The Trustees of the California State University

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CEQA – NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

This Notice is being filed in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Title

California State University, Bakersfield Ground Mount Solar and Battery Project

State Clearinghouse Number

2026060645

Lead Agency Contact Person

Kristine E. De Young, MPA, Associate Vice President
Capital and Facilities Management Services
California State University, Bakersfield
9001 Stockdale Highway, Bakersfield, CA 93311
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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 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.

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 would be 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 November 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.

This Notice of Determination is to advise that the Board of Trustees of the California State University, as the lead agency, approved the above-described project on November 18, 2026 and made the following determinations regarding the project:

1. The development of the Solar Field Project through a public-private partnership at California State University, Bakersfield, as described in this Agenda Item 2 of the November 17-18, 2026, meeting of the Joint Committees on Finance and Campus Planning, Buildings and Grounds is approved, and that the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, and their designees are authorized to execute the agreements necessary to complete the transaction.
2. An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the California State University, Bakersfield Solar Field Project was prepared to evaluate the environmental effects of the Project and confirmed that the Project will not result in significant impacts that cannot be mitigated, pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code [Cal. Pub. Res. Code] Sections 21000 et. seq. and the CEQA Guidelines Section 15070 et. seq.)
3. This resolution is adopted pursuant to the requirements of Cal. Pub. Res. Code Section 21081 and the CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, which require that the Board of Trustees make findings regarding significant project effects prior to the approval of a project.
4. The Board of Trustees finds that the MND reflects its independent judgment and analysis and hereby adopts the MND and approves the Project.
5. The Board of Trustees hereby adopts the mitigation measures prepared in conjunction with the MND. These measures, and other applicable mitigation measures previously adopted in conjunction with the Campus Master Plan Update EIR certified in 2007, shall be implemented, monitored, and reported in accordance with the requirements of CEQA (Cal. Pub. Res. Code Section 21081.6).

This is to certify that the Finalized Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration with responses to public comments and record of project approval are available to the general public online at https://www.csub.edu/facilities/environmental-review-documents.shtml and by appointment at California State University, Bakersfield, Capital and Facilities Management Services, 9001 Stockdale Highway, Bakersfield, CA 93311, attn: Aditi Arya at aarya1@csub.edu or (661) 654-2211.

Anne Collins-Doehne — November 19, 2026

Signature *Anne Collins-Doehne* ***Date***

Title Director, Land Use Planning and Environmental Review - Capital Planning, Design and Construction, The California State University Office of the Chancellor