

ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION CENTER PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Project

The University of California, Davis, proposes a project to construct and operate the Activities and Recreation Center (ARC), a replacement recreation field on the UC Davis campus, and minor alterations to Hickey Gymnasium to accommodate the gymnastics program.

The proposed 105,710 assignable square foot (ASF) ARC would be constructed on approximately 5.5 acres immediately north of the existing Recreation Hall. The ARC would be designed to complement the Recreation Hall and would accommodate student organization and recreation activities currently housed in the Recreation Hall and the Memorial Union (MU). In addition, it would provide space that is appropriately sized and located for student activities that are currently overcrowded or housed temporarily in various campus buildings. Specifically, the proposed facility would include space for student clubs and organizations, various court sports, indoor jogging, fitness activities, showers and lockers, food services, social activities, and a climbing wall.

The proposed project would also include construction of a 1.7-acre recreation field at the southwest corner of the intersection of La Rue Road and Hutchison Drive to replace the field displaced by the ARC facility. Minor alterations to Hickey Gymnasium would include the installation of pits in the floor of lower Hickey Gymnasium to accommodate the relocation of gymnastics equipment and enclosure of a porch on the northeast corner of the gym to increase linear space for a vault runway.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the proposed ARC are to: (1) expand sports and fitness recreation facilities to meet the needs of the expanding student population; (2) expand critical student activity space for meetings, club activities, the Cal Aggie Marching Band; (3) expand social activity space and create a student gathering center for this area of the campus; (4) link to the Recreation Hall; (5) be architecturally appropriate for the proposed uses and complementary to the Recreation Hall; and (6) provide outdoor recreation fields for student activities.

Environmental Review

In conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State and University of California guidelines for implementation of CEQA, a Draft Tiered Initial Study for the ARC has been prepared to identify and evaluate the environmental impacts of the project. In accordance with CEQA Sections 15152 and 15168(c), analyses and conclusions in the Draft Initial Study were tiered under the programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the 1994 UC Davis Long Range

Development Plan (LRDP) (State Clearinghouse #94022005) certified by The Regents in September 1994. The 1994 LRDP EIR has been revised by the: (1) 1997 UC Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Replacement Project EIR certified in March 1997 (State Clearinghouse #95123027 and #96072924); (2) UC Davis 1997-98 Major Capital Improvement Projects Supplemental EIR (State Clearinghouse #97122016); (3) Center for the Arts Performance Hall and South Entry Roadway and Parking Improvements Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse #98092016); (4) USDA Western Human Nutrition Research Center Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse #99092060); (5) Veterinary Medicine Laboratory and Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory Facilities Focused Tiered EIR (State Clearinghouse #2000022057), and (6) Genome and Biomedical Sciences Facility Focused Tiered EIR (State Clearinghouse #2000042028, pending approval). All references to the 1994 LRDP EIR include the 1994 LRDP EIR as supplemented and amended by the documents listed above.

Based on the Draft Tiered Initial Study, it has been determined that the project may incrementally contribute to, but not exceed, certain cumulative significant impacts previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR. However, most of these impacts would be reduced to a level that is clearly less than significant through implementation of mitigation measures identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR. The proposed project would incrementally contribute, but not exceed, significant and unavoidable impacts related to loss of prime agricultural land; reduced level of service at traffic intersections; increased noise levels; increased use of hazardous materials; loss of grassland habitat, decreased water quality, loss of groundwater recharge potential, increased demand for water from the deep aquifer, increased exposure to seismic ground shaking, potential loss of cultural resources, loss of rural character, increased demand for fire and police services, and contribution of school age children to the Davis Joint Unified School District. These significant and unavoidable impacts have been addressed in the Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations adopted by The Regents in connection with their approval of the 1994 LRDP EIR, as amended. Mitigation measures to reduce these cumulative impacts to a less-than-significant level are not within the jurisdiction of the University of California to enforce and monitor.

In addition, the analysis in the Draft Tiered Initial Study identified potential significant impacts associated with the project that were not identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR. Based on the Draft Tiered Initial Study, it has been determined that the proposed project could result in a project-specific impacts due to heavy traffic and parking demand during event conditions and potential impact to active burrowing owl nests if any owls were to move into the area prior to construction of the proposed recreation field. The proposed project includes mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Environmental Review and Comment

A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been deemed appropriate for this project. Copies of the Draft Tiered Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and the 1994 LRDP EIR may be obtained at the address below and are on file at Shields Library on the UC Davis campus, the Yolo County Library, 315 East 14th St., Davis, California, and the Fairfield-Suisun Community Library, 1150, Kentucky St., Fairfield, California. Written comments on the proposed action must be received at the address below by 5 p.m. on November 27, 2000.

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