



University of California  
San Francisco

Notice posted December 18, 2023

**UCSF Real Estate**

UCSF Box 0287  
654 Minnesota Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94143

tel: 415.476.2911

**Alicia Murasaki**  
Assistant Vice Chancellor

Alicia.Murasaki@ucsf.edu  
[www.ucsf.edu](http://www.ucsf.edu)

**Notice of Impending Approval**

**UCSF Weill Neurosciences Building  
Cryogenic Electron Microscopy Laboratory Renovation  
1651 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mission Bay Campus Site**

Notice is hereby given that the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) intends to consider approving the Weill Neurosciences Building Cryogenic Electron Microscopy Laboratory Renovation project. Project approval is expected to occur no earlier than **January 16, 2024**.

The proposal is to renovate approximately 3,500 square feet of conference space in the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Neurosciences Building to create a Cryogenic Electron Microscopy Laboratory for the Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases. Cryo-electron microscopy (Cryo-EM) is a cutting-edge imaging technique that provides visualization of the three-dimensional structure of biological molecules at high resolution and is a critical tool to advance the understanding and development of treatments for diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. The laboratory suite would be renovated to accommodate up to four Cryo-EM instruments and magnetic field cancellation systems (electromagnetic shielding). The project includes upgrades to the mechanical system, electrical systems, and information technology infrastructure. The suite would include lab benches, a control room with workstations and collaboration space, fume hood and/or biosafety cabinet, gowning entry/exit room, and handwash and eyewash sink. All work would occur within the interior of the existing building.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and University procedures for the implementation of CEQA, the University has determined that this project is categorically exempt from environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15301 (Class 1 Existing Facilities). The following environmental documents are attached to this notice:

- Environmental Impact Classification (EIC) form
- Notice of Exemption (Draft – not yet filed)



Campus/Field Station/Division San FranciscoProject Account 9003478Project Title Weill Neurosciences Building Cryogenic Electron Microscopy Lab Renovation

For purposes of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), and Amended University of California Procedures for Implementation of CEQA, this project has been reviewed and initially classified as indicated below. Please check (X) as appropriate. Include project description and appropriate local map with your submission.

☐ I. **EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT OF 1970** - When it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the action will result in physical change to the environment (15061(b)(3)), or the action is specifically exempted by statute (15260-15285), the project is classified as generally exempt from CEQA. General/Statutory Exemption: § [Insert reference to applicable CEQA statutory provision, and, if applicable, the correlating guidelines Section]

☒ II. **CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT** - This project falls under the indicated Class(es) of Exemption(s), none of the exceptions to the exemption apply (15300.2), and there is no significant effect on the environment (for complete list see CEQA Guidelines Section 15300):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 1: Existing Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 17: Open Space Contracts or Easements
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 23: Normal Operation of Facilities for Public Gatherings
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 3: New Construction or Small Structures	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 25: Transfer of Land: Natural Conditions/Historical Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 30: Minor Actions: Prevent Hazardous Waste/Substances
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 6: Information Collection	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 31: Historical Resource Restoration/Rehabilitation
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 11: Accessory Structures	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 32: In-Fill Development Projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 13: Acquisition for Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 16: Transfer of Land Ownership for Parks	Other: <u>[If other, identify which class under Section 15300]</u>

☐ III. **INITIAL STUDY** - This project is not statutorily or categorically exempt from CEQA; an Initial Study is to be prepared to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

☐ Stand-Alone ☐ Tiered Initial Study (15152):

[Identify EIR from which Initial Study is tiered]

☐ IV. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)** - It is known that the project will have a direct or cumulatively significant effect on the environment and an EIR will be/has been prepared. Identify the type of EIR:

☐ Programmatic ☐ Stand-Alone (Project-Specific)

Additional project analysis:

☐ None/Findings Only ☐ Addendum ☐ Subsequent ☐ Supplement to EIR:

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** - [Insert brief project description, provide supporting documentation as appropriate.]

Real estate transaction type: ☐ Acquisition ☐ Sale ☐ Sublease ☐ Easement ☐ License [Include proposed use in project description below]

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) proposes to renovate approximately 3,500 assignable-square-feet of conference space in the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Neurosciences Building to create a Cryogenic Electron Microscopy Laboratory for the Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases. Cryo-electron microscopy (Cryo-EM) is a cutting-edge imaging technique that provides visualization of the three-dimensional structure of biological molecules at high resolution and is critical tool to advance the understanding and development of treatments for diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

The laboratory suite would be designed and constructed to accommodate three to four Cryo-EM instruments, each in its own room. Each Cryo-EM room would include a magnetic field cancellation system (electromagnetic shielding) designed to mitigate existing vibration and magnetic interference conditions. The mechanical system for the suite would be upgraded, and the electrical systems and information technology infrastructure would be upgraded. The suite would include lab benches, a control room with workstations and collaboration space, fume hood and/or biosafety cabinet, gowning entry/exit room, and handwash and eyewash sink.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the proposed project has been determined to be categorically exempt from environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities (Class 1), which exempts minor alterations of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use. The proposed project would comprise minor alterations to the existing building, and no expansion of the building is proposed. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that there would be no significant effect on the environment. None of the exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions identified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 would apply.

V. Does this project conform to the approved LRDP? ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ NA [If NO or NA, include explanation in Project Description above]

VI. Diane Wong  
Prepared by Environmental Coordinator

3/17/2023

Date

[Signature]  
Local Approval by AVC

3/17/2023

Date

## VII. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

☒ Concur with Classification

☐ Do not concur with Classification

DocuSigned by:

H. Ly

3/20/2023

Signed 570AF723B955473...

Date

## Notice of Exemption

---

**To:** ☒ Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
☐ Clerk, City and County of San Francisco

**From:** University of California, San Francisco  
Real Estate - Campus Planning  
654 Minnesota Street, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94143-0287

**Project Title:** Weill Neurosciences Building Cryogenic Electron Microscopy Laboratory Renovation, University of California, San Francisco

**Project Location:** 1651 4<sup>th</sup> Street, UCSF Mission Bay campus site

**Project Location – City:** San Francisco

**Project Location – County:** San Francisco

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project (Project Description):** The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) proposes to renovate approximately 3,500 square feet of conference space in the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Neurosciences Building to create a Cryogenic Electron Microscopy Laboratory for the Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases. Cryo-electron microscopy (Cryo-EM) is a cutting-edge imaging technique that provides visualization of the three-dimensional structure of biological molecules at high resolution and is a critical tool to advance the understanding and development of treatments for diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. The laboratory suite would be renovated to accommodate up to four Cryo-EM instruments and magnetic field cancellation systems (electromagnetic shielding). The project includes upgrades to the mechanical system, electrical systems, and information technology infrastructure. The suite would include lab benches, a control room with workstations and collaboration space, fume hood and/or biosafety cabinet, gowning entry/exit room, and handwash and eyewash sink. All work would occur within the interior of the existing building.

**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. State type and section number: Section 15301, Class 1 Existing Facilities
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:
- ☐ General Exemption. (Sec. 15061(b)(3)).

**Reason Why Project is Exempt:** CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, Class 1 Existing Facilities, exempts from CEQA review projects that involve minor alterations to existing structures involving negligible or no expansion of use. The proposed project would renovate existing space with no change in use to the building. The proposed project, as a minor alteration to an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use, would qualify for a categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301. None of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions identified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 would apply to the proposed project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Diane Wong, UCSF Real Estate - Campus Planning

**Lead Agency Contact Address:** 654 Minnesota Street, San Francisco, CA 94143

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (415) 502-5952

**Signature:** [to be signed and filed following project approval]

**Title:** Environmental Coordinator

**Date:** January XX, 2024

- ☒ Signed by Lead Agency
- ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:

cc: University Counsel Clifford

Associate Director Harrington

Assistant Vice Chancellor Murasaki

Executive Director Beauchamp

City of San Francisco Planning Department

Association of Bay Area Governments