



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-0344

From: California State University, Fullerton
800 N State College Blvd.
Fullerton, CA 92831

Project Title: McCarthy Hall Renovation Project

Project Applicant: California State University, Fullerton

Project Location-Specific:

McCarthy Hall is located on the California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) campus in the eastern part of the City of Fullerton, California. The main CSUF campus encompasses 240 acres and is bounded by Yorba Linda Boulevard to the north; Nutwood Avenue to the south; State Route 57 (SR 57), the Orange Freeway, to the east; and State College Boulevard to the west. McCarthy Hall is located in the southern half of the CSUF campus within the academic core and is generally bordered by the campus quad, a bike path, and the Joseph A. W. Clayer III Performing Arts Center to the north, Dan Black Hall on the south, the campus bike path on the east, and the campus central plant complex on the west.

Project Location – City: Fullerton **Project Location – County:** Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

McCarthy Hall comprises a six-story main building with an attached but code-approved separate adjacent building. An elevated pedestrian bridge that spans the campus bike path connects McCarthy Hall's west wing and the Performing Arts Center to the north. McCarthy Hall houses number of teaching laboratories and faculty offices affiliated with the university's science programs, including, among others, Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physics, Natural Science/Life Science, Mathematics, and Business Management. Constructed in 1963 of reinforced concrete, McCarthy Hall has not previously undergone comprehensive modernization.

The proposed project will renovate predominantly interior portions of the main McCarthy Hall building to allow remodeling of classrooms, labs and offices on the building's second floor and the implementation of needed fire life safety, accessibility, current building code, technology, and elevator upgrades, core infrastructure improvements, and seismic strengthening. The project will involve the installation of fire-rated walls and doors, accessible door hardware, renovated restrooms, new flooring, and HVAC, electrical, and plumbing improvements within the second story. The project also involves the abatement of hazardous material (asbestos and lead) in the affected areas of the second story. Exterior improvements to the main building are limited and minimally invasive, and include a new exterior stair on the western elevation, minor alterations to the existing pedestrian bridge to the Performing Arts Center, limited ground-floor entrance door replacements-in-kind, additional or upgraded glazing, and new utility connections/penetrations. The proposed renovation and upgrades will predominantly affect approximately 40,293 gross square feet within the second story of the building, as well as limited building exterior surfaces and limited hardscape and landscaped area in order to improve accessibility to the building's entrance.

The project is expected to extend the useful life of the renovated space in the building by 30-40 years and will benefit students, faculty, and staff of the CSUF campus and The California State University.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: The Trustees of the California State University

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California State University, Fullerton

The project is exempt from CEQA under the following authority:

☒ **Common Sense Exemption. State type and section number:** Section 15061(b)(3),
Common Sense Exemption

Reasons why project is exempt:

Pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3), a project is exempt from CEQA if it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. This "general rule" or "common sense" exemption applies to projects that do not fit within a statutory or categorical exemption, but where it can be clearly demonstrated that the project has no potential to have significant environmental effects.

The proposed renovations to McCarthy Hall are predominantly interior in nature, with limited exterior improvements. Project implementation will serve to ensure the building meets current building code requirements and improve building accessibility and energy efficiency. Proposed construction will take place entirely within the CSUF campus, confined to McCarthy Hall and its immediate exterior hardscape and landscaped areas. For these reasons, project construction and operation are determined to not result in any potentially significant direct or indirect environmental impacts, and therefore the project qualifies for the common sense exemption.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Emil Zordilla, AIA, MBA **Area Code/Telephone:** (657) 278-3735

Signature: _____

Date: 4/14/20

Title: Director of Planning and Design – Campus Architect

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 14 2020

Date Received for filing at OPR: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE