

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This is to advise that the North Central Fire Protection District has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project identified below that is scheduled to be heard at the North Central Fire Protection District Board Meeting on Thursday, **March 27, 2025**.

The public review period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration begins on Wednesday, **February 5, 2025**, and ends on Thursday, **March 6, 2025**. The Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed at <https://ncfpd.specialdistrict.org/> and at the following location: North Central Fire Protection District, 15850 W. Kearney Blvd., Kerman, CA 93630. Comments regarding the Mitigated Negative Declaration should be mailed to Jaymie Brauer, Principal Planner, 5080 California Avenue, Suite 220, Bakersfield CA 93309, or jaymie.brauer@qkinc.com or Tim Henry, Fire Chief, 15850 W. Kearney Blvd., Kerman, CA 93630, or tim.henry@northcentralfire.org before 5:00PM Thursday, **March 6, 2025**.

PLEASE BE ADVISED that the North Central Fire Protection District will consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration at the Board Meeting to be held on Thursday, **March 27, 2025**. Presentations will be made at approximately 4:30 PM. Action on items on the agenda will occur after the presentations. The meeting will be located at 15850 W. Kearney Blvd., Kerman CA 93630. The North Central Fire Protection District Board will take final action to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration at the board meeting following the public hearing.

Project Name

North Central Fire Protection District Training Campus Project

Project Location

The proposed project is located in unincorporated County of Fresno on a 60-acre project site (APN 025-200-17S) on the southwest corner of West Kearney Boulevard and South Howard Avenue. The proposed project site is generally bounded by West Kearney Boulevard to the north, Union Pacific Railroad to the south, the future Sycamore Avenue alignment to the west, and South Howard Avenue to the east. The project site is located approximately 0.5-miles east of the Kerman city limits and outside the City's sphere of influence.

Regional access to the project site is provided by State Route (SR) 180 and SR 145. The site is located within Section 8, Township 14S, Range 18E MDB&M, of the Kerman USGS Quad Map.

The site is bounded by railroad tracks to the south, agricultural fields to the north, east and west and rural residences to the north and west.

Project Description

The North Central Fire Protection District (NCFPD) proposes the development of instruction, training and operational facilities at a single specialized campus. Development of the proposed project would ensure crew readiness to respond to emergency incidents with the NCFPD's 230 square mile service area and support partner agencies when needed. Additionally, the project would allow the NCFPD to utilize the facilities at the campus for training exercises and community events related to the provision of emergency services. The NCFPD proposes the development of instruction, training and emergency operations facilities at a single specialized campus. Development of the proposed project would ensure crew readiness to respond to emergency incidents with the NCFPD's 230 square mile service area and support partner agencies when needed. Additionally, the project would allow the NCFPD to utilize the facilities at the campus for training exercises and community events related to the provision of emergency services. The Project will be completed in three phases: Phase 1 totaling 5.68 acres, Phase 2 totaling 17.41 acres, and Phase 3 totaling 35.20 acres.

Phase 1 consists of a fire station with three bays (15,400 square feet), an emergency operations center (15,200 square feet), drafting pit training area, leach field, parking lot and landscaping. Water will be provided from existing on site water well on site. Once development commences on site, a potable water tank will be included for any of the buildings. In the future, the site may connect to the City's water service system. A septic system and leach field will also be constructed during Phase 1.

Phase 2 consists of the following training facilities: a fire apparatus building / big box building with six bays (14,400 square feet), electrical tower, generator area, water tank storage, roof props residential / commercial ventilation training with an outdoor classroom, propane props/tanks, cinder block, vehicle extrication with outdoor classroom, two-story Class A burn building with a live burn prop tower, five-story Class B burn building with a propane prop tower, small town prop training area, drone training area with research and development classrooms/tech labs and a fire training center (26,000 square feet) equipped with offices, classrooms, conference rooms, shower facilities, restrooms and tactical simulator training. Phase 2 will also include a storm water and recycled water retention basin, leach field, parking lot, landscaping and a maintenance facility/storage with three bays (16,620 square feet).

Phase 3 consists of the development of a concrete helipad site (Type 2), solar panel training area, electrical vehicle area, outdoor classroom, driving track course, driving track course classroom/observation tower, stormwater pond (approximately 5.0 acres), lithium ion-battery storage training area and rail/train training area. Phase 3 will also include the dedication of a 30-foot easement for the future development of a roadway on the easterly border of the site.

The proposed new fire station will be operational 24 hours a day, every day of the calendar year and will be operated and maintained by the NCFPD. The training facility will conduct two firefighter academies per year with approximately eight new trainees per academy class.

Each academy is scheduled for six weeks or 30 days of training. It is anticipated that full buildout will occur over a 10-year period.

As mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the public review period for this document is 30 days (CEQA Section 15073[b]). The public review period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration begins on Wednesday, **February 5, 2025**, and ends on Thursday, **March 6, 2025**. For further information, please contact Jaymie Brauer at (661) 616-2600 or jaymie.brauer@qkinc.com.