

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Date: August 15, 2024

To: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed College of the Sequoias Facilities Master Plan

Lead Agency: College of the Sequoias

Contact: Byron Woods, Dean of Facilities
College of the Sequoias
915 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277
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Project Title: College of the Sequoias Facilities Master Plan

Notice is Hereby Given: The College of the Sequoias (COS) is the Lead Agency on the below-described Facilities Master Plan Project (Project) and has prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The NOP is intended to disclose environmental information and to solicit the views of the public, interested parties, and/or agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information. Specifically, COS is requesting that commenters provide comments on the NOP, identify additional environmental topics (and/or special studies) that they believe need to be explored in the forthcoming EIR, and to identify other relevant environmental issues related to the scope and content of the forthcoming EIR.

Project Location: The COS Visalia campus is located on approximately 70 acres and is generally bounded by Mooney Boulevard to the east, Woodland Street to the west, Tulare Street to the south, and Noble Avenue to the north in Visalia, California. The proposed Project improvements will be located within the existing campus footprint.

Project Description: COS has prepared a Facilities Master Plan for the Visalia Campus. The proposed Master Plan includes numerous facility improvements such as a new University Center, student union, instructional buildings, administrative buildings, athletic facility improvements, new parking facilities, and related improvements. Based on the Master Plan, the COS Visalia Campus is expected to increase enrollment from 7,279 full time equivalent student (FTES) in 2019 to 12,801 FTES by 2050. The Project will consist of new construction as well as demolition/remodeling of existing facilities.

Scope of the Environmental Impact Report: The forthcoming EIR will address the following CEQA Guidelines Appendix G topics: Aesthetics, Agriculture/Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire. The EIR will also review Project alternatives as well as cumulative impacts. To support the analysis in the EIR, an Air Quality / Greenhouse Gases / Energy Study and Traffic Impact Study will be prepared.

Document Availability and Public Review Timeline: Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response to the NOP must be sent *no later than 30 days* after receipt of this notice. The review period for the NOP will be from August 15, 2024 to September 16, 2024. Copies of the NOP can be obtained by request to Byron Woods, whose contact information is given below.

Public Scoping Meeting: In addition to the opportunity to submit written comments, one public scoping meeting will be held by COS to inform interested parties about the proposed Project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the forthcoming EIR. This meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on August 28, 2024. Participants can attend the meeting either online or by telephone as follows:

Date: August 28, 2024
Time: 6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Access:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88527666052?pwd=NJn9bgiSmADEpj1qs5nj3RLgpm3Kjx.1>

Meeting ID: 885 2766 6052
Passcode: 345383
Phone Access: 1-408-638-0968

Submitting Comments: Comments and suggestions as to the appropriate scope of analysis of the EIR are invited from all interested parties. Written comments concerning the scope of the forthcoming EIR for the proposed Project should be directed to the COS Dean of Facilities at the following address by 5:00 p.m. on September 16, 2024. Please include the commenter's full name and address. Please submit comments to:

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