NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE GROUND MOUNT SOLAR AND BATTERY PROJECT AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California State University Board of Trustees (BOT), acting as the lead agency on the behalf of California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB), has prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15072 for the Ground Mount Solar and Battery Project (proposed project). This Notice of Intent is to notify agencies, organizations, interested parties, and members of the public that the IS/MND for the proposed project is available for public review and comment.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project involves the installation of a 4.55 megawatt direct current (MWdc) ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar energy system and associated electrical components on 15 acres on the main campus. A battery energy storage system (BESS) with an energy capacity of 11.7 megawatt-hours (MWh) would also be installed as part of the proposed project. The solar panel modules installed primarily on tracker mount systems with solar panels installed along the western portion of the project site as a south-facing fixed tilt system. Approximately 6,500 solar panels would be installed on approximately 1,275 posts. The project would also install a lithium-ion BESS on the eastern portion of the project site. The BESS would come in a prefabricated enclosure unit and have a fire rating in compliance with industry standards. Electrical components that would be installed as part of the project include inverters, an AC combiner, transformers, and a control panel. Conduit would connect the solar energy system to the electrical components within the project site. The proposed project would also include security features, including perimeter fencing, access gates, and lighting. The solar energy system would connect to the existing substation north of the project site, which would tie into the PG&E grid system via an underground 21-kilovolt, 825 linear foot power line.

Construction of the proposed project would occur over an eight-month period between October 2026 and December 2027. Once operational, the solar energy system would be controlled, monitored, managed, and analyzed remotely using a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Operation of the proposed project would be automated and unstaffed. Occasional vegetation management, periodic washing of the solar PV panels, and maintenance of the electrical components would be required to maintain safe operation and energy production.

PROJECT LOCATION

The CSUB campus is located within the governmental jurisdictional boundary of the City of Bakersfield, in central Kern County, California. The CSUB campus encompasses 375 acres and is generally bounded by Stockdale Highway on the north, the Arvin-Edison

Canal on the east, Camino Media on the south, and CSUB Way, undeveloped land, and a commercial parking lot on the west. The approximately 15-acre project site is located on the CSUB campus in Bakersfield, along the eastern boundary, and is bounded on the north by Kroll Way and student housing; on the east by the Arvin-Edison canal and a power transmission line easement; and on the west and south by undeveloped campus land.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The IS/MND and supporting documents are also available for viewing online at: https://www.csub.edu/facilities/environmental-review-documents.shtml. In addition, hard copy versions of the IS/MND can be provided to persons who are unable to access the online version of the document. Please contact Aditi Arya at 661-654-2211 to request this accommodation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A 30-day public comment period for the IS/MND will commence on June 16, 2026, and conclude on July 15, 2026. Please submit your comments on the IS/MND to the address or email listed below on or before 5:00 pm on July 15, 2026:

California State University, Bakersfield
9001 Stockdale Hwy, Mail Stop: 5CORP
Bakersfield, CA 93311
Attention: Aditi Arya
Email: ORG-CEQA@csub.edu

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

The project site is not listed on hazardous substances databases/lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.