

Vineland officials hoping to kick off industrial park project

Joseph P. Smith, Cherry Hill Courier-Post
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VINELAND — City officials in Vineland hope to start looking in a few months for contractors to raze the former West Campus of the Vineland Developmental Center.

The campus is to be turned into a roughly 60-acre industrial park to meet a long-standing shortage of developable land in Vineland. Anywhere from six to nine individual lots could be created within the site.

More immediately, Vineland council members are asking New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone Authority officials to release \$2.7 million from the city account. The money would pay for the demolition and some construction of infrastructure at the site.



A view of buildings on the closed West Campus of the Vineland Developmental Center. PHOTO: Feb. 21, 2021.

“The site is currently being engineered by CME,” Sandy Forosisky, the city economic development director, said Feb. 11. “We expect the first phase of demolition to go out to bid in March or April.”

On Feb. 10, city council members approved submitting a grant application to the New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone Authority. The money, if approved, would add to a pot the city has accumulated from different sources.

In 2023, United States Economic Development Administration officials approved a \$3 million grant for building water and sewer infrastructure. The city matched that grant.

New Jersey closed the West Campus in 2013. There are 17 buildings there and a small cemetery for patients. The developmental center still operates its East Campus.

The West Campus has road frontage along Almond Road and North Orchard Road. The state began accumulating land for it in the 1920s.

Approximately a year ago, Vineland council members successfully asked state authority officials for \$590,450 to pay for engineering infrastructure such as future roads, water service and sewer service.

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