



JOHN A. MEYER  
Vice Chancellor

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

October 12, 2001

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

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

**Project Title:** NEES Centrifuge Support Building

**Project Location:** University of California, Davis; west of Brooks Road near the hydraulics laboratory

**County:** Yolo

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**

UC Davis proposes to construct and operate an approximately 4,700 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 would 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 tool for studying the effects of ground shaking on critical structures. 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 benchmarks to verify numerical models.

## Environmental Review and Comment

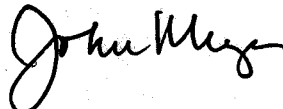
Based on the analysis presented in the Draft Tiered Initial Study, the campus proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration for the proposed project. Copies of the Draft Tiered Initial Study are available during normal operating hours at the UC Davis Office of Resource Management and Planning in 376 Mrak 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 October 12, 2001 to November 13, 2001. Comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. on November 13, 2001. 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, UC Davis Environmental Planner, at (530) 752-2432.

Sincerely,



John A. Meyer  
Vice Chancellor  
Office of 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

Michael J. Bocchicchio  
Asst. Vice President – Facilities Administration  
University of California, Office of the President  
1111 Franklin Street 6<sup>th</sup> Floor #6201  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

James E. Holst  
Office of the General Counsel of The Regents  
University of California  
300 Lakeside Drive, 7<sup>th</sup> 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  
400 P Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 94814

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

Steve Olive  
Department of Conservation  
801 K Street, MS-24-02  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Jeffery Pulverman  
Caltrans, District 3  
703 B Street  
Marysville, CA 95901

State of California  
Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
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

Country Clerk  
County of Solano  
600 Texas Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533

Bill Emlen  
City of Davis  
Community Development Director  
23 Russell Boulevard  
Davis, CA 95616 (3 copies)

John Bencome  
Planning Department  
County of Yolo  
292 West Beamer Street  
Woodland, CA 95695

Christopher Manske  
Solano County Planning  
601 Texas Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533

Thomas To  
Yolo County Department of Public Health  
Environmental Health Services  
10 Cottonwood Street  
Woodland, CA 95695

Environmental Services  
Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Wayne White  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
2800 Cottage Way #W-2605  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1888

Larry Green  
Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District  
1947 Galileo Court, Suite 103  
Davis, CA 95616

Richard McHenry  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality  
Control Board  
3443 Routier Road  
Sacramento, CA 95827-3098

Russell Huck  
Environmental Management Branch  
Department of Health Services  
P.O. Box 942732  
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320

Peter Venturini  
Air Resources Board  
2020 L Street  
Sacramento, CA 95815

Sue O'Leary  
Permitting and Inspection Branch, MS #15  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
1001 I Street  
PO Box 4025  
Sacramento, California 95812-4025

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

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: NEES Centrifuge Support Building

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: West of Brooks Road Zip Code: 95616 Total Acres: 0.5
Assessor's Parcel No. NA Section: 18 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
[ ] Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
[ ] Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
[ ] Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
[ x ] Educational 4,720 sq. ft.; 0.5 acres; no new employees
[ ] Recreational
[ ] Water Facilities: Type MGD
[ ] Transportation: Type
[ ] Mining: Mineral
[ ] Power: Type Watts
[ ] Waste Treatment: Type
[ ] Hazardous Waste: Type
[ ] Other:

Funding (approx.): Federal \$ -- State \$ -- Total \$ 900,000

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 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**

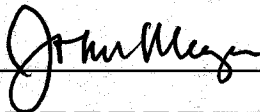
- Energy Commission
- SX Native American Heritage Commission
- Public Utilities Commission
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- State Lands Commission
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

- SX Other Yolo-Solano AQMD \_\_\_\_\_

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

Starting Date October 12, 2001

Ending Date November 13, 2001

Signature 

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

**For SCH Use Only:**

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

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

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

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

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

Notes:

**Applicant:** UC Davis

Address: See contact information above.

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**UC DAVIS NETWORK FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING SIMULATION (NEES)**  
**CENTRIFUGE SUPPORT BUILDING**

**Proposed Project**

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.

**Objectives for the Centrifuge Support Building**

- Provide sufficient indoor space (offices, laboratory area, and conference space) for centrifuge researchers to conduct on-site research.
- Provide sufficient indoor space to house computerized centrifuge monitoring, data acquisition, and evaluation equipment.
- Provide sufficient indoor space for research collaboration.

**Environmental Review**

The Draft Tiered Initial Study for the NEES Centrifuge Support Building was prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and state and University of California guidelines for implementation of CEQA. The environmental analysis is tiered from the 1994 LRDP EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 94022005), as updated and revised by a number of subsequent documents. Specifically, the 1994 LRDP EIR was updated and revised by the 1997 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Replacement Project EIR (State Clearinghouse Nos. 95123027 and 96072024), the 1997-98 Major Capital Improvement Projects Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 97122016), the Center for the Arts Performance Hall and South Entry Roadway and Parking Improvements Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 98092016), the USDA Western Human Nutrition Research Center Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 99092060), and the Veterinary Medicine Laboratory and Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory Facilities Focused Tiered EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2000022057). These documents 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/> (technical appendices are not available online). A document summarizing amendments to the 1994 LRDP and revisions to the 1994 LRDP EIR also is available online and is included as an appendix to the NEES Centrifuge Support Building Draft Tiered Initial Study.

The 1994 LRDP EIR, as updated and revised, is a Program EIR, prepared pursuant to Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq.). The 1994 LRDP EIR analyzed full implementation of uses and physical development proposed under the 1994 LRDP through the year 2005-06 and identified measures to mitigate the significant adverse project and cumulative impacts associated with that growth.

The Draft Tiered Initial Study for the NEES Centrifuge Support Building is tiered from the 1994 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, it has been determined that the project may incrementally contribute to, but would 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 may incrementally contribute to, but would not exceed, certain significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR. These impacts are related to: intersection level of service, increased noise sources, construction air pollutants, criteria air emissions, use and disposal of hazardous materials, development on potentially contaminated sites, demand for emergency response, loss of ruderal/annual grassland, receiving water quality, groundwater recharge, demand for water from the deep aquifer, seismic effects, loss of cultural resources, loss of rural character, demand on City of Davis fire and police protection services. The analysis in the Draft Tiered Initial Study concluded that for these significant and unavoidable impacts, no mitigation measures other than those previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR are required. Mitigation measures to reduce many of these significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts to less-than-significant levels are available but are not within the jurisdiction of the University of California to enforce and monitor. These significant and unavoidable impacts were adequately analyzed in the 1994 LRDP EIR (as revised) and fully addressed in the Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations adopted by The Regents in connection with its approval of the 1994 LRDP and certification of the 1994 LRDP EIR, as revised. There are no changed circumstances since the preparation of these documents that require reanalysis of cumulative impacts.

The analysis in the Draft Tiered Initial Study identifies that the proposed project would not result in any project-specific impacts that were not sufficiently addressed and mitigated by the 1994 LRDP EIR, as revised. 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 NEES Centrifuge Support Building Draft Tiered Initial Study will be from October 12 to November 13, 2001. 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 November 13, 2001. They may be e-mailed to [environreview@ucdavis.edu](mailto:environreview@ucdavis.edu) or mailed to:

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