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Education

Architects sketch vision for future Sac State off-campus center in Placer One



Groundbreaking is still at least a couple years away, but the site plan and thinking behind the Sac State Placer Center master plan in the Placer One project have been fleshed out.

SASAKI



By **Ben van der Meer** – Senior Reporter, Sacramento Business Journal
Aug 30, 2023

With pending release of a draft environmental impact report, the future Placer County off-campus center for California State University Sacramento is on the verge of big steps.

Groundbreaking wouldn't happen until 2025 at the soonest for what will eventually be a 12,000-student **center for higher education** in the Placer One project. But the vision for what it will look like is well defined, according to Caitlyn Clauson, a campus planning principal with Boston design firm Sasaki.

"It's been a pretty incredible process of working on a free and clear site," Clauson said. "We took a lot of inspiration just from this setting."

Planned for 300 acres, the campus would be on what's now grassland and vernal pools northwest of Roseville. Clauson said those geographic attributes will be part of the landscape for the new campus.

The project will start with four buildings to serve about 1,500 students, including one to serve as a forensic lab in partnership with Placer County, a library and an administrative/academic building.

Clauson said the master plan includes places for expression, sustainability features such as all-electric buildings and net-positive water use, and about 1,200 beds of student housing on campus.

Tania Nuñez, Sac State's project manager, said California State University typically only has 6% to 8% of its student populations housed on campus, so 1,200 beds would be slightly above that percentage. There are also plans for staff and faculty housing.

Placer One **master developer** Taylor Builders is planning a town center east of campus that will include more student housing as well as retail and other development that logically sites near higher education. Sierra College is also planned to be part of the Placer campus, and the full build-out includes a conference center, wellness center and hotel, Nuñez said.

"Access and inclusion is a big theme in this master plan," she said, with a goal of making Sac State Placer Center a place that feels welcoming, for example, to students who use wheelchairs, with obvious ramps alongside staircases to get into buildings.

"Anyone that comes to this location is going to have this experience," she said. At build-out, Sac State Placer Center is planned to serve about 20,000 students, or 12,000 full-time equivalent students who take at least 15 units a semester, she said.

Five overarching goals are part of the master plan, Clauson said: supporting and increasing student access, realizing diversity, anchoring in partnerships with the community, building community and placemaking, and being a model for resilience and sustainability.

Nuñez said the California State University Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote on the master plan and the final environmental impact report in early 2024. Total first phase costs are estimated at \$200 million to \$250 million, she said.