

Fresno Unified School District
Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the
Ventura Alternative Education Campus and Administrative Office Project
(State Clearinghouse No. 2018101040)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Fresno Unified School District has prepared an Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Ventura Alternative Education Campus and Administrative Office Project. Based on the Initial Study, the District 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 the Fresno Unified School District will consider adopting the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and approving the project on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible in the District Board Room, 2309 Tulare Street, 2nd Floor, Fresno, California. All interested persons are invited to attend this meeting and present testimony regarding the project.

Project Location and Description: The proposed project includes construction and operation of an Alternative Education campus plus the operation of District-level administrative offices in four existing buildings on an approximately 12.65-acre site located on the south side of Ventura Avenue between Ninth Street and Tenth Street in the City of Fresno. The Alternative Education campus would serve up to 1,350 students; however, the maximum number of students on the campus at any one time would be approximately 800 in grades 7 through 12 and 60 pre-K students in an early learning center. The campus would have approximately 138 employees, including administrators, faculty, and support staff. The campus would include 44 classrooms, administrative offices for school functions, a multi-purpose building (including a student union and District CTE catering kitchen), hardcourt areas, and landscaping. Development of the proposed campus would also include demolition of six existing buildings at the site. The proposed offices would include the operation of District-level administrative activities in four existing buildings in the southern portion of the site would be used for District-level administrative activities, which would function separately from the proposed campus and accommodate approximately 130 employees. Additionally, the project would include implementation of a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) to remove approximately 6,600 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the project site pursuant to the regulations and oversight of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

The project is expected to be completed in three phases, with the initial phase consisting of the demolition of six existing buildings and initiation of the removal action during 2019. The second phase of the project will focus on the reuse of the four remaining buildings located on the southern portion of the property for District administrative offices. The administrative offices would tentatively begin operations in late 2019. The final phase of the project would entail the construction of the alternative education campus. Funding for this phase of the project has yet to be identified, and it is anticipated this phase would begin in the next 3 to 10 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, geology and soils, noise, transportation, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems. The mitigation measures are included in Table 1 of the Initial Study.

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 Fresno Unified School District Facilities Management and Planning Department, located at 4600 N. Brawley Avenue, Fresno, California, and on the District's website: <https://www.fresnounified.org/dept/facilities>. The public review period will begin on Tuesday, July 30, 2019 and end on Thursday, August 29, 2019. Please submit your written comments no later than August 29, 2019 to Alex Belanger, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Management & Planning, 4600 N. Brawley Avenue, Fresno, CA 93722, Telephone: (559) 457-3074, Email: William.Belanger@fresnounified.org.