

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
 County Clerk, County of _____

From: University of California
Physical & Environmental Planning
1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

Project Title: Bakar Bio*Enginuity* Hub at Woo Hon Fai Hall
Project Location – 2625 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA
Project Location – City: Berkeley
Project Location – County: Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project (Project Description): The proposed project would establish the Bakar Bio*Enginuity* Hub at the Woo Hon Fai Hall rehabilitate the existing building, leaving the existing footprint, exterior and entrances unchanged except for an approximately 6,300 foot addition to the Lower Gallery along the Bancroft Way frontage. The proposed renovation would include seismic retrofitting, upgrading building systems, and enhancing integration with the adjacent campus, including two new landscaped open space plazas.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: University of California
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: University of California

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080 (b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a);
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b) (c));
- Categorical Exemption. Class 1, Existing Facilities; Class 3, New Construction or Small Structures and Class 31, Historical Resource Restoration/Rehabilitation
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:
- General Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3)).

Reason Why Project is Exempt: The Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), on a separate and independent basis under:

- Class 1 because the Project would involve negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing. The proposed Project estimates the total daily occupancy at 310 people, a decrease in intensity of use from its prior museum use with an estimated total daily occupancy of 1,050 people. In addition, the Project would rehabilitate the existing building, leaving the existing footprint unchanged, except for an aprx. 6,300 sq.ft addition, and would be located in an area where no environmentally sensitive habitat exists and served by existing utilities.
- Class 3 because the Project would include aprx. 6,300 sq.ft. addition, which would not exceed the limit of 10,000 sq.ft. for a given site that is in an urbanized area and that will not involve the use of significant amounts of hazardous substances. The Project would house dry laboratories and offices in addition to low-hazard wet laboratories that do not exceed Biosafety Level 2. Consistent with this exemption, the necessary public services and facilities are available to the site, and the surrounding area is not environmentally sensitive.
- Class 31 because the project would renovate an existing historic structure to bring the resource into a seismically safer condition, using strategies consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Standards)*, and that do not have a significant impact on the historical resources of the building.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 includes a number of exceptions to categorical exemptions, which include the following: location; cumulative impact; significant effect; scenic highways; hazardous waste sites; and historical resources. These exceptions have been determined not to apply to the Project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Brian Harrington
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (510) 587-6116

Signature:


Brian Harrington

Title: Assistant Director, Physical and Environmental Planning
Date: November 15, 2018

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: