

December 10, 2019

**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 Veterans Resource Center**

**COMMENT PERIOD:** December 10, 2019, to January 8, 2020

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 Veterans Resource Center (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 3 acres and is located on the existing Norco College campus. More specifically, the proposed project site is located on the southeastern portion of the campus, south of Third Street and east of the existing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Center. While the project site is currently undeveloped, several landscape features exist throughout, including young planted ornamental trees, decomposed-granite walkways, and a stand of flags located at the northern end of the project site.

**Project Description:** The proposed project would involve the construction of an approximately 2,500-square-foot, 19-foot-high Veterans Resource Center building on the southeastern portion of the Norco College campus to enhance the programs and services it offers to student veterans. Construction of the Center would necessitate removal of the existing landscaped area currently consisting of walkways and ornamental plants. The Center would include five office spaces, open work stations/study area and laptop space, a restroom for employees and students, lounge seating, and a utility room. The project would also include a 1,000-square-foot outdoor covered deck and BBQ area.

Once operational, the new Veterans Resource Center building would provide a centralized location where the College's student veterans can access a variety of services oriented at assisting them with transitioning from military to civilian life. These services would include mental health services, financial aid, academic counseling, tutoring, study spaces, and other support services. The proposed center would operate year-round and would typically be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Similar to many other student resource centers on campus, the Center may occasionally be open after hours throughout the year (e.g., providing study spaces during finals week or hosting weekend events at the beginning of the school year).

**Public Review Period:** The Initial Study/MND is being made available for public review for a period of 30 days beginning December 10, 2019, and concluding January 8, 2020. 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](http://www.rccd.edu).

Printed copies of the Initial Study/MND are also available for review at the Norco Public Library located at 3240 Hamner Avenue, Suite 101B, Norco, California 92860.

**Comments on the Initial Study/MND must be received in writing or via email no later than January 8, 2020, and sent to:**

Bart Doering, Facilities Development Director  
3801 Market Street  
Riverside, California 92501  
[Bart.Doering@rccd.edu](mailto:Bart.Doering@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.

 12-10-19  
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Bart Doering Date  
Facilities Development Director