



# CSU Bakersfield

Business and Administrative Services  
Capital Planning, Design, and Construction

Mail Stop: 5 CORP  
9001 Stockdale Highway  
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022  
(661) 654-2212  
(661) 654-2290 FAX  
[www.csub.edu/bas/facilmgt/](http://www.csub.edu/bas/facilmgt/)

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## **Notice of Exemption | Appendix E**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  
**County of:** Kern  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**From:** California State University, Bakersfield  
Capital Planning, Design & Construction  
9001 Stockdale Highway  
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1099

**Project Title: Performing Arts Center Building Renovation**

**Project Applicant:** California State University, Bakersfield

**Project Location – Specific:** Northwest quadrant of California State University, Bakersfield campus between Stockdale Highway, Student Way, Don Hart Dr. W, and CSUB Way

**Project Location – City:** Bakersfield

**Project Location County:** Kern

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

**Nature of Project:** The proposed project will renovate the existing Performing Arts Building (#4) in the northwest campus, adjacent to the Fine Arts Building (#2) and Lecture Building (#3). The existing single-story building currently houses art program faculty, Art Studio, and other art related programs. The work involves comprehensive renovation of the building with the exceptions of the foundation, exterior walls, and roof.

The project includes complete demolition of interior spaces including flooring, interior walls, ceiling, HVAC, lighting and roofing. Other proposed improvements include new fire-rated walls and doors, accessible door hardware new flooring, HVAC improvements, new building controls, electrical and fire alarm upgrades, and technology upgrades. The roof and the existing exterior walls will receive upgraded insulation to improve the thermal performance of the building. New lighting will consist of LED fixtures and updated controls to reduce energy consumption. A new covered entry and plaza will enhance the visibility of the program and provide a defined entrance to the building. The building contains asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) that will be removed as part of demolition.

**Project Purpose and Beneficiaries:** The renovated building will house instructional space for the Arts Department, including a media center, computer lab, broadcast studio, sound recording rooms, art studio, darkroom, exhibit space, thirteen faculty office and related support spaces. The project will benefit The California State University and California State University, Bakersfield.

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

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

**Exempt Status:**

**Categorical Exemptions**

- Section 15301 Class 1 (Existing Facilities)

**Reasons why the project is exempt:**

As discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15332, a Class 1 exemption may be applied for a project that involves operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The types of "existing facilities" itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use.

The proposed project qualifies for the Class 1 exemption because it involves minor renovations and alteration of an existing academic facility, which is a public facility, on the California State University Bakersfield campus. The renovation includes upgrades to meet current public health and safety standards. The project would infill a currently covered entry, adding approximately 88 square feet to the building footprint, but would not otherwise expand the building's square footage or capacity.

The project does not meet any of the exceptions provided in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 which preclude use of the applicable categorical exemption. Specifically, based on existing conditions in the project area and proposed project construction and operation, the project would not:

- (a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies. The location exception does not apply to Class 1 exemptions.*
- (b) Result in significant cumulative impacts due to successive projects of the same type in the same place over time. The project does not have the potential for significant environmental impacts and does not contribute to successive impacts of the same type in the same place over time.*
- (c) Have a reasonable possibility of causing a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. There are no unusual circumstances associated with the project site, which is an existing building on the developed California State University, Bakersfield campus, or the project, and no potential for significant impacts due to unusual circumstances.*

- (d) *Result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources within a scenic highway.* There are no scenic highways in the vicinity of the project site.
- (e) *Be located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 or otherwise have an impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern.* The project site and campus are not included on any lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962. The project involves the rehabilitation of an existing building, including remediation of existing ACMs in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements, and therefore would not have an impact on environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern.
- (f) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.* The project would not affect any designated or potentially eligible historic resources.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Hasit Panchal

**Area Code/Telephone/Email:** (661) 654-2211 / [hpanchal@csub.edu](mailto:hpanchal@csub.edu)

**If filed by applicant:**

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_

**Signature:** 

**Date:** September 24, 2020

**Title:** Principal Environmental Planner, Capital Planning, Design and Construction, Office of the Chancellor

Signed by Lead Agency or  Signed by Applicant

**Date Received for filing at OPR:** \_\_\_\_\_

Authority cited: Public Resources Code, Section 21083

State Code Number and Reference: Public Resources Code, Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1