



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Large Scale Collaboration Center (LSCC) (SS-SC-24-02)

Program or Field Office: SLAC Site Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Menlo Park, California

Proposed Action Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to construct a new office building, the Large Scale Collaboration Center (LSCC), at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (SLAC). This is an update to the previous NEPA review that was conducted for the LSCC due to changes in the project scope that have been made since the previous analysis (SS-SC-19-01, dated 6/27/19).

The LSCC will be a one to two-story aboveground building between approximately 24,000 to 30,000 gross square feet (gsf). The proposed project site is along Loop Road within SLAC's central campus area, just north of the existing Building 137, and partially includes the Building 137 parking lot. The site's west portion is comprised primarily of an asphalt parking lot (Building 137 parking lot) and pedestrian marked paths, while the east portion was historically occupied by trailers (T-451, 452, 453, 270, 271, and 294) that were acquired in the 1980s and 1990s; these trailers were removed from the site within the past few years. Selective demolition of existing curb and asphalt will be required for the proposed building and reconfigured parking. The LSCC is to include an educational visualization lab of approximately 600 gsf.

No cultural resources were identified in the project area during records searches and an archaeological survey of the project area conducted on September 24, 2024, by archaeologists meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards in Archaeology from Stanford Heritage Services. Based on the survey findings, the level of development and conditions of the site, and the fact that the LSCC would be designed to be consistent with the existing landscape and built environment, the DOE determined that the LSCC would have no potential to affect historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Due to the site's existing conditions, level of development, and access to utilities, the project is being planned to avoid disturbance of as much existing parking as possible and to avoid extensive earthwork. The project would follow recommendations from the Construction Vibration and Acoustic Study that was prepared for the LSCC (Wilson Ihrig, April 2022), which identified mitigations to minimize potential vibration impacts through use of equipment and methods that minimize vibration (e.g., rubber-tired equipment or smaller lighter-weight equipment), implementation of vibration monitoring, development of a vibration monitoring and mitigation plan, and other best practices for vibration control. Soil disturbance, relocation, and disposal will occur in coordination with SLAC Environmental Protection and SLAC Waste Management. BMPs to minimize storm water contamination will be implemented in accordance with the site-wide or project-specific SWPPP. Nesting bird surveys will be conducted prior to tree removals occurring during nesting bird season (2/15-8/31) in accordance with the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Hydroseed or other plantings will comply with the requirements in SLAC's Landscape Vegetation and Planting Guidance. Per DOE Order 436.1A and DOE guidance, EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool ("EJScreen"), the Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), and the DOE Disadvantaged Community Reporter were consulted to identify nearby environmental justice communities. These resources did not identify neighboring environmental justice communities that would be impacted by SLAC's activities, including the construction of LSCC. All hazardous construction waste will be disposed of off-site and/or through SLAC Waste Management. While no archaeological deposits are anticipated, DOE plans to employ periodic and on-call monitoring for ground-disturbing construction activities associated with this project and would follow the protocols for work stoppage, resource identification, and agency and tribal communication as documented in SLAC's Inadvertent Discovery Plan for Cultural Resources in the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains or archaeological or cultural materials.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B1.15 – Support buildings
 - B1.23 – Demolition and disposal of buildings
 - B1.27 – Disconnection of utilities
 - B3.14 – Small-scale educational facilities
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For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts

on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

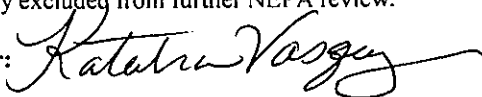
I concur that the above description accurately describes the proposed action.

SSO Program Point of Contact: **CHANH LAM** Digitally signed by CHANH LAM Date: 2024.11.20 07:40:27 -08'00' **Date:**

The above description accurately describes the proposed action, which reflects the requirements of the CX cited above. Therefore, I recommend that the proposed action be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

SSO NEPA Coordinator: **RISA BENWELL** Digitally signed by RISA BENWELL Date: 2024.11.20 07:35:58 -08'00' **Date:**

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: 

Date Determined: 11/20/2024