

**State Center Community College District**  
**Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

**First Responders Campus Project**  
(State Clearinghouse No. 2020039018)

**Date:** July 30, 2021

<b>To:</b> Responsible, Trustee, and Interested Agencies  Property Owners, Residents and Interested Persons	<b>From:</b> State Center Community College District George Cummings, District Director of Facilities Planning 1171 Fulton Street Fresno, CA 93721 Telephone: (559) 243-7191 Email: facilities@scccd.edu
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**Comment Deadline: September 16, 2021**

State Center Community College District (SCCCD) has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed First Responders Campus Project (“project”). Notice is hereby given that the Draft EIR is available for public review and comment.

**Project Location and Description:** The First Responders Campus is envisioned in SCCC’s Facilities Master Plan as combining instruction and training for police, fire, corrections, EMT and paramedic programs at a single specialized campus. Currently, these programs are housed at separate locations throughout the District in facilities of varying age. Development of the proposed project would relocate these programs onto a single campus and into permanent modern facilities. Additionally, the project would allow for local public agencies to utilize the facilities at the campus for trainings and exercises related to the provision of police, fire, and emergency medical services.

The project is located on a 39.21-acre parcel (APN 316-071-23) situated at the northwest corner of North and Willow Avenues, approximately one-quarter mile from the Fresno city limits and within the City of Fresno Sphere of Influence. The proposed site for the campus encompasses the western 20 acres of the 39.21-acre parcel. The entire parcel is comprised of vacant land previously used for farming. The project site is neighbored by a mixture of industrial, commercial, agricultural, and rural residential land uses.

Facilities planned as part of the project include approximately 61,600 square feet of academic building space and approximately 116,300 square feet of space for specialized site facilities. The academic buildings would house the District’s Police, Fire, and EMS programs and include facilities such as classrooms, breakout rooms, conference rooms, administrative offices, restrooms, lounges, locker rooms, and storage space. The specialized site facilities include a scenario village, physical training areas, a grinder pad, a 38-foot tall portable burn tower structure, a burn box, a driving pad, maintenance/facilities yard, and vehicle storage. The campus would also include asphalt-paved parking areas, landscaping, and a retention pond.

The campus is planned to accommodate up to approximately 270 students at one time and be staffed by up to 50 employees, including administrators, faculty, and support staff. Operational hours would range from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm on weekdays throughout the year, with most activity on the campus taking place during morning and afternoon hours and more limited activities occurring during evenings and weekends. If approved, the project is expected to begin construction in early 2022 and begin operating in late 2023.

**Potential Project Impacts:** Based on the analysis presented in the Draft EIR, the project could have significant environmental effects related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, transportation, and tribal cultural resources. The Draft EIR found that each of the potentially significant impacts could be reduced to insignificance by mitigation measures presented in the Draft EIR, except for impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions and transportation. The site is not on any of the lists of sites enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code.

**Public Review and Comment:** The public review period for the Draft EIR will begin on Monday, August 2, 2021, and end on Thursday, September 16, 2021. Members of the public and interested agencies may review and submit written comments on the Draft EIR. The documents are available for review on the State Clearinghouse CEQAnet website (see link below), the SCCCDC website (see link below), and at the State Center Community College District's Operations Department (see contact information below).

State Clearinghouse CEQAnet Link:

<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/Project/2020039018>

SCCCDC Website Link:

<https://www.sccd.edu/departments/district-operations/construction-services.html>

(Note: the EIR technical appendices are available on the State Clearinghouse CEQAnet website).

Your comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 16, 2021. Please submit comments to George Cummings, District Director of Facilities Planning, SCCCDC Operations Department, 1171 Fulton Street, Fresno, CA 93721, Telephone: (559) 243-7191, Email: [facilities@sccd.edu](mailto:facilities@sccd.edu).

All comments addressing environmental issues will be responded to in the Final EIR.

**Project Decision-Making Process:** After the Final EIR is prepared, the SCCCDC Board of Trustees will consider certification of the Final EIR and approval of the project at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible. In accordance with State of California Executive Orders 25-20 and 29-20, the Board of Trustees will be conducting meetings remotely using ConferZoom. Instructions for connecting to board meetings using ConferZoom are available at <https://www.sccd.edu/lp/board-meetings-on-zoom.html>. Depending upon the circumstances existing at the time the Board meeting is held, the meeting may also be conducted in person at the District Board Room located at 1171 Fulton Street, 1st Floor, Fresno, California. All interested persons are invited to attend this meeting and present testimony regarding the project.