

State Center Community College District

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Fresno City College Parking and Facilities Expansion Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2019049076)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, State Center Community College District has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Fresno City College Parking and Facilities Expansion Project. Based on the Initial Study, the District has determined that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there would not be a significant effect because the District has incorporated into the project mitigation measures that would avoid any significant effects of the project or reduce the effects to an insignificant level.

The Board of Trustees of State Center Community College District will consider adopting the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and approving the project on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible in the District Office Boardroom, 1525 E. Weldon Avenue, Fresno, CA 93704. All interested persons are invited to attend this meeting and present testimony regarding the project.

Project Location and Description: State Center Community College District is proposing to develop new parking, educational and administrative facilities at Fresno City College. The proposed facilities would be located partially within the boundaries of the existing campus and partially on neighboring parcels. The project site is generally located on the west side of Blackstone Avenue between Cambridge Avenue and University Avenue in the City of Fresno. The site encompasses approximately 11.0 acres of land in the northeast portion of the existing FCC campus plus seven additional parcels (2.16 acres) located adjacent to the existing FCC campus boundaries.

Following are the major design, construction, and operational characteristics of the proposed project:

- Construction of a four-story parking structure on the south side of Cambridge Avenue west of Blackstone Avenue located north of the existing district office building. The proposed parking structure would have capacity for up to 1,000 parking spaces with five levels of parking (ground to roof). Ingress/egress points for the parking structure are to be located at its south side (connecting to Weldon Avenue), west side (connecting to a campus driveway aligning with Glenn Avenue), and north side (connecting to Cambridge Avenue).
- Construction of a three-story Science Building (approximately 95,000 square feet) located near the southwest corner of Blackstone and Weldon Avenues. The new Science Building is proposed to include six biology labs, three anatomy and physiology labs, five chemistry labs, two physics labs, two engineering labs, a computer lab, three general educational classrooms, four Design Science (Middle College) classrooms, welcome center, tutorial space, and 34 faculty offices. Surface parking would also be added adjacent to the building. Existing Maintenance & Operations facilities located in this area would be removed and relocated as indicated in the fourth bullet below.
- Replacement of the existing one-story, 5,255 square-foot Child Development Center with a new one-story, 16,480 square-foot Child Development Center at its current location.

- Construction of a one-story, 10,000 square-foot Maintenance & Operations building plus a parking and storage area on the west side of San Pablo Avenue northwest of the existing Health Sciences Building. Fencing would be included at both the Maintenance & Operations building and the parking and storage area.
- Repurposing of the former District administration building located on the north side of Weldon Avenue to accommodate the SCCCD Police Department and District administrative functions.

If approved, the project is expected to be developed and operational during the next five years.

Mitigation Measures: The District has incorporated into the project mitigation measures for potentially significant project impacts related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, noise, transportation, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems. The mitigation measures are included in the Summary Table of Mitigation Measures of the Initial Study and throughout the body of the report.

Public Review and Comment: Members of the public and interested agencies may review and submit written comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study. The documents are available for review at the State Center Community College District's Operations Department, located at 1171 Fulton Street, Fresno, CA 93721, and on the District's website: <https://www.sccd.edu/departments/district-operations/construction-services.html>. The public review period will begin on Monday, October 7, 2019 and end on Wednesday, November 6, 2019. Please submit your written comments no later than November 6, 2019 to George Cummings, Director of Facilities Planning, 1171 Fulton Street, Fresno, CA 93721, Telephone: (559) 243-7191, Email: george.cummings@sccd.edu.