

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
California State University Stanislaus Photovoltaic Project

PROJECT TITLE: California State University Stanislaus Photovoltaic Project

LEAD AGENCY: The Board of Trustees of the California State University

APPLICANT: California State University Stanislaus
One University Circle
Turlock, CA 95382

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

CSU Stanislaus (CSUS) proposes to install photovoltaic (PV) systems on the roof tops of four existing campus buildings and parking canopy PV systems on two existing parking lots on the campus. The systems will be installed, operated, and maintained by SunEdison on behalf of CSU Stanislaus under a 20-year power purchase agreement. The project is proposed by CSU Stanislaus under Phase II of the Statewide Photovoltaic Initiative (CSI) and in anticipation of Phase III of CSI. The CSI is an initiative proposed by the CSU in partnership with the State Department of General Services to develop renewable energy projects at state facilities.

The PV systems would be installed in two phases. Four PV systems would be installed under Phase II of the CSI; two of these systems would be installed on the roofs of the Vasche Library and Bizzini Hall in the central portions of the campus, and two parking canopy systems would be installed in Parking Lots 4 and 5 in the northwestern portion of the campus. Vasche Library is approximately 35 feet high and has a roof area of 38,000 square feet. Bizzini Hall is approximately 30 feet high and has a roof area of 39,000 square feet. Parking Lots 4 and 5 have a total area of about 89,000 square feet. The Phase II systems would generate 832 kilowatts (kW) DC of electricity which would be used on the campus.

Two systems would be installed later under Phase III of the CSI on the roof of the Gymnasium in the eastern portion of the campus and on the roof of the Science I building in the central southern portion of the campus. The Gymnasium is approximately 25 feet high and has a roof area of 22,000 square feet. The Science I building has a roof area of 30,000 square feet and is approximately 30 feet high.

The PV systems that would be installed on Vasche Library, Bizzini Hall, Science I building, and the Gymnasium would consist of an array of crystalline solar panels or modules installed on custom-built racking. The fixed-tilt solar panels would be oriented to the south to maximize energy production. The roof-mounted systems would be designed to anchor to the roof of the buildings as either penetrating rack systems or ballasted rack systems. The anchor points would be sealed using industry accepted materials and flashing techniques and would not affect any existing equipment on the roof. Wiring from the panels would be routed through rooftop conduits to an inverter located either on the rooftop, inside an existing electrical room of the building, or adjacent to the building. If the inverter pad must be mounted at ground level, it would be protected from the elements by a shade structure. The inverter would convert DC power to alternating current (AC) power.

The PV systems that would be installed on the Parking Lots 4 and 5 would be similar to the systems described above except that the panels would be installed using parking canopies. The parking canopies

would consist of steel support posts in concrete piers driven into the existing parking lot surface. PV panels would be installed on top of the canopies and would be almost flat with a slight tilt to allow storm water to drain from the surface. An inverter pad would be constructed and a shade structure would be installed to protect the inverter from the elements.

All systems would adhere to California Building Codes and Standards, as well as California Public Utilities Commission's California Solar Initiative requirements, and all California Energy Commission's technical and installation specifications and guidelines. Adequate clearance will be provided on the rooftop for access by the fire department.

The project could necessitate the removal of a small number of trees located in or around Parking Lots 4 and 5 to avoid shading of the panels and the potential damage hazards to the panels from tree breakage. If tree removal is necessary during the installation of the parking canopy PV systems, trees would be replanted on the CSUS campus at a 1:1 ratio, consistent with CSUS policy.

If it is determined that any of the proposed buildings is not suitable for the installation of the proposed PV systems for structural or other reasons, the Campus and SunEdison will utilize another building or a parking lot on the campus and will implement the same mitigation measures as proposed for the current set of Phase II and Phase III systems in this Initial Study to avoid or minimize significant environmental impacts. Such buildings or parking lots would be characterized by large flat roofs or surfaces that are not shaded by trees or other structures and do not require significant tree trimming or tree removal.

Staging for the project will occur on nearby parking lots. Materials would be moved to the rooftops using a crane. Project construction would be completed in 8 to 14 weeks.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The proposed photovoltaic project sites are located on the CSU Stanislaus campus in Turlock, California. The campus is approximately 228 acres. The first PV systems would be installed on the roofs of the Vasche Library and Bizzini Hall in the central portions of the campus, and two parking canopy systems would be installed in Parking Lots 4 and 5 in the northwestern portion of the campus. The second PV systems would be installed on the roof of the Gymnasium in the eastern portion of the campus and on the roof of the Science I building in the central southern portion of the campus.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

This subsection includes the full text of project-specific mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration. CSU Stanislaus may modify the means by which a mitigation measure will be implemented, as long as the alternative means ensure compliance during project implementation.

Biological Resources

BIO-1: Preconstruction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted by a qualified wildlife biologist within two weeks of construction activities scheduled to take place between February 1 and August 31 (breeding season). (Preconstruction surveys for nesting Swainson's hawks should be conducted for construction activities between March 1 and September 15 pursuant to CDFG). All trees within the project area shall be

surveyed. If active raptor or passerine nests are detected during the pre-construction surveys, a no-disturbance buffer zone shall be designated and maintained around the nest until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged from the nest. The size of the no disturbance zone shall be determined in consultation with the CDFG.

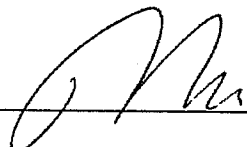
Hydrology and Water Quality

HYDRO-1: The contractor shall cover and secure stockpiled soil with tarps when not in use to prevent dispersal by wind and water and the contractor shall protect storm drains within Lots 4 and 5 with sandbag/silt fence barriers to prevent transport of sediment to the storm drains.

FINDINGS:

Based on the Initial Study prepared for the project, it has been determined that potential project impacts would be mitigated to a less than significant level through incorporation of mitigation measures. A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Other materials which constitute the bases upon which the decision to adopt this Mitigated Negative Declaration are available for review at California State University, Stanislaus Library, One University Circle, Turlock, CA 95382. This document constitutes a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Signature: _____



Date: _____

7/20/09

Robert Gallegos, Associate Vice President Capital Planning & Facilities Management