



JOHN A. MEYER
Vice Chancellor

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

July 5, 2005

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

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

Project Title: UC Davis Steam Expansion Phase 1

Project Location: University of California, Davis; south of Hutchison Drive and east of Dairy Road

County: Yolo County

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 Code of Regulations Section 15000 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 Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.

Project Description

UC Davis proposes to construct and operate the Steam Expansion Phase 1 project to add heating and cooling capacity to meet projected campus needs for steam production through 2011. In addition, the project would increase the reliability of the steam plant by providing sufficient capacity to allow for routine maintenance, unexpected shutdowns, and exceptional peaks in heating and cooling demand. The available capacity of the existing steam system is currently exceeded, requiring reserve capacity to be used to meet peak system demands. At the present time, the reliability of the existing system is low because if one of the primary steam boilers fails during a period of peak demand, there is no backup unit in reserve to maintain the necessary level of service. Major maintenance for the boilers at this time must be limited to work which can be completed during off-peak periods. If a boiler did fail during a period of peak demand, it would impact not only routine building heating and cooling, but also would affect important laboratory equipment functions and the maintenance of research materials critically dependent upon continued refrigeration.

Campus operations are critically dependent on the steam plant and the system must be expanded to meet the service demands of new campus facilities and programs. The Steam Expansion Phase 1 project will provide a new 150,000 pound per hour boiler and ancillary equipment in a new building of

approximately 6,000 assignable square foot at the existing UC Davis Central Heating and Cooling Plant (CHCP). The site layout for the Steam Expansion Phase 1 has been planned to accommodate future expansions of the steam plant. At this time, no expansion beyond the Steam Expansion Phase 1 project is proposed. This Initial Study evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the Steam Expansion Phase 1 project and any further expansion of the steam capacity at UC Davis would require additional environmental review.

Environmental Review and Comment

Based on the analysis presented in the Draft Tiered Initial Study, the campus proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project. Copies of the Draft Tiered Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration 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 Mitigated Negative Declaration. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, the document's 30-day review period will extend from July 5, 2005 through August 3, 2005. Comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. on August 3, 2005. They may be e-mailed to 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, Director of Environmental Planning, at (530) 752-2432 or Rick Keller, Assistant Vice Chancellor – Capital Resource Management, at (530) 752-2433.

Sincerely,



John A. Meyer
Vice Chancellor – Resource Management and Planning

Enclosures: 15 copies of the Draft Tiered Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated 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

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: Steam Expansion Phase 1 Project

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: Dairy Road and Hutchison Drive Zip Code: 95616 Total Acres: 0.5
Assessor's Parcel No. NA Section: 16 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
[X] Industrial: Sq.ft. 7000 Acres 0.5 Employees
[] Educational
[] Recreational
[] Water Facilities: Type MGD
[] Transportation: Type
[] Mining: Mineral
[] Power: Type Watts
[] Waste Treatment: Type
[] Hazardous Waste: Type
[] Other:

Funding (approx.): Federal \$ -- State \$ 12,000,000 Total \$ 12,000,000

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:

Support Facilities

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 July 5, 2005

Ending Date August 3, 2005

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:

- Address: _____
- City/State/Zip: _____
- Phone: (____) _____

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION STEAM EXPANSION PHASE 1

Proposed Project

UC Davis proposes to construct and operate the Steam Expansion Phase 1 project to add heating and cooling capacity to meet projected campus needs for steam production through 2011. In addition, the project would increase the reliability of the steam plant by providing sufficient capacity to allow for routine maintenance, unexpected shutdowns, and exceptional peaks in heating and cooling demand. The available capacity of the existing steam system is currently exceeded, requiring reserve capacity to be used to meet peak system demands. At the present time, the reliability of the existing system is low because if one of the primary steam boilers fails during a period of peak demand, there is no backup unit in reserve to maintain the necessary level of service. Major maintenance for the boilers at this time must be limited to work which can be completed during off-peak periods. If a boiler did fail during a period of peak demand, it would impact not only routine building heating and cooling, but also would affect important laboratory equipment functions and the maintenance of research materials critically dependent upon continued refrigeration.

Campus operations are critically dependent on the steam plant and the system must be expanded to meet the service demands of new campus facilities and programs. The Steam Expansion Phase 1 project will provide a new 150,000 pound per hour boiler and ancillary equipment in a new building of approximately 6,000 assignable square foot at the existing UC Davis Central Heating and Cooling Plant (CHCP). The site layout for the Steam Expansion Phase 1 has been planned to accommodate future expansions of the steam plant. At this time, no expansion beyond the Steam Expansion Phase 1 project is proposed. This Initial Study evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the Steam Expansion Phase 1 project and any further expansion of the steam capacity at UC Davis would require additional environmental review.

Project Objectives

The proposed project is a component of growth consistent with the 2003 LRDP. The primary objective of the 2003 LRDP is to plan for anticipated growth in student enrollment, faculty and staff employment and UC-affiliated activities on the campus. In addition, the 2003 LRDP aims to:

- create a physical framework to support the teaching, research, and public service mission of the campus;
- manage campus lands and resources in a spirit of stewardship for the future; and
- provide an environment that enriches campus life and serves the greater community.

The proposed project would support these main 2003 LRDP objectives by providing energy efficient cooling and heating supply for the central campus. Adequate provision of campus infrastructure is an important component of the physical framework for the campus.

The campus has identified the following objectives for the proposed Steam Expansion Phase 1 project:

- The proposed project would help maintain a healthy environment and would respect interconnections between the natural and built environment by providing an efficient and low-emission source of heating and cooling supply.
- The project would expand the use of campus-based support systems. By providing an expansion to the CHCP, the campus could continue to ensure the reliability of campus steam and chilled water.

- The proposed project would contribute to the principle of flexibility by ensuring that campus heating and cooling capacity is available to serve new initiatives.

Environmental Review

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and state and University of California guidelines for implementing CEQA, a Draft Tiered Initial Study was prepared to determine if an Environmental Impact Report, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or a Negative Declaration is required for the project. Based on the analysis in the Draft Tiered Initial Study, the campus has proposed that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be prepared for this project. Based on the analysis presented in the Draft Tiered Initial Study, a project-specific mitigation measure to ensure adequate noise reduction from the steam production equipment is proposed. The proposed mitigation measure would ensure that the potential noise effects from the Steam Expansion Phase 1 project would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. The final determination of the environmental review document will be made after comments have been received on the Draft Tiered Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The Draft Tiered Initial Study for the Steam Expansion Phase 1 project is tiered from the 2003 LRDP EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2002102092) in accordance with Sections 15152 and 15168(d) of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq.) and Public Resource Code Section 21094. The 2003 LRDP EIR is a Program EIR, prepared pursuant to Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines and Section 21080.09 of the Public Resources Code. The 2003 LRDP EIR analyzed full implementation of uses and physical development proposed under the 2003 LRDP through the year 2015-16 to accommodate a projected total enrollment level of 31,500 students and identified measures to mitigate the significant adverse project and cumulative impacts associated with that growth. The proposed project is within the scope of the campus development that was anticipated in the 2003 LRDP and evaluated in the 2003 LRDP EIR. The 2003 LRDP and its EIR 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/>.

Public Review and Comment

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John A. Meyer
Vice Chancellor - Resource Management and Planning
University of California
One Shields Avenue
376 Mrak Hall
Davis, CA 95616

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Oakland, CA 94607-5200

James E. Holst
Office of the General Counsel of The Regents
University of California
300 Lakeside Drive, 7th 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
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2828

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

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Department of Conservation
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Sacramento, CA 95814

Katherine Eastham
Caltrans, District 3
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Sacramento, CA 95833-4321

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County Clerk
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Woodland, CA 95695 (notice only)

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Jim Hockenberry
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Clean Water Programs
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The Honorable Lois Wolk
California State Assembly
State Capital
Sacramento, CA 95814