

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: Rehabilitation of Fallowed Farmlands

Project Applicant: University of California, Irvine

Project Location – Specific: 33°19'13.75" N, 116°22'24.85"W and 33°20'00.90" N, 116°22'21.97"W

Project Location - CDP: Borrego Springs

Project Location – County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Borrego Springs Groundwater Management Plan requires fallowing of agricultural land to reduce groundwater use, which has the potential for visual blight, dust emissions, and invasive plant species proliferation. The purpose of the proposed project is to test the feasibility and effectiveness of four land treatment techniques used to stabilize soil and promote native plant establishment on fallowed orchards. The goal is to determine the best approach to prevent undesirable effects and recover native habitat on formerly farmed lands.

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):

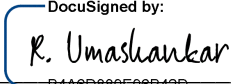
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080 (b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a);
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 6 (Sec. 15306)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:
- General Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3)).

Reason Why Project is Exempt:

A Class 6 categorical exemption is applicable because the proposed project consists of study design implementation, data collection, and resource evaluation activities. The activities are designed for minimal disturbance to the study sites and would include limited soil and non-physical vegetation sampling. The study would be used to determine practices to best manage resources in natural environmental conditions after farming has ceased. 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: 11/1/2023 **Title:** Executive Director

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____