



JOHN A. MEYER
Vice Chancellor

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

July 16, 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: Watershed Science Research Center

Project Location: University of California, Davis; northeast corner of California Avenue and South La Rue Road

County: Yolo

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 proposed project includes the construction and operation of a two-story, approximately 9,800 assignable square feet (asf) (19,000 gross square feet [GSF]) building. The new building would be located in the core campus, south of the Academic Surge Building at the intersection of South La Rue Road and California Avenue. The proposed building would be constructed on the eastern portion of Parking Lot 46 (see Figure 2). The west side of Parking Lot 46 will remain as a parking lot after construction of the proposed project.

Approximately 4,900 asf (9,440 GSF) of the new building will be dedicated to the Watershed Science Research Center to provide laboratory and support space for cross-disciplinary researchers and students who are engaged in research connected to the Bay-Delta and related tributaries. The remaining 4,900 asf (9,440 GSF) will be constructed as unfinished shell space for later development by the campus. A program for the unfinished space has not been determined although the future use would be consistent with the Academic and Administrative High Density land use designation. The proposed Watershed Science Research Center would provide offices for faculty and staff, visiting researchers and graduate students and academic office support space, storage space (including indoor and outdoor storage areas), and laboratory space.

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 Negative Declaration. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, the document's 30-day review period will extend from July 16, 2002 to August 14, 2002. Comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. on August 13, 2002. 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, UC Davis Environmental Planner, at (530) 752-2432.

Sincerely,



John A. Meyer
Vice Chancellor
Office of 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

All Sent 7/16/02. MD

Michael J. Rocchicchio
Asst. Vice President - Facilities Administration
University of California, Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street 6th Floor #6201
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 Zenner
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 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2828

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

Steve Olive
Department of Conservation
901 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 Lenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(15 copies)

County Clerk
County of Yolo
625 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

(notice only)

Doris Kroutzberg
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
601 Texas Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

delivered 7/16/02 MD
Bill Emlen
City of Davis
Community Development Director
23 Russell Boulevard
Davis, CA 95616 (3 copies)

John Boncompagni
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
111 Coltonwood Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Environmental Services
Department of Fish and Game
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Hydro White
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
2900 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
2442 Roubier Road
Sacramento, CA 95827-3098

Russell Huck
Environmental Management Branch
Department of Health Services
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320

Dale 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

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

SCH # _____

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, PO Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 916/445-0613

Project Title: Watershed Science Research Center

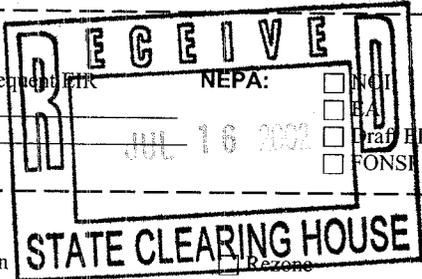
Lead Agency: University of California Contact Person: Sid England
Street Address: 1 Shields Avenue Phone: (530) 752-2432
City: Davis Zip: CA County: 95616

Project Location:

County: Yolo City/Nearest Community: Davis
Cross Streets: California Ave./South La Rue Road Zip Code: 95616 Total Acres: 0.25
Assessor's Parcel No. N/A Section: 16 Twp. 8N Range: 2E Base: Mt. Diablo
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 113/80 Waterways: Putah Creek
Airports: University Airport Railways: Union Pacific Schools: Davis Joint Unified

Document Type:

CEQA: [] NOP [] Supplement/Subsequent EIR [] Early Cons [] Neg Dec [] Draft EIR [] Draft EIR
NEPA: [] NEPA [] Draft EIS [] Final EIS [] Other
Other: [] Joint Document [] Final Document [] Other



Local Action Type:

[] General Plan Update [] Specific Plan [] Rezoning [] 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.) [] Other Project Approval

Development Type:

[] Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ [] Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD
[] Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ [] Transportation: Type _____
[] Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ [] Mining: Mineral _____
[] Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ [] Power: Type _____ Watts
[] Educational: 19,000 sq.ft. 0.24 acres 36 employees [] Waste Treatment: Type _____
[] Recreational _____ [] Hazardous Waste: Type _____
[] Other: _____

Funding (approx.): Federal \$ 0 State \$ 3,000,000 Total \$ 4,995,000

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

[x] Aesthetic/Visual [x] Flood Plain/Flooding [x] Schools/Universities [x] Water Quality
[x] Agricultural Land [] Forest Land/Fire Hazard [] 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 [] 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:

Academic and Administrative High Density

Project Description:

Construction of two-story academic building on 0.25 acres currently used as a parking lot. 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
- Conservation
- Fish & Game
- Forestry & Fire Protection
- Office of Historic Preservation
- Parks & Recreation
- Reclamation Board
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- Water Resources (DWR)

Business, Transportation & Housing

- Aeronautics
- California Highway Patrol
- CALTRANS District # 3
- Department of Transportation Planning (headquarters)
- Housing & Community Development

Food & Agriculture

Health & Welfare

Health Services _____

State & Consumer Services

General Services _____

OLA (Schools) _____

Environmental Protection Agency

- Air Resources Board
- California Waste Management Board
- SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
- SWRCB: Delta Unit
- SWRCB: Water Quality
- SWRCB: Water Rights
- Regional WQCB # 5 (_____)

Youth & Adult Corrections

Corrections

Independent Commissions & Offices

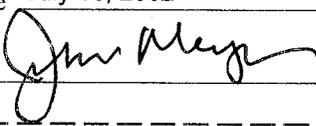
- Energy Commission
- Native American Heritage Commission
- Public Utilities Commission
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- State Lands Commission
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Other Yolo Solano AQMD

Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date July 16, 2002

Ending Date August 14, 2002

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 _____

Applicant:

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

Notes:

PUBLIC NOTICE
WATERSHED SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER AT UC DAVIS

Proposed Project

UC Davis proposes to construct a new academic and administrative building to provide space for campus growth in the study of watershed science. The proposed project includes the construction and operation of a two-story, approximately 9,800 assignable square feet (asf) (19,000 gross square feet [GSF]) building. The new building would be located in the core campus, south of the Academic Surge Building at the intersection of South La Rue Road and California Avenue. The proposed building would be constructed on the eastern portion of Parking Lot 46 (see Figure 2). The west side of Parking Lot 46 will remain as a parking lot after construction of the proposed project.

Approximately 4,900 asf (9,440 GSF) of the new building will be dedicated to the Watershed Science Research Center to provide laboratory and support space for cross-disciplinary researchers and students who are engaged in research connected to the Bay-Delta and related tributaries. The remaining 4,900 asf (9,440 GSF) will be constructed as unfinished shell space for later development by the campus. A program for the unfinished space has not been determined although the future use would be consistent with the Academic and Administrative High Density land use designation. The proposed Watershed Science Research Center would provide offices for faculty and staff, visiting researchers and graduate students and academic office support space, storage space (including indoor and outdoor storage areas), and laboratory space.

Project Objectives

The following summarizes the specific objectives of the proposed project:

- The UC Davis Academic Plan for the Environment 2000 identifies integrated watershed science as one of four areas of growth over the next 10 years, and declares watershed science to be a priority area for the campus. The commitment to growth in integrated watershed science is also included in the current academic plan for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Provide sufficient space for the near term expansion of the Watershed Science Research Center;
- The Center will provide opportunities to both graduate students and undergraduates to engage in hands-on, field-based, integrated watershed science. It will also permit expansion of an existing fellowship program for state and federal agency scientists;
- As a public service, the Center will become a principal resource for watershed managers and decision-makers to make sound science-based policy; and
- Provide sufficient space to accommodate academic and administrative growth on campus.

Environmental Review

The Draft Tiered Initial Study for the Watershed Science Research Center 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 Watershed Science Research Center 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, toxic 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, demand for water from the deep aquifer, seismic effects, loss of cultural resources, loss of rural character, City of Davis fire protection services, City of Davis police protection services, and

contribution of school-age students in the Davis Joint Unified School District. 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 July 16 to August 14, 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 August 14, 2002. They may be e-mailed to environreview@ucdavis.edu or mailed to:

John A. Meyer
Vice Chancellor - Resource Management and Planning
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376 Mrak Hall
Davis, CA 95616