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Cal Poly Announces Plan for New Student Housing Complex

Project Would Open in 2018 and Include New Welcome Center on Grand Avenue

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly today announced its intent to build new student residence facilities near the university's entrance on Grand Avenue, with completion slated for the 2018-19 academic year.

The new facilities will be built on what is now a large surface parking lot across Grand Avenue from existing student housing and be home for about 1,400 first-year students.

"Our students' success is our primary goal, and this planned residence hall is another step in helping ensure we meet that goal," said University President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. "Providing more university housing for our students is a high priority. Research has repeatedly shown that students who live on campus are more engaged, perform better academically and are more likely to stay enrolled and graduate on time."

Cal Poly currently has slightly more than 6,900 beds on campus. A recent market-demand study strongly suggested that there is student demand for about 10,300 beds in university housing. The new Grand Avenue plan would close more than one-third of the 3,400-bed gap. The project will be financed through the issuance of bonds that will be repaid from room rents as students occupy the new facility.

The project will include a new welcome center at what is one of the university's main entrances. A design team will be selected soon to begin initial design work for the project, which could also include a small parking structure at the far southeastern corner of the site to partially offset the loss of surface-lot parking.

The project and final plans will need the approval of the California State University system's board of trustees before the start of construction, which is tentatively set for 2015.

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