



JOHN A. MEYER
Vice Chancellor

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

February 24, 2006

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

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

Project Title: UC Davis Equestrian Center Improvements

Project Location: University of California, Davis; central campus south of Garrod Drive and west of University Arboretum

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 Negative Declaration for the project.

Project Description

The proposed Equestrian Center Improvement project would upgrade the existing UC Davis Equestrian Center by providing:

- A covered arena of approximately 45,000 gross square feet (gsf);
- Stormwater drains, concrete curbing to divert water, a stormwater detention basin, and associated land grading to capture stormwater runoff from the existing equestrian confined animal facilities and transport the runoff to the campus wastewater treatment system; and,
- Replacement of existing pens, fences, and small ancillary structures that are in a deteriorated condition.

The project would take place on approximately 25 acres currently used by the UC Davis Equestrian Center in the southwest portion of the UC Davis Central Campus adjacent to the junction of Interstate 80 and State Route 113. The proposed arena would provide an all-weather practice and teaching facility. The drainage improvements would improve the

water quality of stormwater runoff. The replacement of existing ancillary facilities is needed to overcome deteriorated conditions caused by normal wear and tear and by deferred maintenance. Construction is expected to take 4 to 9 months and will begin in the summer of 2006.

Environmental Review and Comment

Based on the analysis presented in the Draft Tiered Initial Study, the campus proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration for the proposed project. Copies of the Draft Tiered Initial Study and proposed 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 Negative Declaration. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, the document's 30-day review period will extend from February 24, 2006 through March 27, 2006. Comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. on March 27, 2006. They may be e-mailed to 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 or Rick Keller, Assistant Vice Chancellor – Capital Resource Management, at (530) 752-2433.

Sincerely,



John A. Meyer
Vice Chancellor – Resource Management and Planning

Enclosures: 15 copies of the Draft Tiered Initial Study and Proposed 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: Equestrian Center Improvements

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: South of Garrod Drive. Zip Code: 95616 Total Acres: 25
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 _____
[] Educational _____ [] Waste Treatment: Type _____
[x] Recreational Training and Recreation: Equestrian [] Hazardous Waste: Type _____
[] Other: _____

Funding (approx.): Federal \$ -- State \$ -- Total \$ 3,800,000

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:

Academic and Administrative

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
- Conservation
- Fish & Game
- Forestry & Fire Protection
- Office of Historic Preservation
- Parks & Recreation
- Reclamation Board
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- Water Resources (DWR)

Business, Transportation & Housing

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

Food & Agriculture

Health & Welfare

- Health Services

State & Consumer Services

- General Services
- OLA (Schools)

Environmental Protection Agency

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

Youth & Adult Corrections

- Corrections

Independent Commissions & Offices

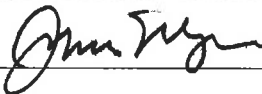
- Energy Commission
- Native American Heritage Commission
- Public Utilities Commission
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- State Lands Commission
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

- Other Yolo-Solano AQMD

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

Starting Date February 24, 2006

Ending Date March 27, 2006

Signature 

Date 2/23/06

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 NEGATIVE DECLARATION UC DAVIS EQUESTRIAN CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed Project

The proposed Equestrian Center Improvement project would upgrade the existing UC Davis Equestrian Center by providing:

- A covered arena of approximately 45,000 gross square feet (gsf);
- Stormwater drains, concrete curbing to divert water, a stormwater detention basin, and associated land grading to capture stormwater runoff from the existing equestrian confined animal facilities and transport the runoff to the campus wastewater treatment system; and,
- Replacement of existing pens, fences, and small ancillary structures that are in a deteriorated condition.

The project would take place on approximately 25 acres currently used by the UC Davis Equestrian Center in the southwest portion of the UC Davis Central Campus adjacent to the junction of Interstate 80 and State Route 113. The proposed arena would provide an all-weather practice and teaching facility. The drainage improvements would improve the water quality of stormwater runoff. The replacement of existing ancillary facilities is needed to overcome deteriorated conditions caused by normal wear and tear and by deferred maintenance. Construction is expected to take 4 to 9 months and will begin in the summer of 2006.

Project Objectives

The proposed project would provide needed equestrian facilities and needed drainage improvements for the Equestrian Center site. Objectives of the project include the following:

- Provide efficient drainage to capture stormwater drainage from confined animal spaces and convey the stormwater to the campus wastewater treatment plant.
- Improve existing facilities at the Equestrian Center to allow continued use of an important student resource within the central campus.
- Provide a covered facility for Equestrian Center practice, training, and classes.

Environmental Review

The Draft Tiered Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration for the Equestrian Center Improvements 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 Equestrian Center Improvements 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 Equestrian Center Improvements will have no significant project or cumulative impacts that were not addressed in the 2003 LRDP EIR. No project-specific mitigation measures are identified and no project-specific mitigation measures are proposed.

Public Review and Comment

Based on the analysis in the Draft Tiered Initial Study, the campus has determined that a Negative Declaration will be prepared for this project. The public and agency review period for the Draft Tiered Initial Study will be from February 24, 2006 to March 27, 2006. 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 March 27, 2006. They may be e-mailed to 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 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 Negative Declaration will become Final if adopted by the University.

Michael J. Bocchicchio
Asst. Vice President – Facilities Administration
University of California, Office of the President
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Oakland, CA 94607-5200

James E. Holst
Office of the General Counsel of The Regents
University of California
300 Lakeside Drive, 7th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-3550

Phil Zeniner
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
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2828

Solano County Department
of Environmental Management
601 Texas Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

Rosanne Taylor
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Sacramento, CA 95814

Katherine Eastham
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Sacramento, CA 95833-4321

State of California
Office of Planning and Research
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Sacramento, CA 95814 (15 copies)

County Clerk
County of Yolo
625 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695 (notice only)

Hans Kreuzberg
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Craig Stowers
Department of Fish & Game
7400 Hendon Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

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Fairfield, CA 94533

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State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Clean Water Programs
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The Honorable Lois Wolk
California State Assembly
State Capital
Sacramento, CA 95814