



JOHN A. MEYER  
Vice Chancellor

OFFICE OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING  
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8678

January 25, 2007

State of California  
Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**NOTICE OF INTENT  
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**Project Title:** UC Davis Advanced Transportation Infrastructure Research Center

**Project Location:** University of California, Davis; 1,000 feet west of the intersection of Hopkins Road and Airport Road.

**County:** Yolo County

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 2100 et seq.), the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 Code of Regulations Section 1500 et seq.), and the University of California Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA, a Draft Tiered Initial Study for the above-named project was prepared (please see enclosure). The document identifies and evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. The campus proposes to prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.

**Project Description**

The UC Davis Advanced Transportation Infrastructure Research Center (ATIRC) project would provide a facility for two research programs: the Pavement Research Center (PRC) and the Advanced Highway Maintenance and Construction Technology Research Center (AHMCT).

The PRC is moving from UC Berkeley to UC Davis. Research at the PRC will be conducted in a variety of areas including geotechnical engineering, construction engineering and management, traffic engineering, material, mechanics, performance modeling, systems analysis and economics, information management, and planning. Undergraduate and graduate courses would be taught at the facility.

Investigators at the AHMCT conduct research on the methods for automating highway maintenance and construction activities for the purposes of improving highway safety, efficiency and safety of highway maintenance and construction activities, and reliability of highway infrastructure, and of minimizing congestion delays and minimizing the environmental impacts of highway maintenance and construction activities.

The four-acre ATIRC project includes (1) the construction of two paved test tracks for pavement testing and equipment evaluation; (2) construction of 42,800 gross square feet (gsf) (26,000 assignable square feet (asf)) of new buildings to provide laboratory space, offices, meeting rooms, and shop space; and (3) site development (parking areas, drainage facilities, access roads,

landscaping, lighting, and fencing) needed to support the proposed facilities. Construction of the proposed facilities would occur in phases with the first phase expected to start construction in late 2007 and future phases to be constructed as funding becomes available. The proposed project would increase the campus population by approximately 40 people (faculty and staff). The ATIRC project would be located on the West Campus at UC Davis approximately 1,000 feet west of the intersection of Hopkins Road and the Airport Road.

### **Environmental Review and Comment**

Based on the analysis presented in the Draft Tiered Initial Study, the campus proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project. Copies of the Draft Tiered Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are available during normal operating hours at the UC Davis Office of Resource Management and Planning in 376 Mrak Hall on the UC Davis campus; at Reserves in Shields Library on the UC Davis campus; at the Yolo County Public Library, 315 E. 14th Street, Davis; at the Vacaville Public Library, 1020 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville; and online at <http://www.ormp.ucdavis.edu/environreview/>.

We appreciate your prompt acknowledgement and review of this Draft Tiered Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, the document's 30-day review period will extend from January 25, 2007 through February 23, 2007. Comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. on February 23, 2007. They may be e-mailed to [environreview@ucdavis.edu](mailto:environreview@ucdavis.edu) or sent to:

John A. Meyer  
Vice Chancellor- Resource Management and Planning  
376 Mrak Hall  
University of California  
One Shields Avenue  
Davis, CA 95616

If you have any questions about the project, please contact Sid England, Director of Environmental Planning, at (530) 752-2432.

Sincerely,



John A. Meyer  
Vice Chancellor – Resource Management and Planning

Enclosures: 15 copies of the Draft Tiered Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration  
1 Notice of Completion and Environmental Document Transmittal Form

c: Notice of Intent, Notice of Completion and Environmental Document Transmittal Form, and  
Draft Tiered Initial Study sent to addresses on attached list

Form A

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

SCH # \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, PO Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 916/445-0613

Project Title: UC Davis Advanced Transportation Infrastructure Research Center

Lead Agency: University of California Contact Person: Sid England
Street Address: Office of Resource Management and Planning, UC Davis Phone: (530) 752-2432
City: Davis Zip: 95616 County: Yolo

Project Location:

County: Yolo City/Nearest Community: Davis
Cross Streets: Hopkins Road and Airport Road Zip Code: 95616 Total Acres: 4
Assessor's Parcel No. NA Section: 16 Twp. 8N Range: 2E Base: Mt. Diablo
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR 113 and I-80 Waterways: Putah Creek
Airports: University Airport Railways: Union Pacific Schools: Davis Joint Unified

Document Type:

CEQA: [ ] NOP [ ] Supplement/Subsequent EIR NEPA: [ ] NOI Other: [ ] Joint Document
[ ] Early Cons (Prior SCH No.) [ ] EA [ ] Final Document
[ x ] Neg Dec [ ] Other [ ] Draft EIS [ ] Other
[ ] Draft EIR [ ] FONSI

Local Action Type:

[ ] General Plan Update [ ] Specific Plan [ ] Rezone [ ] Annexation
[ ] General Plan Amendment [ ] Master Plan [ ] Prezone [ ] Redevelopment
[ ] General Plan Element [ ] Planned Unit Development [ ] Use Permit [ ] Coastal Permit
[ ] Community Plan [ ] Site Plan [ ] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) [ x ] Other Project Approval

Development Type:

[ ] Residential: Units \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Water Facilities: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD
[ ] Office: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Transportation: Type \_\_\_\_\_
[ ] Commercial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Mining: Mineral \_\_\_\_\_
[ ] Industrial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Power: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Watts \_\_\_\_\_
[ x ] Educational Research Buildings (43,000 sq.ft.) [ ] Waste Treatment: Type \_\_\_\_\_
[ ] Recreational \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Hazardous Waste: Type \_\_\_\_\_
[ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Funding (approx.): Federal \$ -- State \$ 5,000,000 Total \$ 5,000,000

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

[ x ] Aesthetic/Visual [ x ] Flood Plain/Flooding [ x ] Schools/Universities [ x ] Water Quality
[ x ] Agricultural Land [ x ] Forest Land/Fire Hazard [ x ] Septic Systems [ x ] Water Supply/Groundwater
[ x ] Air Quality [ x ] Geologic/Seismic [ x ] Sewer Capacity [ x ] Wetland/Riparian
[ x ] Archeological/Historical [ x ] Minerals [ x ] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading [ x ] Wildlife
[ ] Coastal Zone [ x ] Noise [ x ] Solid Waste [ x ] Growth Inducing
[ x ] Drainage/Absorption [ x ] Population/Housing Balance [ x ] Toxic/Hazardous [ x ] Landuse
[ ] Economic/Jobs [ x ] Public Services/Facilities [ x ] Traffic/Circulation [ x ] Cumulative Effects
[ ] Fiscal [ x ] Recreation/Parks [ x ] Vegetation [ ] Other \_\_\_\_\_

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Research Park-Low Density

Project Description:

See attached public notice.

**Reviewing Agencies Checklist**

Form A, continued

**KEY**  
**S** = Document sent by lead agency  
**X** = Document sent by SCH  
✓ = Suggested distribution

- Resources Agency**
- Boating & Waterways
- Coastal Commission
- Coastal Conservancy
- Colorado River Board
- SX** Conservation
- SX** Fish & Game
- Forestry & Fire Protection
- SX** Office of Historic Preservation
- Parks & Recreation
- Reclamation Board
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- SX** Water Resources (DWR)

**Business, Transportation & Housing**

- Aeronautics
- California Highway Patrol
- SX** CALTRANS District # 3
- Department of Transportation Planning (headquarters)
- SX** Housing & Community Development

**Food & Agriculture**

**Health & Welfare**

- Health Services \_\_\_\_\_

**State & Consumer Services**

- General Services
- OLA (Schools)

**Environmental Protection Agency**

- SX** Air Resources Board
- SX** California Waste Management Board
- SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
- SWRCB: Delta Unit
- SWRCB: Water Quality
- SWRCB: Water Rights
- SX** Regional WQCB # 5 ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

**Youth & Adult Corrections**

- Corrections


**Independent Commissions & Offices**

- Energy Commission
- SX** Native American Heritage Commission
- Public Utilities Commission
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- State Lands Commission
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- SX** Other  Yolo-Solano AQMD \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Review Period** (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date January 25, 2007

Ending Date February 23, 2007

Signature 

Date 1-24-07

**Lead Agency** (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**For SCH Use Only:**

Date Received at SCH \_\_\_\_\_

Date Review Starts \_\_\_\_\_

Date to Agencies \_\_\_\_\_

Date to SCH \_\_\_\_\_

**Clearance Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE UC DAVIS  
ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE RESEARCH CENTER**

**Proposed Project**

The UC Davis Advanced Transportation Infrastructure Research Center (ATIRC) project would provide a facility for two research programs: the Pavement Research Center (PRC) and the Advanced Highway Maintenance and Construction Technology Research Center (AHMCT).

The PRC is moving from UC Berkeley to UC Davis. Research at the PRC will be conducted in a variety of areas including geotechnical engineering, construction engineering and management, traffic engineering, material, mechanics, performance modeling, systems analysis and economics, information management, and planning. Undergraduate and graduate courses would be taught at the facility.

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**Project Objectives**

The proposed project would provide needed facilities for the ATIRC project. Objectives of the project include the following:

- Provide adequate laboratory and office space, vehicle development space, space for component fabrication, component and machine assembly, hydraulic system testing, mechanical, electrical and system integration, and indoor qualification testing.
- Provide two test tracks for pavement research and construction vehicle evaluation.
- Solve facility deficiency problems associated with the AHMCT.
- Relocate the AHMCT activities out of the central campus to eliminate the need for AHMCT to bring large vehicles to Walker Hall into the congested area of the core campus.
- Provide space for the Federal Highway Administration sponsored pavement deflection equipment calibration facility that would be relocated from Nevada to UC Davis.
- Consolidate the PRC and AHMCT Research Centers to facilitate a high level of efficiency, communication, and coordination to allow the programs to operate smoothly.

### **Environmental Review**

The Draft Tiered Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the ATIRC project were prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and state and University of California guidelines for implementing CEQA. The environmental analysis is tiered from the 2003 Long Range Development Plan (2003 LRDP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 2002102092). The 2003 LRDP and EIR are available for review during normal operating hours at the UC Davis Office of Resource Management and Planning in 376 Mrak Hall on the UC Davis campus; at Reserves in Shields Library on the UC Davis campus; at the Yolo County Public Library, 315 E. 14th Street, Davis; at the Vacaville Public Library, 1020 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville; and online at <http://www.ormp.ucdavis.edu/environreview/>.

The 2003 LRDP EIR is a Program EIR, prepared pursuant to Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq.) and Section 21080.09 of the Public Resources Code. The 2003 LRDP EIR analyzed full implementation of uses and physical development proposed under the 2003 LRDP through the year 2015-16 to accommodate a projected total enrollment level of 31,500 students and identified measures to mitigate the significant adverse project and cumulative impacts associated with that growth. The proposed project is within the scope of the campus development that was anticipated in the 2003 LRDP and evaluated in the 2003 LRDP EIR.

The Draft Tiered Initial Study for the ATIRC project is tiered from the 2003 LRDP EIR in accordance with Sections 15152 and 15168(d) of the CEQA Guidelines and Public Resource Code Section 21094. Based on the analysis presented in the Draft Tiered Initial Study, the ATIRC project could have a potentially significant project-specific noise impact that was not addressed in the 2003 LRDP EIR. The Tiered Initial Study includes a project specific mitigation measure to reduce the potential impact from test equipment noise to a less-than-significant level.

### **Public Review and Comment**

Based on the analysis in the Draft Tiered Initial Study, the campus has determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be prepared for this project. The public and agency review period for the Draft Tiered Initial Study will be from January 25, 2006 to February 23, 2007. Copies of the Draft Tiered Initial Study are available during normal operating hours at the UC Davis Office of Resource Management and Planning in 376 Mrak Hall on the UC Davis campus; at Reserves in Shields Library on the UC Davis campus; at the Yolo County Public Library, 315 E. 14th Street, Davis; at the Vacaville Public Library, 1020 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville; and online at <http://www.ormp.ucdavis.edu/environreview/>.

Comments on this Draft Tiered Initial Study must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 23, 2007. They may be e-mailed to [environreview@ucdavis.edu](mailto:environreview@ucdavis.edu) or mailed to:

John A. Meyer  
Vice Chancellor - Resource Management and Planning  
University of California  
One Shields Avenue  
376 Mrak Hall  
Davis, CA 95616

The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, along with any comments received by the above-listed deadline, will be considered by the University in conjunction with consideration of the project for approval. The Mitigated Negative Declaration will become final if adopted by the University.

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Asst. Vice President – Facilities Administration  
University of California, Office of the President  
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Office of the General Counsel of The Regents  
University of California  
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State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95801

State of California  
Native American Heritage Commission  
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
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Sacramento, CA 95814-2828

Solano County Department  
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675 Texas Street, Suite 5500 (5<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
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County Clerk  
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Sue O'Leary  
Permitting and Inspection Branch, MS #15  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
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Sacramento, California 95812-4025

Jim Hockenberry  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Clean Water Programs  
P.O. Box 944212  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2120

The Honorable Lois Wolk  
California State Assembly  
State Capital  
Sacramento, CA 95814