

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION DETERMINATION RECREATION HALL SEISMIC RENOVATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The UC Davis campus (the campus) proposes the Recreation Hall Seismic Renovation Project (proposed project). The project would provide seismic correction for the Recreation Hall, a multi-level sports facility covering approximately 5,871 square feet of ground and including a total of approximately 145,681 gross square feet (92,862 assignable square feet [asf]). The Recreation Hall is located in the central campus, east of La Rue Road and the Colleges at La Rue student housing complex, north of an intramural sports field and Hutchison Drive, and west of the baseball diamond. The project is located south of an intramural sports field that is the future site of the approved Activities and Recreation Center (expected occupancy in spring of 2004).

The Recreation Hall seismic renovation would include the addition of tension cross-bracing along the length of the outer three bays on each side of the Recreation Hall. In 1998, the Recreation Hall was given a seismic rating of "Very Poor" because the Recreation Hall's Vierendeel truss roof lacks the ability to behave as an adequate horizontal diaphragm. During a seismic event, this could result in weld fractures at the truss joints or buckling in the truss members, leading to a potential gravity failure in the roof structure. The proposed project would provide a seismic strengthening of the Recreation Hall's roof to achieve a seismic rating of "Good".

The proposed project would provide necessary structural improvements with a minimum of added weight. A total of ninety braces within the lower horizontal plane of the truss would be used for the retrofit, each constituting two parallel 3/4-inch diameter cables installed in an X-pattern. The cables would be attached through gusset plates welded to the underside of the bottom chord.

The proposed project would cause very little disturbance to the existing building and its occupants. The majority of the disruption would occur during removal and replacement of the suspended ceiling at the outer two bays along the building perimeter and from the relocation of lighting and/or mechanical elements at the inner-most bays. Sports programs that would be disturbed by construction would be temporarily relocated.

Construction is expected to begin in May 2002 and last 14 months. Construction staging for the proposed project would occur southwest of the Recreation Hall on a portion of the adjacent intramural sports field that is not regularly used. Access off La Rue Road would be provided by a small construction access road built as part of the Activities and Recreation Center project. The construction staging area would be restored after construction is complete and the access road would be removed and restored. Contractor parking would be minimal and would be located in the vacant field located south of Hutchison Drive and west of La Rue Road (designated in the 1994 Long Range Development Plan [LRDP] for future Physical Education, Intercollegiate Athletics, and Recreation use).

PROJECT DETERMINATION

In compliance with the State Guidelines and University of California procedures for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), UC Davis reviewed

the proposed project. The proposed project was determined generally exempt from CEQA under Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15061 (b)(3), and categorically exempt under Sections 15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities) and 15304 (Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land).

The proposed project is covered by the general rule that CEQA does not apply to activities where there is no possibility that a significant effect on the environment could occur (Section 15061). The proposed project would involve interior seismic correction to an existing building. No component of the project would have a significant impact the environment.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 because it includes minor alterations of an existing structure involving no expansion of existing use. The seismic corrections would occur inside the Recreation Hall and would not significantly disturb outside land or operations. The project would also cause very little disturbance to the existing building and its occupants.

The proposed project is also categorically exempt under Section 15304 because construction staging and contractor parking would consist of minor and temporary alterations in the condition of small parcels of land, but would not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. To accommodate parking and manage stormwater runoff, the contractor parking area (not within a waterway, wetland, officially designated scenic area, or officially mapped area of severe geologic hazard) would be graded with a slope of less than 10 percent. Construction staging and contractor parking for the proposed project would have negligible effects on the environment.

None of the exceptions to categorical exemptions presented in Section 15300.2 apply to the proposed project. The proposed Recreation Hall Seismic Renovation Project would not be located in an area where an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern is designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by a federal, state, or local agency (Section 15300.2 [a]). No significant cumulative impacts associated with successive projects of the same type in the same place over time are anticipated (Section 15300.2 [b]). There are no unusual circumstances present that produce a reasonable possibility that the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment (Section 15300.2 [c]). In addition, the project is not located near a scenic highway (Section 15300.2 [d]), a hazardous waste site (Section 15300.2 [e]), nor any historical resources (Section 15300.2 [f]).

In conclusion, it is determined that the Recreation Hall Seismic Renovation Project is exempt from CEQA and no further environmental review is necessary. The proposed project incorporates all relevant mitigation measures from the 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 the Veterinary Medicine Laboratory and Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory Facilities Focused Tiered EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2000022057).

Having reviewed and considered the environmental analysis presented above, pursuant to authority delegated from the Board of Regents of the University of California, I hereby approve the Recreation Hall Seismic Renovation.

Signed _____ Date _____

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