



JOHN A. MEYER  
Vice Chancellor

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

May 29, 2002

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

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

**Project Title:** SureWest Telecommunications Tower Project

**Project Location:** University of California, Davis; west of intersection of Garrod Drive and State Route 113; south of the intersection of Old Davis Road and Interstate 80

**County:** Yolo and Solano

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**

The University of California, Davis (UC Davis) proposes to partner with SureWest, a Roseville, California based telecommunications company, to exchange rights to use UC Davis 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.

### **Environmental Review and Comment**

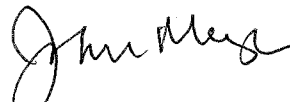
Based on the analysis presented in the Draft Tiered Initial Study, the campus proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration for the proposed project. Copies of the Draft Tiered Initial Study are available during normal operating hours at the UC Davis Office of Resource Management and Planning in 376 Mrak 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 Mitigated Negative Declaration. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, the document's 30-day review period will extend from May 29, 2002 to June 28, 2002. Comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. on June 28, 2002. They may be e-mailed to [environreview@ucdavis.edu](mailto:environreview@ucdavis.edu) or mailed to:

John A. Meyer  
Vice Chancellor - Resource Management and Planning  
University of California  
One Shields Avenue  
376 Mrak Hall  
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 - 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  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2828

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

County 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 Bencomo  
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  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

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

The Honorable Lois Wolk  
Yolo County Board of Supervisors  
625 Court Street, Room 204  
Woodland, CA 95696

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: SureWest Telecommunications Tower Project at UC Davis

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 & Solano

Project Location:

County: Yolo & Solano

City/Nearest Community: Davis

Cross Streets: Garrod Drive/SR 13; Old Davis Rd/I-80

Zip Code: 95616

Total Acres: 0.36

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

Early Cons

Neg Dec

Draft EIR

Supplement/Subsequent EIR

(Prior SCH No.) \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

NEPA:

NOI

EA

Draft EIS

FONSI

Other:

Joint Document

Final Document

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update

General Plan Amendment

General Plan Element

Community Plan

Specific Plan

Master Plan

Planned Unit Development

Site Plan

Rezone

Prezone

Use Permit

Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)  Other Project Approval

Annexation

Redevelopment

Coastal Permit

Development Type:

Residential: Units \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_

Office: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_

Commercial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_

Industrial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_

Educational \_\_\_\_\_

Recreational \_\_\_\_\_

Water Facilities: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation: Type \_\_\_\_\_

Mining: Mineral \_\_\_\_\_

Power: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Watts \_\_\_\_\_

Waste Treatment: Type \_\_\_\_\_

Hazardous Waste: Type \_\_\_\_\_

Other: Telecommunications

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

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual

Agricultural Land

Air Quality

Archeological/Historical

Coastal Zone

Drainage/Absorption

Economic/Jobs

Fiscal

Flood Plain/Flooding

Forest Land/Fire Hazard

Geologic/Seismic

Minerals

Noise

Population/Housing Balance

Public Services/Facilities

Recreation/Parks

Schools/Universities

Septic Systems

Sewer Capacity

Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading

Solid Waste

Toxic/Hazardous

Traffic/Circulation

Vegetation

Water Quality

Water Supply/Groundwater

Wetland/Riparian

Wildlife

Growth Inducing

Landuse

Cumulative Effects

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Academic and Administrative Low Density; Academic and Administrative High Density Enterprise Reserve

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 May 29, 2002

Ending Date June 28, 2002

Signature 

Date May 28, 2002

---

### Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

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

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

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

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

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

**Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

### For SCH Use Only:

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

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

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

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

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

Notes:

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**SUREWEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER PROJECT AT UC DAVIS**

**Proposed Project**

UC Davis proposes to partner with SureWest, a Roseville, California based telecommunications company, to exchange rights to use UC Davis 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 this 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, 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.

**Project Objectives**

The following summarizes the specific objectives of the proposed project:

- Provide high-speed, cost effective data connection between UC Davis and the UCDMC;
- Upgrade data connection between UC Davis and the MNRC;
- Locate proposed telecommunications tower near existing towers but avoid interference with existing tower equipment; and
- Locate proposed Controlled Environment Facility in proximity to the existing SureWest conduit traversing along the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.

**Environmental Review**

The Draft Tiered Initial Study for the SureWest Telecommunications Tower Project at UC Davis 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 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Environmental Impact Report (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 Replacement Project EIR (State Clearinghouse Nos. 95123027 and 96072024), the 1997-98 Major Capital Improvement Projects Supplemental EIR (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). 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 is also available online and is included as an appendix to the 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 SureWest Telecommunications Tower Project at UC Davis 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 and evaluated 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, seismic effects, loss of cultural resources, and loss of rural character. 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 Board of Regents of the University of California in connection with its approval of the 1994 LRDP and certification of the 1994 LRDP EIR, as revised.

Due to anticipated enrollment increases through 2014-15 that would exceed projections under the 1994 LRDP for growth through 2005-06, the campus has closely examined each of the cumulative impacts identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR that could continue through 2014-15 (this evaluation is provided as an appendix to the Draft Tiered Initial Study). To the extent that growth and physical development anticipated for 2014-15 were not considered in the 1994 LRDP EIR, additional environmental effects that were not previously identified may occur. However, it would be very speculative to determine these effects now because most components of the next LRDP are not currently known. A new LRDP EIR will fully evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the next LRDP.

### **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 Draft Tiered Initial Study will be from May 29 to June 28, 2002. 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 June 28, 2002. They may be e-mailed to [environreview@ucdavis.edu](mailto:environreview@ucdavis.edu) or mailed to:

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