

January 17, 2002

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

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION--FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Project Title: University of California Merced Campus
Long Range Development Plan
State Clearinghouse Number: 2001021065
Project Location: University of California at Merced
County: Merced

Project Description: This project involves implementing a long range development plan (LRDP) for a new University of California campus to eventually support a student body of 25,000 full time equivalents (FTE) on 2,000 acres of land in Merced County. The location of the new campus is approximately two miles northeast of the city limits of Merced and immediately east of Lake Yosemite Regional Park and a portion of Lake Road.

There are three primary campus sub-areas addressed in the LRDP: the Main Campus, the Campus Land Reserve, and the Campus Natural Reserve. The Main Campus, which would comprise about 910 acres, would include the academic core, support services, student and faculty housing, parking, circulation, recreation, and open space. The academic core, located at the center of the site, would accommodate the undergraduate teaching facilities in the center of the core, with less intensive research and graduate education facilities, professional schools and institutes in more peripheral areas of the core. The Campus Land Reserve would be a 340-acre area with no development. The Campus Natural Reserve, a 750-acre area contiguous to the Campus Land Reserve, would encompass a permanently undeveloped area dedicated to environmental conservation, open space, and scientific research.

The first phase of campus development (Phase 1 Campus) addresses the first set of buildings for opening day and provision of adequate space for envisioned programs until 2008. The Phase 1 Campus will be located on approximately 110 acres in the southwestern corner of the 910-acre Main Campus, on a portion of the area occupied by the Merced Hills Golf Course.

Office of Planning and Research
January 17, 2002
Page 2

In compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (section 21108), the CEQA Guidelines (section 15094), and with the University of California environmental procedures, the University hereby declares that it has approved the LRDP.

Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared on the project. The project was assigned State Clearinghouse Number SCH 2001021065.

It has been determined that this project as mitigated will have a significant effect on the environment. On January 17, 2002, The Regents of the University of California certified the Final EIR, approved the LRDP, adopted mitigation measures as a condition of project approval, made findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, and adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

A copy of the Final EIR and the record of project approval are located at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Physical Planning, University of California – Merced, 2507 Heritage Drive, Bldg. 1230, Atwater, CA 95301. Some documents included in the record of proceedings may also be located at other offices at UC Merced and at the University's Office of the President, 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94607. In compliance with CEQA, a copy of this Notice of Determination is being sent to the County of Merced, the Final EIR having been sent previously.

Sincerely,

John E. Zimmermann, Director
Planning, Design & Construction
1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200
(510) 987-9593

cc: General Counsel Holst
University Counsel Waltner
Vice Chancellor Graves
Environmental Permitting Manager Notini
Planner Adams
Chief Wellman, UC Development Office, Merced County
Project Director Smith, UC Development Office, Merced County
Assistant City Manager Cahill, City of Merced