

# SCIENCES LABORATORY BUILDING AND LECTURE HALL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**Lead Agency:** University of California

**Project Proponent:** University of California, Davis

**Project Location:** Yolo County; UC Davis central campus; north of Hutchison Drive between Haring Hall and Briggs Hall

**Project Description:** The proposed project includes the construction and operation of a three-story, approximately 140,000 gross square foot Sciences Laboratory Building and a one-story, approximately 12,000 gross square foot Lecture Hall. The project would also include the reassignment of uses currently occupying six existing buildings on campus.

The proposed Sciences Laboratory Building would provide modern facilities to meet the current and planned instructional program needs in the biological and physical sciences. The building would allow uses currently occupying several outdated and inadequate spaces in the central campus to be relocated to the new building, thereby consolidating teaching facilities and allowing for future flexibility and expansion of classes consistent with projected enrollments. Once uses are moved to the new building, released class laboratory space would be converted primarily to office and laboratory research space and other academic support functions to meet critical research and support space needs. The Lecture Hall would be designed to serve a variety of academic disciplines and types of instruction.

**Mitigation Measures:** As identified in the Tiered Initial Study for the project, the project incorporates the three following project-specific mitigation measures, in addition to relevant mitigation measures from the 1994 Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report.

- 1. Transportation and Parking Services shall implement attendant-assisted (i.e., stacked parking) for Parking Lot 25 and Parking Lot 41 until such time as new parking facilities are added to the campus parking inventory.*
- 2. Prior to demolition of Haring Barn, the campus shall conduct a pre-demolition survey during the time when bats would be expected to be present and active (i.e., early April) to determine the presence of roosting bats. If no evidence exists that bats are roosting in the barn, then no further mitigation is required.*

3. *If roosting bats are determined to be present, and prior to demolition of Haring Barn, the campus shall provide for a replacement roosting facility, in the form of either a bat house or several bat boxes, immediately adjacent to Haring Barn, to the extent feasible. Based on recommendation from a bat specialist, appropriate bat exclusion devices shall be installed at Haring Barn to prevent roosting bats from being in the facility when demolition occurs. The replacement roosting facility shall be monitored periodically until demolition activities are completed to document bat utilization.*

**Incorporation by Reference:** This Mitigated Negative Declaration incorporates by reference in their entirety the text of the Tiered Initial Study 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 Overriding Considerations adopted by The Regents in connection with the 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.

**Determination:** In accordance with CEQA, a Tiered Initial Study has been prepared by the UC Davis campus that evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed project. On the basis of the project's Tiered Initial Study the campus found that the proposed project may incrementally contribute to, but not exceed, certain cumulative significant impacts previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR, and that for such impacts, no new mitigation measures, other than those previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR, are required. In addition, the proposed project may result in potentially significant impacts not previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR, but proposed project-specific mitigation measures would reduce the effect of such impacts to a point that clearly no significant impacts would occur. On the basis of the Tiered Initial Study and implementation of all proposed project-specific mitigation measures, there is no substantial evidence that the project as mitigated may have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact report is not required.

**Public Review:** In accordance with Section 15073 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Draft Tiered Initial Study for the project was circulated for a 30-day public and agency review from March 6 to April 4, 2001. Comments received during the review period and responses to these comments are presented in the Tiered Initial Study.