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**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY**

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DATE: August 2, 2023

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: **California Conservation Corps, Auberry Center Project — TOWN OF AUBERRY, FRESNO COUNTY**

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed CCC Auberry Center Project (Proposed Project). CCC has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in compliance with CEQA.

**Project Location:** The Proposed Project is located at 33367 North Auberry Road, immediately west of the Auberry Road and Powerhouse Road intersection, at the former Auberry Elementary School in Auberry, Fresno County, California within Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 128-560-12T and 128-560-02T.

**Previous Circulation:** The Draft IS/MND was circulated in July of 2020 and receive seven comment letters. A Final IS/MND was not completed or approved for the project. Based on those comments, data collection at the existing onsite wells was conducted to further analyze the impact that the project may have on the groundwater supply in the area. Additionally, in August 2022 Nichols, Melburg, & Rossetto Architects (NM&R) completed a Pre-Assessment and Recommendations Report for the Proposed Project. This report found that due to the age and condition of the existing buildings onsite, it was recommended that the existing buildings should not be remodeled but demolished and new structures built on the project site. In response, DGS on behalf of CCC (state) has initiated preparation of a revised IS/MND to address the changes to the project and recirculation of the Draft IS/MND for public review.

**Project Description:** The California Conservation Corps (CCC) Auberry Center Project (Proposed Project) will renovate the existing dilapidated elementary school with an upgraded, modern facility that will allow the CCC to better fulfill its mission and objectives in the region. The Proposed Project would provide for a new residential, training, and operations facility for approximately 90 Corpsmembers and 26 staff. Totalling approximately 58,800 square feet (sf) of remodeled and new building construction, the Project will include 10 buildings consisting of an administration building, COMET building, staff living quarters, two housing buildings, education building, dining/rec building, warehouse, multi-purpose, apparatus garages, and vehicle wash. The Project also includes a paved emergency crew and vehicle staging area, asphalt paved surfaces for driveways and parking, and concrete paving for service and staging areas and walkways.

The facility is designed based on the prototype and CCC's residential needs to house 90 permanent Corpsmembers. The center is intended to be designed to Zero Net Energy (ZNE) per the Governor's Executive Order (EO) B-18-12 and achieve at minimum a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification.

**Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts:** Potentially significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, and tribal cultural resources were identified

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in the Initial Study. All impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level with the implementation of identified mitigation measures.

**Hazardous Waste Sites:** Pursuant to Section 15087(c)(6) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, CCC acknowledges the non-existence of hazardous waste sites within the Project area reviewed by this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

**IS/MND Document Review and Availability:** The public review and comment period for the Draft IS/MND will extend for 30 days **starting August 2, 2023 and ending September 2, 2023**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, printed hard copies will not be available to the public. However, the Draft IS/MND can be viewed and/or downloaded at the following website:

<http://www.ecorpc consulting.com/docs/CCC-Auberry-Center-Draft-ISMND-WITH-APPENDICES.pdf>

**Comments/Questions:** Comments and/or questions regarding the IS/MND may be directed to:

Terry Ash, Senior Environmental Planner  
cc: Amberly Morgan  
2525 Warren Drive  
Rocklin, CA 95677  
or  
[amorgan@ecorpc consulting.com](mailto:amorgan@ecorpc consulting.com)