

Finding of No Significant Impact

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), codified at 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for the University of California, Davis research project Forensic DNA Research and Development Program in Davis, California. This project is subject to NEPA review because it is being funded, in part, with federal funding available from the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the University of California, Davis would develop a DNA-based multi-species identification and quantification assay for forensic samples. The assay would be designed specifically for low-quality sources of DNA, or environmentally challenged samples and would evaluate the usefulness of the sample for further nuclear genetic analysis, such as paternity or microsatellite (STR) genotyping. The project would take place in an existing building and would involve no construction or alteration to the physical environment. The research project would use chemicals that are commonly used in biological research laboratories and would follow all requirements of the UC Davis Office Environmental Health and Safety related to the use, transport, and disposal of hazardous chemicals.

Project Location

The proposed project would be located at the Molecular Anthropology Laboratory, University of California, Davis, Young Hall, Davis, California.

Findings

The Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice has determined that the University of California Davis's Forensic DNA Research and Development Program would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Less than significant impacts would occur from chemical use. Therefore, it has been determined that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and that it is not expected that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for this proposal.

Public Comments

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the Environmental Assessment from, or may submit written comments relating to this Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the following address: Sid England, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability; 376 Mrak Hall, UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616.