May 22, 2009

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 South Valley Animal Health Laboratory

Project Location: Veterinary Medicine and Teaching Research Center, Tulare

County: Tulare County

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 Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.

Project Description

UC Davis proposes to construct the South Valley Animal Health Laboratory (SVAHL), a new laboratory and office building of approximately 53,000 gross square feet. The building would provide space for a new veterinary diagnostic testing laboratory adjacent to the existing veterinary medicine research laboratory approximately ¼ mile east of Highway 99 in Tulare County south of Tulare. In addition to laboratory and office space, the project would include a cremator for animal parts and other waste, a back-up generator, an on-site water supply well and storage tank, a stormwater retention pond, relocation of existing residential modular buildings, and a new septic system for the disposal of wastewater.

The California Animal Health & Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory System is the backbone of California’s warning system that helps to protect the health of California’s livestock and poultry. CAHFS serves the people of California by safeguarding public health with rapid and reliable diagnosis of animal diseases common to animals and humans, as well as foodborne pathogens. CAHFS operates in partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDF A), UC Davis, veterinarians, livestock and poultry producers.

The proposed facility will create new preparation laboratories, diagnostic laboratories, large and small animal necropsy laboratories, and all necessary laboratory support, storage and administrative support functions. The proposed facility would accept avian and livestock sample
submissions for complex diagnostic procedures to support on-going food production, food safety, and animal welfare programs overseen by the CDFA. Sample testing would involve primarily blood and tissue samples sent from throughout the region for testing and would also involve receipt of dead or dying animals delivered to the SVAHL for testing. The SVAHL would provide routine testing for on-going screening programs and would also provide testing and diagnostic services for animals with suspect disease symptoms.

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, the Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center at 18830 Road 112 in Tulare; Shields Library Reserves at UC Davis; Tulare Public Library, 113 North F Street in Tulare; 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 22, 2009 through June 22, 2009. Comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. on June 22, 2009. 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, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability 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 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
Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

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

Project Title: UC Davis South Valley Animal Health Laboratory

Lead Agency: University of California
Street Address: Office of Resource Management and Planning, UC Davis
City: Davis  Zip: 95616

Contact Person: Sid England
Phone: (530) 752-2432
County: Yolo

Project Location:
County: Tulare
Cross Streets: East of Road 112
Assessor's Parcel No.: NA
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: Hwy 99
Airports: Tulare/Melford Field

City/Nearest Community: Tulare
Zip Code: 93274
Section: 6
Twp.: 21S
Waterways: Tule River
Range: 25E
Railways: Southern Pacific
Base: Tulare
Schools: Tulare School Districts

Total Acres: approx. 6 acres

Document Type:
CEQA: ☐ NOP  ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR  ☐ Neg Dec  ☐ Other
NEPA: ☐ NOI  ☐ EA  ☐ Draft EIS  ☐ FONSI
☐ 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.)
☒ Coastal Permit
☐ Other

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: Laboratory and Administrative Space

Funding (approx.): Federal $ __________  State $ 47,500,000  Total $ 47,500,000

Project Issues Discussed in Document:
☒ Aesthetic/Visual  ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding  ☒ Schools/Universities  ☐ Water Quality
☒ Agricultural Land  ☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard  ☒ Septic Systems  ☐ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Air Quality  ☒ Geologic/Seismic  ☒ Sewer Capacity  ☐ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Archaeological/Historical  ☒ Minerals  ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading  ☐ Wildlife
☒ Coastal Zone  ☒ Noise  ☒ Solid Waste  ☐ Growth Inducing
☒ Drainage/Absorption  ☒ Population/Housing Balance  ☒ Toxic/Hazardous  ☐ Landuse
☒ Economic/Jobs  ☒ Public Services/Facilities  ☒ Traffic/Circulation  ☐ Cumulative Effects
☒ Fiscal  ☒ Recreation/Parks  ☒ Vegetation  ☐ Other

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:
Pasture land.

Project Description:
See attached public notice.

Revised 3-31-99
Reviewing Agencies Checklist

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 # 6
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 # SF  (Fresno office)

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 Air District: SJVAPCD, Southern Office

Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)
Starting Date May 22, 2009
Ending Date June 22, 2009
Signature ____________ Date 5/21/09

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: ________________________________
Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the UC Davis South Valley Animal Health Laboratory, Tulare

UC Davis proposes to construct the South Valley Animal Health Laboratory (SVAHL), a new laboratory and office building of approximately 53,000 gross square feet. The building would provide space for a new veterinary diagnostic testing laboratory adjacent to the existing veterinary medicine research laboratory approximately ¼ mile east of Highway 99 in Tulare County south of Tulare. In addition to laboratory and office space, the project would include a cremator for animal parts and other waste, a back-up generator, an on-site water supply well and storage tank, a stormwater retention pond, relocation of existing residential modular buildings, and a new septic system for the disposal of wastewater.

The California Animal Health & Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory System is the backbone of California’s warning system that helps to protect the health of California’s livestock and poultry. CAHFS serves the people of California by safeguarding public health with rapid and reliable diagnosis of animal diseases common to animals and humans, as well as foodborne pathogens. CAHFS operates in partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), UC Davis, veterinarians, livestock and poultry producers.

The proposed SVAHL would consolidate functions currently performed at two separate CAHFS laboratories under the direction of the CDFA. Testing responsibilities of CDFA would be transferred from the current facilities in Tulare and Fresno. CAHFS has been on the forefront of diagnosis of animal diseases and pathogens since its inception. The main purpose of this facility is to provide diagnostic sample analysis to the dairy, cattle, and chicken farming industries in the central valley. The proposed SVAHL would operate with approximately 37 employees with about 26 employees transferring to the site and the remainder would be employees already working at the site.

The proposed facility will create new preparation laboratories, diagnostic laboratories, large and small animal necropsy laboratories, and all necessary laboratory support, storage and administrative support functions. The proposed facility would accept avian and livestock sample submissions for complex diagnostic procedures to support on-going food production, food safety, and animal welfare programs overseen by the CDFA. Sample testing would involve primarily blood and tissue samples sent from throughout the region for testing and would also involve receipt of dead or dying animals delivered to the SVAHL for testing. The SVAHL would provide routine testing for on-going screening programs and would also provide testing and diagnostic services for animals with suspect disease symptoms.
An Initial Study evaluating the potential environmental effects of the proposed project and complying with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has been completed and is available for public review and comment from May 22 to June 22, 2009. The Initial Study identifies potentially significant environmental effects and proposes mitigation measures to reduce the potential impacts to a less-than-significant level. After consideration of any comments received, the University may elect to approve the design of the proposed project and adopt the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. Construction on the project could begin in the spring of 2010 and operation of the completed building would be take place toward the end of 2011.

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, the Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center at 18830 Road 112 in Tulare; Shields Library Reserves at UC Davis; Tulare Public Library, 113 North F Street in Tulare; and online at http://www.ormp.ucdavis.edu/environreview/.

Comments on the Draft Initial Study must be received by 5:00 PM on June 22, 2009 and can be e-mailed to environreview@ucdavis.edu or sent to:

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

Craig Stowers  
Department of Fish and Game  
7400 Hendon Way  
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Rosanne Taylor  
Department of Conservation  
801 K Street, MS-24-02  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Caltrans District 6  
Environmental Review  
1352 West Olive  
Fresno, CA 93728

State of California  
Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(15 copies)

Tulare County Clerk’s Office  
Administration Building  
2800 West Burrel Avenue  
Visalia, California 93291-4582

Hans Kreutzberg  
Office of Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Sue O’Leary  
Permitting and Inspection Branch, MS #15  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
1001 I Street  
PO Box 4025  
Sacramento, California 95812-4025
California Department of Fish and Game
Central Region Headquarters Office
Environmental Review
1234 E. Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

Executive Officer
Central Valley—Region 5F
Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Jack Raper, Asst. Director,
Tulare County Planning Branch
5961 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, California 93277

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

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
34946 Flyover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93308

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

Peter Venturini
Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814