

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: University of California, Irvine
Campus Planning & Sustainability
120 Theory, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92617

Project Title: Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Identification, Assessment, and Monitoring Program

Project Applicant: University of California, Irvine

Project Location – Specific: 33°12'45.79" N, 116°17'38.55"W

Project Location – City: Borrego Springs

Project Location – County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to determine if SGMA-defined beneficial users of water (groundwater dependent ecosystems) are present in the Borrego Subbasin, to evaluate the status / health of these potential beneficial users, and to create a monitoring plan / establish an instrumentation system to enable the Subbasin hydroclimatic data to evaluate change in real time.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: University of California, Irvine

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: University of California, Irvine

Exempt Status (check one):

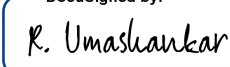
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080 (b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a);
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 6 (Sec. 15306)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:
- General Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3)).

Reason Why Project is Exempt:

A Class 6 categorical exemption is applicable because the proposed project consists of basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The activities are part of a study that will lead to an action plan, yet to be evaluated, approved, adopted, or funded. Activities include non-physical sampling and limited soil, water, and vegetation sampling. In accordance with Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, there are no cumulative impacts, expected significant effects on environmental resources, hazardous waste or historic sites, scenic highways, or other limiting factors or unusual circumstances that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the project records.

Lead Agency Contact Person: R. Umashankar

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (949) 824-1826

Signature: 
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Date: 9/22/2023 **Title:** Executive Director

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____