

APPENDIX B
AQUATICS CENTER MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

- Lead Agency:** University of California
- Project Proponent:** University of California, Davis
- Project Location:** Yolo County; UC Davis; southwest of the intersection of La Rue Road and Hutchison Drive
- Project Description:** The proposed project includes the construction and operation of an Aquatics Center and parking area in the central campus, west of La Rue Road and east of East Health Sciences Drive. The new Aquatics Center facility would total approximately one acre, and would include a 65-meter long pool, a deck, a warming pool, spectator seating, and a 5,240 gross square feet (4,455 assignable square feet) aquatic support facility. The new parking area would comprise approximately 1.3 acres and include spaces for up to 100 cars. The project's landscaped grounds (including softscape and hardscape) would cover approximately 1.3 acres.
- The Aquatics Center would supplement existing campus facilities to better meet the collective aquatic needs of the campus community, including recreation, intercollegiate athletics, and special events. In addition, the facility would supplement competitive aquatic programs of the surrounding community.
- Mitigation Measure:** As identified in the Draft Tiered Initial Study for the project, the project incorporates the following project-specific mitigation measure, in addition to relevant mitigation measures from the 1994 Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report.
- 1. If burrowing owls are observed within 250 feet of the proposed project site, prebreeding and preconstruction season exclusion measures shall be implemented following CDFG guidelines to preclude burrowing owl occupation of the project site. This shall involve installing artificial nest boxes in fall or winter 2001/2002, closing all ground squirrel burrows, and passively relocating owls by installing one-way exit doors on occupied burrows. In addition, a visual barrier shall be installed along the edge of the construction area to minimize visual disturbance of the owls, and a biological monitor shall visit the site twice weekly during the construction period.*
- Incorporation by Reference:** This Mitigated Negative Declaration incorporates by reference in their entirety the text of the Tiered Initial Study prepared for the project; the 1994 LRDP; the 1994 LRDP EIR; the WWTP Replacement Project EIR; the 1997-98 Major Capital Improvement Projects SEIR; the Center for the Arts

Performance Hall and South Entry Roadway and Parking Improvements Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration; the USDA Western Human Nutrition Research Center Tiered Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration; the Veterinary Medicine Laboratory and Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory Facilities Focused Tiered EIR; and the Findings and Overriding Considerations adopted by The Regents in connection with the LRDP EIR, the WWTP Replacement Project EIR, the 1997-98 Major Capital Improvement Projects, and the Veterinary Medicine Laboratory and Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory Facilities Focused Tiered EIR.

Determination:

In accordance with CEQA, a Draft Tiered Initial Study was prepared by UC Davis that evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed project. On the basis of the project's Draft Tiered Initial Study the campus found that the proposed project may incrementally contribute to, but not exceed, certain cumulative significant impacts previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR, and that for such impacts, no new mitigation measures, other than those previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR, are required. In addition, the proposed project may result in a potentially significant impact not previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR, but a proposed project-specific mitigation measure would reduce the effect of such an impact to a point that clearly no significant impact would occur. As assessed in the Draft Tiered Initial Study, with implementation of all relevant 1994 LRDP EIR and project-specific mitigation measures, there is no substantial evidence that the project as mitigated may have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact report is not required.

Public Review:

In accordance with Section 15073 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Draft Tiered Initial Study for the project was circulated for public and agency review from July 2 to August 1, 2001. Comments received during the review period and responses to these comments are presented in the final Tiered Initial Study.

ATTEST:

October 25, 2001
Date

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