

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS
IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DESIGN OF THE
NEES CENTRIFUGE SUPPORT BUILDING, DAVIS CAMPUS**

I. ADOPTION OF THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION

In accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15074, the Facilities and Enterprise Policy Committee (FEPC) of the University of California, Davis campus (the campus), pursuant to authority delegated from the Board of Regents of the University of California (The Regents), hereby finds that the Negative Declaration and the Tiered Initial Study prepared for the proposed NEES Centrifuge Support Building (the project) have been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq. (CEQA). The FEPC further finds that it received the Negative Declaration, Tiered Initial Study, comments received during the public review process, and responses to these comments, and it reviewed and considered the information contained in these items prior to approving the project. The FEPC hereby finds that the Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the University of California, and the FEPC adopts the Negative Declaration.

II. FINDINGS

The FEPC hereby adopts the following Findings pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15074, in conjunction with the approval of the project, which is set forth in Section III.

A. Background

UC Davis proposes to construct and operate a new 4,720 gross square foot building to support research activities at the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) Centrifuge site. The building would be located adjacent to the existing centrifuge facility near the hydraulics laboratory west of Brooks Road on the west campus. The proposed building would include space for offices, a conference and computer area, and space for preparing testing materials. The building is expected to be constructed on a concrete foundation with a steel frame structure, metal panel sheathing, and a metal panel roof. Project elements surrounding the building would include a new gravel area for employee parking, a new gravel entrance drive, and a new septic system.

Centrifuge modeling is a valuable tool for studying the effects of ground shaking on critical structures without risking public safety. The centrifuge applies an increased gravitational acceleration to physical models in order to produce identical self-weight stresses in the models and prototypes. Centrifuge model testing provides data to improve the understanding of soil deformation and failure and provides useful benchmarks to verify numerical models.

B. Environmental Review Process

A Tiered Initial Study was prepared for the project in accordance with CEQA and the University of California Procedures for Implementation of CEQA. The Initial Study for the project, in accordance with Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines, is tiered from the campus 1994 Long Range Development Plan (1994 LRDP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 94022005), as updated and revised by the 1997 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Replacement Project EIR (State Clearinghouse Nos. 95123027 and 96072024),

1997-98 Major Capital Improvement Projects Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 97122016), Center for the Arts Performance Hall and South Entry Roadway and Parking Improvements Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 98092016), USDA Western Human Nutrition Research Center Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 99092060), and Veterinary Medicine Laboratory and Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory Facilities Focused Tiered EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2000022057). Hereafter, references to the 1994 LRDP EIR include the 1994 LRDP EIR as updated and revised by the documents listed above.

The project is part of the physical development proposed in the 1994 LRDP, therefore, the environmental analysis for the project is presented and analyzed within the context of the 1994 LRDP and incorporates by reference applicable portions of the 1994 LRDP EIR. The 1994 LRDP EIR, which is a program EIR pursuant to Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines, analyzes the overall effects of campus growth and facility developments through 2005-06 and identifies measures to mitigate the significant adverse project impacts and cumulative impacts associated with that growth.

As a tiered document, the Initial Study for the project relies on the 1994 LRDP EIR for: (1) a discussion of general background and setting information for environmental topic areas; (2) overall growth-related issues; (3) issues that were evaluated in sufficient detail in the 1994 LRDP EIR for which there are no significant new information or changes in circumstances that would require further analysis; and (4) cumulative impacts. The purpose of the Tiered Initial Study was to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the project with respect to the existing 1994 LRDP EIR analysis in order to determine what level of additional environmental review, if any, would be appropriate.

The Tiered Initial Study analyzes the potential impacts of the project and the adequacy of the existing environmental analysis in the 1994 LRDP EIR with regard to the following environmental topic areas: (1) land use and planning, (2) agricultural resources, (3) population and housing, (4) transportation/circulation, (5) noise, (6) air quality, (7) hazards and hazardous materials, (8) biological resources, (9) hydrology and water quality, (10) geology and soils, (11) mineral resources, (12) cultural resources, (13) aesthetics, (14) public services, (15) recreation, and (16) utilities and service systems.

Based on the analysis contained in the Tiered Initial Study, it is determined that for all resource areas, the project would not result in any significant impacts that would not be mitigated to less-than-significant levels by previously adopted 1994 LRDP mitigation measures incorporated into the project or are not sufficiently addressed by the 1994 LRDP EIR. The campus found that the project may incrementally contribute to, but would not exceed, significant environmental impacts previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR. Based on this analysis, the campus prepared a Negative Declaration.

The project's Draft Tiered Initial Study was submitted to the State Clearinghouse in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and circulated for a 30-day public review period beginning on October 12, 2001 and concluding on November 13, 2001. During that time, the document was reviewed by various state and local agencies, as well as by interested individuals and organizations. At the close of the comment period, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research provided communication indicating that no comment letters were received from State

agencies. No comment letters were received from any other agencies or from members of the public.

C. Relation of the Project to the 1994 LRDP EIR

All mitigation measures in the 1994 LRDP EIR adopted by The Regents that are relevant to the project, as identified in the project's Tiered Initial Study, as well as all project components described in the Tiered Initial Study, are included in the Approval and incorporated into the project.

The project is consistent with the campus 1994 LRDP. The 1994 LRDP EIR identified potentially significant environmental impacts resulting from implementation of LRDP development, and included mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of such development to the extent feasible. Despite the adoption of all feasible mitigation measures by The Regents, some 1994 LRDP impacts remained significant. These significant and unavoidable impacts were fully addressed in the Findings and Overriding Considerations adopted by The Regents in connection with its approval of the 1994 LRDP, as subsequently amended. There are no changed circumstances, no new information, and no new mitigation measures identified since the preparation of these documents that require reanalysis of cumulative impacts.

None of the conditions described in CEQA or the CEQA Guidelines calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred. The Tiered Initial Study does not identify any issues or include any information concerning new significant effects on the environment or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects analyzed in the 1994 LRDP EIR.

D. Incorporation by Reference

These Findings incorporate by reference in their entirety the text of the Tiered Initial Study and Negative Declaration prepared for the project; the 1994 LRDP; the 1994 LRDP EIR; the WWTP Replacement Project EIR; the 1997-98 Major Capital Improvement Projects SEIR; the Center for the Arts Performance Hall and South Entry Roadway and Parking Improvements Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration; the USDA Western Human Nutrition Research Center Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration; the Veterinary Medicine Laboratory and Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory Facilities Focused Tiered EIR; and the Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations adopted by The Regents in connection with its certification with the 1994 LRDP EIR, the WWTP Replacement Project EIR, the 1997-98 Major Capital Improvement Projects, and the Veterinary Medicine Laboratory and Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory Facilities Focused Tiered EIR. Without limitation, this incorporation is intended to elaborate on the scope and nature of project and cumulative impacts, related mitigation measures, and the basis for determining the significance of such impacts.

E. Mitigation Monitoring Program

CEQA requires the Lead Agency approving a project to adopt a monitoring program for changes to the project that it adopts or incorporates into the project in order to ensure compliance during project implementation. Implementation of mitigation measures incorporated into the project that were previously adopted by The Regents for the 1994 LRDP EIR will be monitored pursuant to

the mitigation monitoring program adopted by The Regents in connection with its approval of the 1994 LRDP, as subsequently amended.

F. Record of Proceedings

Various documents and other materials constitute the record of proceedings upon which the FEPC bases its findings and decisions contained herein. Most documents related to this project are located in the campus Office of Resource Management and Planning, University of California, One Shields Avenue, 376 Mrak Hall, Davis, California 95616. The record of proceedings for the 1994 LRDP approval is also located in the Office Resource Management and Planning. The custodian for these two records of proceedings is the Office of Resource Management and Planning.

G. Summary

Based on the foregoing Findings and the information contained in the record, the FEPC has made one or more of the following Findings with respect to the project:

1. Previously adopted 1994 LRDP mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project. These measures mitigate to a less-than-significant level or avoid the potentially significant environmental effects of the project as identified in the Tiered Initial Study. No significant effects would occur beyond those effects previously identified and adequately analyzed in the 1994 LRDP EIR, as updated and revised.
2. There is no substantial evidence in the record as a whole that the project as proposed may have a significant effect on the environment that was not previously identified and adequately analyzed in the 1994 LRDP EIR, as updated and revised.

III. APPROVAL

The UC Davis Facilities and Enterprise Policy Committee hereby takes the following actions:

- A. Adopts the Negative Declaration for the project as described in Section I, above.
- B. Approves and incorporates into the project all project elements and all relevant, previously adopted 1994 LRDP EIR mitigation measures identified in the project's Tiered Initial Study.
- C. Adopts the Findings in their entirety as set forth in Section II, above.
- D. Approves the design of the NEES Centrifuge Support Building, Davis campus.

January 24, 2002

Date

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