



JOHN A. MEYER
Vice Chancellor

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

July 25, 2002

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

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Project Title: SureWest Telecommunications Tower Project
State Clearinghouse No.: 2002052133
Project Location: University of California, Davis
County: Yolo

The University of California, Davis (UC Davis) proposes to partner with SureWest, a Roseville, California based telecommunications company, to exchange rights to use University of California property (for SureWest to construct and operate telecommunications facilities) for regional fiber optic connections. The proposed project includes the construction and operation of a 155-foot tall SureWest telecommunications tower with ancillary structures in the west campus, located northwest of Garrod Drive and adjacent and east of the existing 150-foot tall UC Davis telecommunications tower. The project also includes construction of a single-story, 336 square-foot SureWest Controlled Environment Facility in the south campus, located west of Old Davis Road. An approximately 750-foot long telecommunications conduit would be installed to connect the proposed Controlled Environment Facility to an existing SureWest conduit located south near the intersection of Old Davis Road and the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks.

In exchange for use of University land, SureWest would provide high-speed data network interconnection service through existing conduits between the UC Davis campus and the UC Davis Medical Center (UCDMC) in Sacramento, California, and between the UC Davis campus and the UC Davis McClellan Nuclear Radiation Center (MNRC) in Sacramento, California. Due to increased video conferencing and other data communication between UC Davis and the UCDMC, the campuses have exceeded their current data connection. The MNRC and UC Davis currently have a very slow speed data connection. Higher speed network connections would greatly benefit research efforts and general operations at UC Davis, the UCDMC, and the MNRC. The proposed project would ensure these fiber interconnections and would avoid the traditionally high expense associated with such improvements. In addition, the proposed project would improve wireless communication service on campus and in the area, including along State Route 113 and Interstate 80.

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resource Code Sections 2100 et seq.) and the University of California Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA, an Initial Study was prepared that identified and evaluated the environmental impacts of

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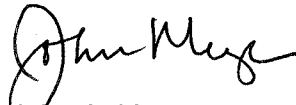
the project. In accordance with Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Initial Study was tiered from the 1994 Long Range Development Plan (1994 LRDP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 94022005) as updated and revised by subsequent documents¹.

Based on the analysis presented in the Initial Study, the campus determined the following: 1) with the inclusion of all relevant 1994 LRDP EIR mitigation measures, the project may incrementally contribute to, but will not exceed, the significant environmental impacts previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR; and 2) the project will not result in potentially significant environmental impacts that were not previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR, and no mitigation measures other than those previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR will be required. Consequently, a Negative Declaration was determined appropriate for the project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. The Negative Declaration is included as an Appendix to the Tiered Initial Study.

The Draft Tiered Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration for the project were reviewed by agencies and the public from May 29 to June 28, 2002. On July 25, 2002, pursuant to the authority delegated from the Board of Regents of the University of California, the UC Davis Facilities and Enterprise Policy Committee approved the proposed project and adopted the Negative Declaration and Findings in accordance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. Copies of the 1994 LRDP EIR, the Tiered Initial Study and Negative Declaration, and the CEQA Findings are available for review at the address below.

The California Department of Fish and Game filing fee for the proposed project is enclosed with this submittal.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure: California Department of Fish and Game filing fee

c: Assistant Vice President Bocchicchio

¹ 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), the Veterinary Medicine Laboratory and Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory Facilities Focused Tiered EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2000022057), the Segundo Housing Improvement Projects Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 2001092063), and the Conference Center, Hotel, and Graduate School of Management Building Focused Tiered EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2001082067). Hereafter, references to the 1994 LRDP EIR include the 1994 LRDP EIR as updated and revised by the documents listed above.