

Notice of Availability of
Supplement to the Draft EIR

Merced County University Community Plan

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act that the Supplement to the Draft EIR (SDEIR) for the Merced County University Community Plan has been prepared and is available for public review and comment. The SDEIR has been prepared pursuant to Section 15088.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, and includes a revised version of the Hydrology and Water Quality section, originally included in the Draft EIR published in August 2001. In addition, the SDEIR provides an overview of changes that have been made to the project and changed conditions since August 2001, and evaluates the impact analyses of the DEIR in light of current conditions in Summer 2004.

This document supplements the August 2001 DEIR and any comments submitted on that document will be addressed in the Final EIR. It is not necessary to repeat prior comments or to address issues not included in this Supplement. Consistent with Guidelines Section 15088.5(c) and (f)(2), the County is limiting this recirculation to a portion of the EIR and requests comments on only those portions of the EIR included in this Supplement to the DEIR.

The SDEIR supplements the August 2001 Draft EIR that included an evaluation of the proposed University Community Plan. The UCP will be added to the County General Plan and lays out the regulatory and policy framework for the development of a new community on approximately 2,100 acres located immediately south of the UC Merced campus. At full buildout, the University Community is envisioned to have a population of 31,250 people, a total of 11,600 dwelling units, and 2,023,000 square feet of commercial, office and business park development. The University Community Plan also sets forth Area Plan policies to address issues outside of the University Community Plan boundaries.

The SDEIR supplements the August 2001 Draft EIR, which is a Program EIR pursuant to Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines. The University Community Plan does not convey development entitlements. Implementation of the University Community Plan will occur through the preparation of subsequent specific plans, which will be subject to additional environmental review.

The SDEIR supplements the August 2001 Draft EIR, which also describes cumulative impacts of development of the University Community combined with implementation of the UC Merced Long Range Development Plan, the Merced County Public Works Department's proposed Campus Parkway, and other development in the region.

The proposed University Community site is located south of and adjacent to the south of the UC Merced campus, east of Lake Road and north of Yosemite Avenue. The site is generally flat and contains various agricultural land uses, including cattle grazing and row crops.

The SDEIR is available for public review at the following locations:

- ❑ Merced County UC Development Office, 3450 C Street, Suite B, Atwater, CA , 95301
- ❑ Merced County Planning Department, 2222 "M" Street, Merced, CA 95348
- ❑ Merced County Public Library, Main Branch, 2100 "O" Street, Merced, CA 95340
- ❑ Merced County Public Library, Los Banos Branch, 1312 7th Street, Los Banos, CA
- ❑ State Clearinghouse, 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

The SDEIR is also available on CD and is posted on the website at www.ucmercedplanning.net.

The documents referenced in the SDEIR will be available for review at the Merced County UC Development Office listed above.

Written comments on the SDEIR may be submitted between July 30, 2004 and September 13, 2004. All comments must be received by 5:00pm on September 13, 2004. Please submit written comments to:

Robert E. Smith
Merced County UC Development Office
3450 C Street, Suite B
Atwater, CA 95301