



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 North Lake Road
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95343
(209) 228-4627

Scott Morgan
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

April 2, 2018

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

LEAD AGENCY: University of California
PROJECT TITLE: University of California (UC) Merced 2018 LRDP
PROJECT LOCATION: UC Merced, Lake Road, Merced, CA
COUNTY: Merced

The University of California proposes to adopt an updated Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) for the University of California, Merced campus (UC Merced) in Merced, California. In March 2009, the Board of Regents of the University of California (“The Regents”) certified an EIR that analyzed and disclosed the impacts from the implementation of a LRDP for UC Merced, and adopted the UC Merced 2009 LRDP. The 2009 LRDP was designed to guide the physical development of the campus through 2030 and beyond for growth up to an enrollment level of 25,000 students. The 2009 LRDP addressed the development of the campus on an 815-acre site. Since then, the University has acquired more land to the south of the original campus. It has also revised the Campus’ enrollment projections through 2030. The University has also determined that the land use diagram in the 2009 LRDP must be amended not only to cover the larger campus site but provide for more compact and sustainable development within the revised campus site and allow more flexibility in the siting of future facilities.

In view of these changes, the University has prepared an updated LRDP that will guide future development of the campus to accommodate growth projected between 2020 and 2030. The proposed Draft 2018 LRDP plans for enrollment to increase from approximately 10,000 students in 2020 to 15,000 students by 2030. The Draft 2018 LRDP plans for the addition of up to 2.6 million square feet of building space to serve this projected enrollment growth. Finally, the Draft 2018 LRDP includes a revised land use diagram that encompasses the additional acreage added to the campus, and establishes and applies the following revised and new land use designations: Campus Mixed Use (CMU), Campus Building Reserve and Support Land (CBRSL); Environmental Resource Land (ERL); Active Open Space (AOS); Passive Open Space (POS); and Campus Parkway Open Space (CPOS). Under the 2009 LRDP, campus facilities were planned to be constructed on about 715 acres within the 815-acre campus site with about 100 acres set aside as open space. Under the Draft 2018 LRDP, development of campus facilities through 2030 would be limited to about 274 acres within the 1,026 acre campus site, with another 320 acres set aside for

development beyond 2030, and about 432 acres would be designated as environmental resource land or open space.

As the approval of the proposed Draft 2018 LRDP is a discretionary action, the environmental impacts of approving this updated plan must be evaluated and disclosed in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND COMMENT

The University of California will be the lead agency under CEQA and has determined that an EIR must be prepared that evaluates the environmental impacts from the approval and implementation of the proposed UC Merced Draft 2018 LRDP.

As noted above, an EIR was certified in 2009 for the UC Merced 2009 LRDP. According to CEQA Guidelines, a Subsequent EIR is required when a substantial change is proposed to a project for which an EIR has been previously certified. As the Draft 2018 LRDP would substantially change the previously adopted 2009 LRDP, preparation of a Subsequent EIR (SEIR) is appropriate for the proposed Draft 2018 LRDP.

An Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines, and the University of California Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA to identify environmental impacts that are adequately addressed in the 2009 EIR or are not an issue for the Draft 2018 LRDP, and those potential environmental impacts that will be analyzed in the SEIR (See Attachment A). The attached Initial Study also includes a description of the proposed project. At this time, it is anticipated that the SEIR will address environmental impacts in the following resource areas: air quality, biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, noise, population and housing, public services, traffic and transportation, tribal cultural resources, and utilities.

In compliance with the CEQA Guidelines, this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is hereby sent to inform you that a SEIR will be prepared for the above named project. As Lead Agency, we need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. This NOP and Initial Study are also being provided to local agencies and the public, and have been posted on the web at <http://planning.ucmerced.edu/LRDP>. Agencies and the public are invited and encouraged to provide written comments.

Mr. Scott Morgan
April 2, 2018
Page 3

This NOP is being circulated for 30 days from April 2 through May 1, 2018. Due to time limits mandated by state law, please provide your comments at the earliest date possible but not later than 5:00 PM on Tuesday May 1, 2018. Please send your comments to the following address:

University of California, Merced
Physical and Environmental Planning
5200 North Lake Road
Merced, California 95343
Attn: Phillip Woods

Comments may also be submitted via email to the following email address:

Email: pwoods3@ucmerced.edu

Oral comments on the scope and content of the SEIR will be accepted at a scoping meeting that will be held on Wednesday April 25, 2018 from 4 PM to 6 PM in the UC Merced Downtown Campus Center (Conference Rooms 105 & 106), 655 W 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340.

After the Draft SEIR is completed, the University will circulate the Draft SEIR for public review and comment. At the end of the public comment period, the University will prepare written responses to comments on the Draft SEIR and publish the Final SEIR.

If you have any questions about the environmental review, please contact me at (209) 349-2561.

Sincerely,



Phillip Woods, AICP
Director of Physical & Environmental Planning

Enclosures: Attachment 1. Initial Study