

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  
Site Development and Infrastructure with  
Central Plant Facility  
**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2001021065  
**Project Location:** University of California at Merced  
**County:** Merced

**Project Description:** The University of California is implementing a long range development plan (LRDP) for a new 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.

Pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared on the LRDP and the first phase of campus development (Phase 1 Campus), State Clearinghouse Number SCH 2001021065. 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. The University has filed a separate Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research relating to The Regents approval of the LRDP.

On January 17, 2002, The Regents of the University of California also approved the first stage of construction of the Phase 1 Campus. This first stage of construction is the Site Development and Infrastructure with Central Plant Facility component of the Phase 1 Campus (the "Action"). The Phase 1 Campus will be located on approximately 110 acres in the southwestern corner of the Main Campus, on a portion of the area occupied by the Merced Hills Golf Course. The Action involves construction of facilities and utility systems for potable/fire water, irrigation water, storm water, wastewater treatment, solid/hazardous waste disposal, telecommunications, natural gas, and electricity. A Central Plant to

Office of Planning and Research  
January 17, 2002  
Page 2

deliver hot water and chilled water to the academic buildings for the purposes of heating and cooling, and chilled water only to student residences and other support buildings will also be constructed.

In compliance with the provisions of CEQA (section 21108), the CEQA Guidelines (section 15094), and with the University of California environmental procedures, the University hereby declares that it has approved the Site Development and Infrastructure with Central Plant Facility component of the Phase 1 Campus. In accordance with applicable provisions of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, The Regents independently examined the Action in light of the Final EIR and determined that the Action is within the scope of the LRDP, that the Final EIR adequately analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the Action, and that no further environmental review of the Action is necessary.

Implementation of the LRDP will result in significant effects on the environment, and the Action will contribute to some of those impacts. The Regents adopted findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and a statement of overriding considerations when approving the LRDP. The Regents also adopted findings for its approval of the Action and those findings incorporate the findings and statement of overriding considerations adopted for the LRDP. Mitigation measures were adopted as conditions of approval of the LRDP and of the Action.

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  
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cc: General Counsel Holst  
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