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January 24, 2002

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

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Project Title: NEES Centrifuge Support Building
State Clearinghouse No.: 2001102070
Project Location: University of California, Davis
County: Yolo

UC Davis proposes to construct and operate a new 4,720 gross square foot building to support research activities at the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) Centrifuge site. The building would be located adjacent to the existing centrifuge facility near the hydraulics laboratory west of Brooks Road on the west campus. The proposed building would include space for offices, a conference and computer area, and space for preparing testing materials. The building is expected to be constructed on a concrete foundation with a steel frame structure, metal panel sheathing, and a metal panel roof. Project elements surrounding the building would include a new gravel area for employee parking, a new gravel entrance drive, and a new septic system.

Centrifuge modeling is a valuable tool for studying the effects of ground shaking on critical structures without risking public safety. The centrifuge applies an increased gravitational acceleration to physical models in order to produce identical self-weight stresses in the models and prototypes. Centrifuge model testing provides data to improve the understanding of soil deformation and failure and provides useful benchmarks to verify numerical models.

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resource Code Sections 2100 et seq.) and the University of California Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA, an Initial Study was prepared that identified and evaluated the environmental impacts of the project. In accordance with Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Initial Study was tiered from the 1994 Long Range Development Plan (1994 LRDP) Environmental Impact Report

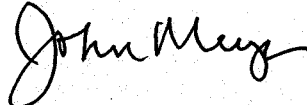
(EIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 94022005) as updated and revised by subsequent documents¹.

Based on the analysis presented in the Initial Study, the campus determined the following: 1) with inclusion of all relevant 1994 LRDP EIR mitigation measures, the project may incrementally contribute to, but will not exceed, the significant environmental impacts previously identified in the 1994 LRDP EIR; and 2) with incorporation of 1994 LRDP EIR mitigation measures, the project will not result in new potentially significant environmental impacts. A Negative Declaration was determined appropriate for the project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

The Draft Tiered Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration for the project were reviewed by agencies and the public from October 12 to November 13, 2001. On January 24, 2002, pursuant to the authority delegated from the Board of Regents of the University of California, the UC Davis Facilities and Enterprise Policy Committee approved the proposed project and adopted the Negative Declaration and Findings in accordance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. Copies of the 1994 LRDP EIR, the Tiered Initial Study, and the CEQA Findings are available for review at the address below.

The California Department of Fish and Game filing fee for the proposed project is enclosed.

Sincerely,



John A. Meyer
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Enclosure: California Department of Fish and Game filing fee

c: Assistant Vice President Bocchicchio

¹ Specifically, the 1994 LRDP EIR was updated and revised by the 1997 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Replacement Project EIR (State Clearinghouse Nos. 95123027 and 96072024), the 1997-98 Major Capital Improvement Projects Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) (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), and the Veterinary Medicine Laboratory and Equine Athletic Performance Laboratory Facilities Focused Tiered EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2000022057). Hereafter, references to the 1994 LRDP EIR include the 1994 LRDP EIR as updated and revised by the documents listed above.