

VETERINARY MEDICINE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Project

The University of California, Davis, proposes to construct and operate the Veterinary Medicine Facilities Improvement Project for the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) in the Health Sciences District on the Central Campus at UC Davis.

Three new facilities will be constructed as part of this project. The Veterinary Medicine 3A facility (165,672 gross square feet (GSF)) would consist of one or possibly two connected buildings and would house teaching laboratories, faculty research laboratories, research support facilities, faculty and other academic offices, clinical facilities, and administrative offices. It would be located northwest of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH).

The Veterinary Medicine Instructional Facility (59,550 GSF) would contain classrooms, dry-laboratory facilities, other teaching and student facilities, and a student learning center. It would be located between the VMTH and School of Medicine buildings to the north. The Centers for Companion Animal Health and Comparative Genomics (CCAH/CCG) facility (30,455 GSF) would house companion animal research and clinical programs including the Feline Health Unit, Canine Health Unit, Veterinary Cancer Therapy Unit, and the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory Unit. It would be located on existing pastures to the east of the VMTH.

The proposed project includes renovation of areas within the VMTH that would be vacated by programs relocated to the new facilities. The project includes the construction of support facilities to accommodate the users of the proposed buildings. These facilities would include: (1) a 0.8-acre outdoor plaza to be located between the VMTH, Veterinary Medicine 3A, and the Veterinary Medicine Instructional Facility; (2) approximately 200 spaces in one or more parking lots that would be located west and south of the previously approved Veterinary Medicine Laboratory Facility on the existing equestrian cross country course and/or south of the VMTH adjacent to Garrod Road; and (3) an upgrade of the utility distribution systems to serve anticipated growth in the Health Sciences District.

Project Objectives

The project would provide modern facilities for programs located in aging, inadequate temporary buildings and in Haring Hall, currently used by the SVM for instructional, clinical, research, research support, and administrative uses. In addition, the proposed project would provide new space for the expansion of certain centers such as the CCAH and CCG. Space vacated within the temporary buildings and Haring Hall would be retained for use by other programs operated by the SVM. The campus has identified the following objectives for the proposed project:

- Correct physical facilities deficiencies cited by the American Veterinary Medical Association and meet the guidelines put forth by the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care.
- Consolidate the Veterinary Medicine Facilities in the Health Sciences District.
- Provide state-of-the-art facilities that will accommodate veterinary medicine programs on a long-term basis.
- Expand the programs of the Center for Companion Animal Health and Center for Comparative Genomics.
- Upgrade existing utility and infrastructure to accommodate new demand in the Health Sciences District.

Environmental Review

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the state and University of California guidelines for implementation of CEQA, a Draft Focused Tiered Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared that identifies and evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

The environmental analysis for the proposed project is tiered from the UC Davis 1994 LRDP EIR in accordance with Section 15152 and 15168(c) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines and Public Resources Code Section 21094. This environmental analysis in the 1994 LRDP EIR (State Clearinghouse #94022005) has been supplemented and amended by the 1997 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Replacement Project EIR (State Clearinghouse #95123027 and #96072024), by the 1997-98 Major Capital Improvement Projects Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) (State Clearinghouse #97122016), by the Center for the Arts Performance Hall and South Entry Roadway and Parking Improvements Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse #98092016), and by the USDA Western Human Nutrition Research Center Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse #99092060), by the Veterinary Medicine Laboratory and Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory Facilities Focused Tiered EIR (State Clearinghouse #2000022057), and by the Genome and Biomedical Sciences Facility Focused Tiered EIR (State Clearinghouse #2000042028; pending approval). Copies of all documents referenced in the Draft Focused Tiered EIR may be obtained at the Office of Resource Management and Planning, 3rd Floor, Mrak Hall, UC Davis.

The 1994 LRDP EIR as amended 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.

Pursuant to Section 15161 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Draft Focused Tiered EIR is a

project EIR that examines the environmental impacts of the proposed development on a project-specific level. As provided for in the CEQA Guidelines, the environmental analysis for the Veterinary Medicine Facilities Improvement Project incorporates by reference relevant information contained in the UC Davis 1994 LRDP EIR. A Tiered Initial Study prepared for the proposed project focused the EIR analysis to certain potential impacts related to Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Biological Resources, and Utilities and Service Systems. The Tiered Initial Study is included as Appendix A in the Draft Focused Tiered EIR.

Based on the Draft Focused Tiered EIR, it has been determined that project-specific impacts will be less than significant following mitigation. The project may contribute to, but will not exceed, the following impacts previously identified as significant in the LRDP EIR before implementation of any mitigation measures in the LRDP EIR: increased emissions of criteria air pollutants due to cumulative development in the region; increased health risks from toxic air contaminants due to cumulative development in the region; increased health hazards due to increased use of hazardous materials and generation of hazardous wastes due to cumulative growth in the region; increased health hazards due to increased use of radioactive and biohazardous materials and generation of radioactive wastes due to cumulative growth in the region; and loss of ruderal/annual grassland habitat for resident and migratory wildlife species due to regional cumulative development. The proposed project would contribute to certain traffic-related level of service impacts identified as significant in the LRDP EIR and would also contribute to a new cumulative level of service impact on an intersection not previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR.

Most of the impacts are significant on a cumulative level only. Many of these significant unavoidable cumulative impacts can be avoided through implementation of LRDP EIR mitigation measures or of measures by agencies outside the jurisdiction of the University of California. All significant and unavoidable impacts have been addressed in the findings and statement overriding considerations adopted by The Regents in connection with their approval of the 1994 LRDP.

Public Review and Comment

The **PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD** for the Veterinary Medicine Facilities Improvement Project Draft Focused Tiered EIR will be from October 30 through December 13, 2000. Copies of the Draft Focused Tiered EIR the 1994 LRDP EIR may be obtained at the address below and are on file at Shields Library on the UC Davis campus, the Yolo County Library, 315 East 14th St., Davis, California, and the Fairfield-Suisun Community Library, 1150, Kentucky St., Fairfield, California.

A **PUBLIC HEARING** to receive testimony as part of the formal record on the DEIR is scheduled as follows:

Date: November 29, 2000
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: University Club, University of California, Davis

Written comments received during the public review period, scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2000, will also be part of the formal public record and may be submitted to:

Vice Chancellor John A. Meyer
Office of Resource Management and Planning
University of California
One Shields Avenue
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