

October 1, 2024

TO: Interested Agencies and Individuals

LEAD AGENCY: Riverside Community College District

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Norco College Center for Human Performance and Kinesiology Building

COMMENT PERIOD: October 1, 2024, to October 30, 2024

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 new Center for Human Performance and Kinesiology Building (project) that would be located within the Norco College campus in the city of Norco, California. The Initial Study and Draft MND reflect the independent judgment of RCCD.

Project Location: The proposed project site is located at 2001 Third Street in the City of Norco (City), in the northwestern portion of Riverside County, near a tri-county meeting point with Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. The proposed project site is located on the existing Norco College campus. More specifically, the proposed project site is located on the western portion of the campus, east of the Soccer Field, and west of West End Drive.

Project Description: The proposed project would involve the construction of the Center for Human Performance and Kinesiology Building (building), a 56,284 gross square feet, two-story building, which would support Norco College's physical education program. The building would include one classroom laboratory, office space, a conference room, a lounge, and athletic space. The athletics space would include a multi-use gymnasium with retractable seating for 500, a weight room, a training room, a cardio and wellness studio, exercise studios, storage space, a laundry room, student locker rooms, and faculty changing rooms. Landscaped areas would be provided along the perimeter of the building and would include drought-tolerant landscaping. The existing row of trees located at the eastern perimeter of the site would remain in place.

The project site would provide vehicle access for maintenance vehicles only. A paved walking path that could also be used by service vehicles would be constructed to connect the existing roundabout located on West End Drive to the new building. Bollards would be placed at the connection point with West End Drive to prevent access by vehicles other than maintenance vehicles. Service vehicles would also be able to access the building from the upper quad area north of the new building. No parking spaces would be available within the project site boundary. Parking for students and faculty would continue to be available in Parking Lot D.

Once operational, the new building would provide students a comprehensive physical education program. The proposed project would result in the generation of approximately 500 to 1,000 new students and 6 new full-time employees. Four full-time certified personnel will be hired to teach the additional physical education courses. Two classified personnel (school employees who do not need certification or licensure to be qualified

for employment) will also be hired to support the expanded programs: one administrative assistant and one trainer.

The building would operate year-round and would typically be open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Similar to many other buildings on campus, the building may occasionally be open after hours throughout the year (e.g., hosting weekend events, home games). The building would host approximately 20–25 home games per year with a maximum of 500 attendees, which could occur on weekday evenings and weekends. The project would become operational in July 2027.

Public Review Period: The Initial Study/MND is being made available for public review for a period of 30 days beginning October 1, 2024, and concluding October 30, 2024. An electronic version of the Initial Study/MND may be viewed at the following website address: www.rccd.edu.

Comments on the Initial Study/MND must be received in writing or via email no later than October 30, 2024, and sent to:

Mehran Mohtasham, Director, Capital Planning, Facilities Planning and Development
3801 Market Street, 3rd Floor
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 RCCD 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
HUSSAIN AGHA

September 26, 2024

Hussain Agah
Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning and Development

Date

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