

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF IMPENDING DEVELOPMENT
DE MINIMIS: CONSENT CALENDAR**

DATE: February 16, 2023

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Impending Development UCS-NOID-0001-23 (West Storke Wetland) at Storke 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 Long Range Development Plan (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: Mesa Road adjacent to Storke Family Apartments on Storke Campus, University of California Santa Barbara

Description: Restoration of 0.5 acres of the West Storke Wetland, including the removal of 560 to 1200 cu. yds. of soil fill (to be disposed of at Tajiguas landfill), removal of non-native invasive plants, and planting of native salt marsh plants to match site grade with the adjacent, larger area of salt marsh habitat and restore wetland hydrology and function. Approximately 0.25 acres of the wetland restoration will provide off-site mitigation for impacts of the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project on SR-217 required as a condition of CDP 4-21-0182 (Caltrans).

Rationale: The proposed development is minor in nature and will serve to enhance the long-term habitat value of the West Storke Wetland. The proposed restoration project site area is located within the Storke Wetland Complex, in an area impacted by historic filling of the larger Goleta Slough ecosystem area. Pursuant to UCSB's certified 2010 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), the site is designated Open Space with an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) Overlay.

Of the total 0.5 acres of the project's restoration area, 0.25 acres will serve as an offsite mitigation for the Caltrans State Route 217 San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project [approved by the Commission in CDP 4-21-0182 (Caltrans)] as compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts to salt marsh wetlands. The proposed wetland restoration project will follow the design and criteria outlined in the final Mitigation and Monitoring Program (MMP), required as a condition of CDP 4-21-0182. The additional 0.25 acres of proposed restoration is located adjacent to the Caltrans mitigation site and will be restored in the same way, using additional campus funding. The restoration project will be implemented by UCSB's Cheadle Center, and will follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water quality, and include biological monitoring to protect sensitive species during construction. The restoration site will be monitored for five years following project completion to ensure project success according to criteria previously approved in the MMP.

Although the proposed restoration activities have the potential for minor temporary impacts to wetland habitat and ESHA areas, as proposed to incorporate BMPs and biological monitoring, the impending development will not result in any significant adverse effects to any coastal resources. This project will serve to enhance the long-term biological productivity of wetland habitat on site. Thus, 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 hybrid meeting occurring both in-person and virtually through video and teleconference on March 9, 2023 in Half Moon Bay. If three Commissioners request that this NOID be scheduled for a public hearing on the LRDP 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,

KATE HUCKLEBRIDGE
Executive Director

By: Sam Fearer
Title: Coastal Program Analyst