

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #**Project Title:** Solar Infrastructure and Battery Energy Storage System Project

Lead Agency: University of California, Merced

Contact Person: Phillip Woods

Mailing Address: 5200 North Lake Road

Phone: (209) 349-2561

City: Merced

Zip: 95343

County: Merced

Project Location: County: Merced City/Nearest Community: City of Merced

Cross Streets: Cottonwood Loop

Zip Code: 95343

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 37 ° 21 ' 45.169 " N / 120 ° 24 ' 51.084 " W Total Acres: 86.7

Assessor's Parcel No.: 060-010-007, 060-020-047, 170-220-008, 170-220-025

Section: 34&35 Twp.: 6 South; 7 South Range: 14 East Base: MDB&M

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: N/A

Waterways: Yosemite Lake, Le Grand Canal, Fairfield Canal

Airports: N/A

Railways: N/A

Schools: N/A

Document Type:

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Draft EIR NEPA: ☐ NOI Other: ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR ☐ EA ☐ Final Document
☐ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) ☐ Draft EIS ☐ Other: _____
☒ Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ ☐ FONSI

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☒ Other: Grading/Building Permit

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Educational: _____
☐ Recreational: _____
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☒ Power: Type Solar PV Facility; BESS MW 6
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual ☐ Fiscal ☒ Recreation/Parks ☒ Vegetation
☒ Agricultural Land ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding ☒ Schools/Universities ☒ Water Quality
☒ Air Quality ☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☒ Septic Systems ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Archeological/Historical ☒ Geologic/Seismic ☒ Sewer Capacity ☒ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Biological Resources ☒ Minerals ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☒ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone ☒ Noise ☒ Solid Waste ☒ Land Use
☒ Drainage/Absorption ☒ Population/Housing Balance ☒ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Cumulative Effects
☐ Economic/Jobs ☒ Public Services/Facilities ☒ Traffic/Circulation ☒ Other: GHG; Tribal Cultural Resources

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

City Zoning: P-F (Public Facility); Long Range Development Plan Land Use Designation: Campus Building Reserve and Support Land (CBRSL), Campus Mixed Use (CMU)

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The project would include the demolition of an existing 1-megawatt (MW) ground-mounted solar array facility, and the construction of an up to 6-MW solar facility consisting of a dual-axis tracking system and a new battery energy storage system (BESS) with a minimum storage capacity of 3 megawatt-hour (MWh). The project would interconnect to the UC Merced campus' existing distribution system and power grid via the existing gen-tie line. The project would be served by existing water distribution infrastructure and would include upgrades to the existing fire water storage tank and/or the construction of a new water storage tank on-site to meet water storage requirements for the proposed project. Access to the project site would be provided by the existing ingress/egress access road off of Cottonwood Loop, which would be improved in accordance with the local fire ordinances to a minimum width of 22 feet. The site would be fenced with six-foot-tall chain-link fencing, which may include barbed wire to facilitate cattle grazing on-site. A locked gate would be located at the project site entrance off of Cottonwood Loop to control ingress/egress.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

☐ Air Resources Board	☐ Office of Historic Preservation
☐ Boating & Waterways, Department of	☐ Office of Public School Construction
☐ California Emergency Management Agency	☐ Parks & Recreation, Department of
☐ California Highway Patrol	☐ Pesticide Regulation, Department of
☐ Caltrans District # _____	☐ Public Utilities Commission
☐ Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	☒ Regional WQCB # <u>5</u>
☐ Caltrans Planning	☐ Resources Agency
☐ Central Valley Flood Protection Board	☐ Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
☐ Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	☐ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
☐ Coastal Commission	☐ San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Colorado River Board	☐ San Joaquin River Conservancy
☐ Conservation, Department of	☐ Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Corrections, Department of	☐ State Lands Commission
☐ Delta Protection Commission	☐ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
☐ Education, Department of	☐ SWRCB: Water Quality
☐ Energy Commission	☐ SWRCB: Water Rights
☒ Fish & Game Region # <u>4</u>	☐ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
☐ Food & Agriculture, Department of	☐ Toxic Substances Control, Department of
☐ Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	☐ Water Resources, Department of
☐ General Services, Department of	
☐ Health Services, Department of	☐ Other: _____
☐ Housing & Community Development	☐ Other: _____
☐ Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date June 15, 2026 Ending Date July 15, 2026

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.</u>	Applicant: <u>University of California, Merced</u>
Address: <u>1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130</u>	Address: <u>5200 North Lake Road</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Folsom/CA/95630</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Merced/CA/95343</u>
Contact: <u>Lesley Owing</u>	Phone: <u>(209) 349-2561</u>
Phone: <u>(916) 365-8710</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Phillip Woods

Digitally signed by Phillip Woods
Date: 2026.06.09 14:48:04 -0700

Date: June 9, 2026

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.