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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 12, 2013

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Cal Poly Extends Comment Period for Student Housing South Project Environmental Impact Report

SAN LUIS OBISPO — The public comment period on the draft environmental impact report (EIR) for the proposed First-Year Student Housing South Project at Cal Poly's Grand Avenue entrance has been extended by 15 days, the university announced.

The public comment period is extended to Jan. 24, from the previous Jan. 9 date.

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 5 p.m. Jan. 24, 2014.

Cal Poly continues to review university plans regarding location options for the First-Year Student Housing South project and anticipates announcing a final decision on the project in January.

Cal Poly in May announced plans to build a roughly 1,400-bed on-campus residence facility on what is now a large, underutilized parking lot at the Grand Avenue entrance. The plan also includes a 300- to 500-space parking garage.

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 held two public forums — on Nov. 6 and Dec. 2 — to share details with and field question and comments from members of the community regarding the project. On Dec. 2, several residents and city officials requested an extension to the EIR comment period.

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. The new residence hall would then be slated to open at the start of the 2018-19 academic year.

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