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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Lazier
805-756-7109; mlazier@calpoly.edu

Cal Poly Recirculates Grand Avenue Housing Project Environmental Report

Public Will Have Until March 31 to Review and Comment

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly is recirculating the draft environmental impact report for its First-Year Student Housing South project proposed for the campus’s Grand Avenue entrance and has announced that the public now will have until March 31 to comment on the draft.

The draft EIR is available online at http://afd.calpoly.edu/facilities/facp_index.asp and at the Kennedy Library on campus and the City/County Library in San Luis Obispo. Written comments may be sent to environmental consultant Nicole Carter at ncarter@swca.com or SWCA Environmental Consultants, 1422 Monterey St., C200, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Comments must be received by March 31. All comments received in the first public comment period and in the newly announced recirculation period will be addressed in the final EIR.

Cal Poly announced in May 2013 that it plans to build an approximately 1,430-bed student housing project on land that is now two large surface parking lots at Grand Avenue and Slack Street. A full draft EIR — outlining the impacts the project will have on the surrounding environment and ways those impacts can be lessened or avoided — was released in late November.

The university initially considered more than half a dozen sites on campus as possible locations for the project before deciding on the Grand Avenue location. After two public forums in November and December, at which some campus neighbors expressed concern over the project location, the university pledged to review all previously considered potential sites and examine two new ones.

Ultimately, the Grand Avenue site remained Cal Poly’s preferred location, because it will bring the greatest number of additional students onto campus at the lowest cost and will keep first-year residences to remain clustered in one area.

The recirculated draft EIR includes information on the two new sites the university considered.

Cal Poly is planning to present the project to the CSU board of trustees for approval in May. Construction is tentatively set to start in 2015, and the new residences are slated to open at the start of the 2018-19 academic year.

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