

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Merced

222 M Street

Merced, CA 95340

From: (Public Agency): Merced Community College District
3600 M Street

Merced, CA 95348

2025-EIR-139

FILED

November 24, 2025

MATT H. MAY

COUNTY CLERK

By V. L. L. L. L.
Deputy Clerk

Project Title: Music-Art-Theater-Complex

Project Applicant: Merced Community College District

Project Location - Specific:

3600 M Street (APN 230-010-006-000)

Project Location - City: Merced

Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project involves the partial demolition, renovation, and modernization of the existing Music, Art, and Theater buildings at Merced College. The improvements would reconstruct/renovate exterior/interior spaces, upgrade building systems, and provide accessibility enhancements to meet current ADA standards. The project would also bring the facilities into compliance with the 2022 CalGreen Code and other applicable building codes, improving energy efficiency, fire safety, and seismic performance. Upon completion, the project would provide modernized, safe, and accessible facilities to better serve students and staff.

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: Class 2, Sec. 15302
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project involves the reconstruction and renovation of the existing Music, Art, and Theater Complex at Merced College. The renovated facilities would be constructed in compliance with the 2022 CalGreen Code and other applicable building standards, including seismic, fire safety, and accessibility requirements. The project would not increase the capacity or intensity of use of the existing facilities. No exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption apply. The project would not result in cumulative impacts, significant effects, or impacts related to scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, or historical resources. A Historical Resource Evaluation prepared by a qualified architectural historian determined that the existing buildings, although historic-era, are ineligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. Therefore, the project qualifies for an exemption from CEQA.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Joseph Allison

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 209-384-6201

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: Joe Allen Date: 11/24/25 Title: Vice President of Administrative Services

▪ 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: 11/25/2025