

June 15, 2021

TO: Interested Agencies and Individuals

LEAD AGENCY: Riverside Community College District

SUBJECT: **Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Ben Clark Training Center School of Public Safety Project**

COMMENT PERIOD: June 15, 2021 to July 14, 2021

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Riverside Community College District (RCCD) has prepared an Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of its proposed Ben Clark Training Center (BCTC) School of Public Safety (project) that would be located within the Ben Clark Training Center in the County of Riverside, California. The Initial Study and Draft MND reflect the independent judgment of RCCD.

Project Location: The project site is located at 16791 Davis Avenue in unincorporated Riverside County. The project would be constructed on an approximately 10-acre site is located within the northwestern portion of the BCTC where the majority of existing training and instructional activities occur. The project site is bounded by 11th Street to the north, Bundy Avenue to the east, a gravel parking lot to the west, and CAL FIRE Drill Grounds to the south. Portable and permanent classrooms, dormitories, and parking areas are located east of the project site beyond Bundy Avenue. Under the existing conditions, the project site contains modular classroom buildings, a dirt athletic track, a gravel parking lot, and vacant land. Additional areas immediately surrounding the project site within BCTC may be temporarily disturbed to allow for the connection of underground utilities to the project site. The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Project Description: The project would involve the demolition or relocation of existing modular classrooms on-site and the development and operation of two educational buildings that would provide approximately 54,135 square feet of educational and administrative spaces for the Ben Clark Training Center School of Public Safety. The project would be built in two phases as funding becomes available. Phase I of the project would be constructed in the western portion of the project site and would involve the construction of an approximately 14,135-square-foot one-story classroom and administration building. Phase II of the project would be constructed on the eastern portion of the project site and involves construction of an approximately 40,000-gross-square-foot two-story law enforcement and emergency management response educational facility. Phase I would be constructed within the short-term (0 to 1 year after project approval) and Phase II would be constructed in the long-term (1 to 5 years after project approval).

The project would include improvements to the frontages of the project site, including a new concrete walkway to provide pedestrian access from 11th Street to the proposed project. A variety of trees, shrubs, and vegetated groundcovers would be planted within landscape planters. The project would also require temporary trenching to allow for the connection of underground utilities to the project site.

Public Review Period: The Initial Study/MND is being made available for public review for a period of 30 days beginning June 15, 2021 and concluding July 14, 2021. A hard copy of the Initial Study/MND may be viewed at the RCCD office located at 3801 Market Street, Riverside, California. An electronic version of the Initial Study/MND may also be viewed at the following website address: www.rccd.edu.

Printed copies of the Initial Study/MND are also available for review at the Orange Terrace Branch Library located at 20010-B Orange Terrace Parkway, Riverside, CA 92508.

Comments on the Initial Study/MND must be received in writing or via email no later than July 14, 2021, and sent to:

Mehran Mohtasham, Director Capital Planning
3801 Market Street
Riverside, California 92501
Mehran.Mohtasham@rccd.edu

A public hearing at which the project and the Initial Study/MND will be considered has not yet been scheduled. All comments received related to issues in the Initial Study/MND will be included in the final package that is forwarded to the Board of Trustees for final consideration at this future, currently unscheduled, public hearing. Once a public hearing has been scheduled, the agenda for the meeting at which the project will be considered will be posted 72 hours prior to the meeting at each campus/college within the District pursuant with the noticing requirements set forth by RCCD Administrative Procedure No. 2310. Please note that all comments and materials received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. If RCCD finds that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, it may adopt the Initial Study/MND. This means that RCCD may proceed to consider the project without the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

HUSSAIN AGHA
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Hussain Agah
Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning & Development

June 14, 2021

Date