

# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

FILE  
2020 FEB 26 AM 11:35  
MERCED COUNTY CLERK  
BY: [Signature]  
DEPUTY

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  
  
County Clerk  
County of: Merced  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340

From: (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_  
Merced Community College District  
3600 M Street, Merced, CA 95348  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

Project Title: Merced College Agricultural Science and Industrial Technology Building Project

Project Applicant: Merced Community College District

Project Location - Specific:  
3600 M Street (Assessor's Parcel Number 230-010-006).

Project Location - City: Merced Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Please see attached.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Merced Community College District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Merced Community College District

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15332. In-Fill Development Projects
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

Please see attached.

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: Ronald M. Perez Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (209) 384-6135

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 2/12/2020 Title: Dir Facilities

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: FEB 26 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

**Attachment to Notice of Exemption for  
Merced College Agricultural Science and Industrial Technology Building Project**

**Project Location:** The Merced College Agricultural Science and Industrial Technology Building Project (project) site is located on the Merced College campus on the east side of M Street, north of W. Yosemite Avenue, in the City of Merced, Merced County, California (3600 M Street, Assessor's Parcel Number 230-010-006).

**Project Description:** The Merced Community College District (District) is proposing to construct a new Agricultural Science and Industrial Technology building on the campus of Merced College to provide enhanced facilities for its existing agricultural science and industrial technology programs.

The project is planned to include plant and animal science wet labs, computer labs, manufacturing and sheet metal fabrication lab with outdoor work areas, faculty and administrative offices, a large conference room, and a large central courtyard for student gathering and activities. The new building, a single-story structure with an area of approximately 29,000 gross square feet, will be located on the north side of University Drive. The total building square footage on the Merced College campus is approximately 535,989 square feet within a developed campus area of approximately 120 acres. Thus, the new building represents a minor increase in campus square footage.

Construction of the new project is expected to begin in March 2021 and would be completed and operational by March 2022.

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15332 provides for the exemption of in-fill development projects if they meet the criteria listed under Section 15332 (a) through (e). These criteria are listed below with a discussion of how the project meets the criteria.

- (a) The project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as with applicable zoning designation and regulations.

The Merced College campus is designated "School" on the Merced General Plan Land Use Map and zoned "R-1-6" (Low Density Residential). Colleges and trade schools are permitted in the R-1-6 zone with a conditional use permit. Continued use as an educational facility is consistent with all applicable general plan policies.

- (b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than five acres substantially surrounded by urban uses.

The Merced College campus is within the city limits of Merced. The addition of the project would involve construction on less than five acres of the existing campus, and is surrounded by other campus uses. The campus is adjacent to urban residential development to the north, west, and south, with nearby medical, commercial, and residential development to the east.

- (c) The project site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species.

The project is within the existing Merced College campus, which has existed at this location for 58 years. The campus consists of buildings, sidewalks, parking lots, and turfed and landscaped areas, and

is substantially surrounded by urban development on all sides. Therefore, the site would not appreciable value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species.

- (d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to air quality, water quality, traffic, and noise.

The project will result in a net increase of approximately 29,000 gross square feet on a campus with 535,989 square feet of building area (approximately a 5.4 percent increase). The project, as such, is a minor increase in campus square footage.

Based on the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Small Project Analysis Level (SPAL) criteria, the project would have a less than significant impact on air quality. The project is estimated to have the capacity for approximately 1,110 students throughout the course of the day. However, the majority of those will be existing students and students who will already be on campus for other classes. Therefore, the project falls well below the SPAL threshold of 1,100 new students or 1,707 trips per day. Additionally, because most of the project's anticipated users are already at the campus, the project would not result in a substantial increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

The Merced College campus drains into the City's storm drainage system and will be subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements. Water quality impacts, therefore, would be less than significant.

As with all building projects, there will be some construction noise, but the project site is not near any residential uses and the college would manage the construction of the project to have a minimal impact on existing college classroom operations.

Therefore, significant effects related to air quality, water quality, traffic, and noise, are not anticipated.

- (e) The site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services.

Since the project is within the existing Merced College campus, all utilities and public services are available. According to District staff, the new building can be adequately served with all required utilities and services.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THE MERCED COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT  
APPROVAL OF A CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM  
THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE  
MERCED COLLEGE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND  
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY BUILDING PROJECT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2006

**WHEREAS**, the Merced Community College District (District) currently operates Merced College at 3600 M Street in the City of Merced; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is proposing to construct a new Agricultural Science and Industrial Technology building, consisting of a single-story building measuring 29,000 square feet in the northern portion of the existing Merced College campus (Project); and

**WHEREAS**, prior to construction of the Project, the District must ensure the Project complies with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"); and

**WHEREAS**, categorical exemptions to CEQA are set forth in Article 19 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations ("CEQA Guidelines"); and

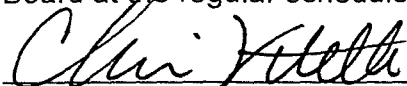
**WHEREAS**, CEQA Guidelines Section 15332 sets forth an exemption from CEQA for in-fill development projects that meet certain conditions as specified in Section 15322 (a) through (e), and;

**WHEREAS**, the Project satisfies the conditions specified in Section 15322 (a) through (e), as described in the attached Notice of Exemption for Merced College Agricultural Science and Industrial Technology Building Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Merced Community College District hereby finds and resolves as follows:

1. The Board adopts the foregoing recitals as true and correct.
2. The Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15332.
3. The Board hereby approves the Project.
4. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent/President or his designee to file a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Project with the Merced County Clerk's Office and the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

I, Chris Vitelli, Secretary to the Governing Board of the Merced Community College District, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Governing Board at the regular scheduled Board meeting held on February 11, 2020.



Chris Vitelli

Secretary of the Governing Board



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2020 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 12/01/19) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: <b>24-2020-028</b>
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY <b>MERCED COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT</b>	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE <b>02/26/2020</b>
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING <b>MERCED COUNTY</b>	DOCUMENT NUMBER <b>24-2020-028</b>	
PROJECT TITLE <b>MERCED COLLEGE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY BUILDING PROJECT</b>		

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME <b>MERCED COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT</b>	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER <b>(209) 384-6135</b>	
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS <b>3600 M STREET</b>	CITY <b>MERCED</b>	STATE <b>CA</b>	ZIP CODE <b>95348</b>

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency   
  School District   
  Other Special District   
  State Agency   
  Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,343.25	\$	<u>0.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,406.75	\$	<u>0.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,136.50	\$	<u>0.00</u>


- Exempt from fee  
      Notice of Exemption (attach)  
      CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)  
 Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	<u>0.00</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee	\$50.00	\$	<u>50.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	<u>0.00</u>

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash   
  Credit   
  Check   
  Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE <b>X</b> 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE <b>Lea Z. H. Holguin Deputy Clerk</b>
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