

Supplemental Notice Of Availability Of Draft Environmental Impact Report

Merced County University Community Plan

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act that the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Merced County University Community Plan has been prepared and is available for public review and comment. **The public review and comment period has been extended to October 4, 2001.** The Draft EIR evaluates the environmental impacts associated with development of a new University Community adjacent to the University of California campus in eastern Merced County.

The Draft EIR evaluates a proposed University Community Plan which lays out the regulatory and policy framework for the development of a new community on 2,100 acres located immediately south of the proposed 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 Community Plan boundaries.

The Draft EIR is a Program EIR pursuant to Section 15168 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The University Community Plan does not convey development entitlements. Implementation of the Community Plan will occur through the preparation of subsequent specific plans which will be subject to additional environmental review.

The Draft EIR also identifies cumulative impacts of development of the University Community combined with implementation of the University of California Long Range Development Plan for UC Merced, the Merced County Department of Public Works' proposed Campus Parkway, and other development in the region.

The proposed University Community site is located adjacent to the south of the proposed 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 Draft EIR identifies significant or potentially significant project and/or cumulative environmental impacts associated with the following resource categories: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology, land use, noise, public services, recreation, traffic, and growth inducement.

The Draft EIR is available for review at the following locations:

- Merced County UC Development Office, 3351 "M" Street, Suite 240, Merced, California 95348
- Merced County Planning Department, 2222 "M" Street, Merced, California 95348
- Merced County Public Library, Main Branch, 2100 "O" Street, Merced, California 95340
- Merced County Public Library, Los Banos Branch, 1312 7th Street, Los Banos, CA
- State Clearinghouse, 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
- The Draft EIR is also available on CD and is posted on the website at www.ucmercedplanning.net.

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

The following public hearings have been scheduled to receive input on the Draft EIR:

- Planning Commission: September 12, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. and October 3, 2001, at 9:00 a.m.
- Board of Supervisors: November 6, 2001, at 10:30 a.m. and November 20, 2001 at 10:30 a.m.

The public hearings will be held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers on the Third Floor of the County Administration Building, 2222 "M" Street, Merced, CA 95340

Comments on the EIR may be submitted between August 13 and October 4, 2001. All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on October 4, 2001. Please submit written comments to:

Robert E. Smith, Planning Director

Merced County UC Development Office

3351 "M" Street, Suite 240, Merced, California 95348