

**Endorsement of Fresno State Improvement Zone (“Measure E”)  
The Bulldog Foundation  
November 16, 2023**

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Fresno State is to empower students for success through a transformative education rooted in active service with diverse communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Fresno State offers 72 bachelor degrees, 49 post-baccalaureate, and three doctoral programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Fresno State has 26 nationally accredited programs; among the highest in the CSU system; and

**WHEREAS**, 57% of Fresno State’s current undergraduate enrollment are students who graduated from high schools or community colleges within Fresno County; and

**WHEREAS**, Fresno State is among the top three public universities preparing the most K-12 teachers in the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, Fresno State was recently ranked No. 6 in the nation among public and private universities for social mobility by the Wall Street Journal; and

**WHEREAS**, Fresno State, with its prestigious R2 designation, is investing in applied research and sponsored programs resulting in grant awards in fiscal year 2022-23 of approximately \$70 million; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of State and CSU funding limitations, and to elevate the excellence of our flagship university, a group of local community leaders, operating independently of Fresno State, has organized and funded the effort to place “Fresno State Improvement Zone Measure” on the March 2024 ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure E would transform Fresno State’s teaching and learning environment fostering a world-class educational experience with while expanding access to nursing, agriculture, criminology, sciences, engineering and other academic programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure E would support Fresno State’s new Five-Year Strategic Plan which is focused on student success and academic excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure E will fund the highest priority capital projects for Fresno State including: critical infrastructure, health and safety, deferred maintenance and modernization of aged buildings, new academic buildings including a Concert Hall, Project Elevate (Athletics), student scholarships, internships, research, affordable student housing, parking facilities, and an endowment for maintenance of campus facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure E would add .25 percent per every dollar to County retail transactions, (equivalent to \$.01 cent on \$4). Measure E is projected to result in an estimated \$56 million annually – for a total of \$1.4 billion over the 25-year term; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure E includes the creation of a county Citizen Oversight Committee to ensure funding is used in accordance with the ballot measure which Committee will include an appointee from both Fresno State and the CSU Office of the Chancellor to ensure compliance with CSU policies and procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure E will have a significant economic impact for our Valley region by creating 27,000 additional jobs; generating \$5.7 billion of total economic output; and \$2.2 billion in additional labor income resulting in \$1.8 billion in additional employee compensation over the 25-year term.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of The Bulldog Foundation endorse and support the Fresno State Improvement Zone (Measure E) on Fresno County's March 2024 ballot.