November 2-4, 2011 in Oceanside. 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,

CHARLES LESTER
Executive Director

By: Kanani Brown
Title: Coastal Program Analyst