

**California State University,
Board of trustees**

November 9, 2019
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California State University, Board of Trustees, as the lead agency, has prepared an Initial Study - Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the proposed California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI) Solar Array Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CSUCI Solar Array Project IS-MND is intended to look at the environmental impacts of the installation of a 3.75-megawatt ground mounted, fixed tilt solar photovoltaic (PV) system.

Project Title

CSUCI Solar Array Project

Project Location

The project site is located on the CSUCI campus in southern Ventura County at the eastern edge of the Oxnard Plain and at the western flank of the Santa Monica Mountains. The project site is approximately 16-acres in area, and is located on an approximately 153-acre parcel (Assessor’s Parcel Number 234-0-050-330) between Parking Lot A3 and Calleguas Creek near the western edge of the CSUCI campus. Access to the site is from Old Lewis Road (paralleling Lewis Road) accessed off of Potrero Road and then on farm roads to the project site gates. The project site is not located on any of the lists of sites enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Public Comment

As the lead agency for the project, The California State University, Board of Trustees is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis and proposed mitigation measures described in the Draft IS-MND. You may submit written comments to The California State University, Board of Trustees prior to the close of public comment which ends on January 20, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Project Description

The project involves the installation of a 3.75-megawatt ground mounted, fixed tilt solar PV system. An inactive pump house existing on the project site would remain. The solar PV system would consist of solar PV modules mounted on fixed tilt racking, inverters, and electrical equipment. Solar PV panels would be located on piles ranging from a height of approximately 9 feet above the ground at the southern edge of the project site to 4 feet above the ground at the northern edge of the project site. Solar PV panels would be located on piles driven into the ground to a depth of ten to 14 feet and supports would be bolted onto the piles. The solar PV modules extend an additional 4.5 feet above the piles. Electrical equipment would be clustered in two locations on pads approximately 6 to 8 feet above the ground. Farm roads currently exist off of Old Lewis Road to access the project site, and 20-foot wide, unpaved access roads would be constructed along the perimeter of the project site and between the solar PV arrays. The project includes 6-foot high perimeter fencing with barbed wire and access gates around the solar PV array and equipment. Additionally, 6- to 8-foot tall toyon trees would be planted along 1,400 linear feet of the parcel’s northern boundary and 1,300 linear feet of the western boundary. Approximately 200 to 300 feet of trenching and conduit routing will be required to get from the solar PV array station to the vault where existing conduits begin on University Drive. Construction would take up to seven months and is anticipated to begin in September 2020 and end by June 2021. Operation of the proposed project would be automated and unstaffed.

Environmental Review Findings

The California State University, Board of Trustees has prepared a Draft IS-MND pursuant to requirements of the State Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA and the Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. The IS-MND has been prepared because of the potential for significant adverse effects resulting from project implementation. The IS-MND prepared for the proposed project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts, and monitoring requirements. Potentially significant but mitigable impacts have been identified in the issue areas of: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, and geology/soils. If the project description changes, the lead agency will require a reevaluation of the IS-MND to consider the changes. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

Document Availability

If a copy of the IS-MND is not attached, the IS-MND may be obtained online at: https://www.csuci.edu/fs/pdc/planning.htm under “CEQA Documents,” see file “IS-MND Solar Array CSUCI,” or at any of the following locations at the California State University, Channel Islands campus:

Location A

One University Drive – Ironwood Hall Offices

Contact: see below

Camarillo, CA 93012

Location B
One University Drive – Broome Library front desk
Camarillo, CA 93012

How to Comment

Because of the time sensitive nature of the project planning process, we request your response at the earliest possible date. Comments must be received by January 20, 2020 at 5PM. Please send comments to:

**Mr. Terry Tarr, AIA, LEEP AP**

**Assoc. Architect / Project Manager**

**Planning Design & Construction Dept.**

**California State University Channel Islands**

**One University Drive**

**Camarillo, CA 93012**

terry.tarr@csuci.edu

If representing an agency, please identify the agency name and appropriate contact name, phone number, and email address. Comments from the public must include name, phone number, and email or postal address. Please limit comments to environmental issues evaluated in the Draft IS-MND. You will receive notice of the dates of future public meetings to consider project approval or denial.