Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigation Negative Declaration for the Multidisciplinary Research Building 1

Notice is hereby given that the University of California intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Multidisciplinary Research Building 1 (MRB1) project located on the University of California, Riverside campus (UCR), wet of downtown City of Riverside and east of Interstate 215/State Route 60, in Riverside County, California. The site is specifically located at the northwest corner of Aberdeen Drive and North Campus Drive. The project site is currently a graded, undeveloped area, with remnant concrete slabs from previous athletic uses. The proposed MRB1 Project involves construction and operation of a new 4- to 5-level (including 1 subterranean lower level) and up to 190,000-gsf building, at the northern end of the campus academic core. The proposed MRB1 Project would provide wet and dry research laboratories and related laboratory support spaces, along with research cores that include a vivarium; offices; scholarly activity and interactive spaces; and program support facilities. Programmatically, the building would host multiple scientific disciplines, including the some of the campus’ most popular programs such as biology and chemistry. The proposed Project would also involve the implementation of open space, landscape, and hardscape areas and installation of lighting and utility infrastructure.

In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines and University of California (UC) Procedures for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study for the above named project has been prepared. The Initial Study is tiered from UC Riverside (UCR) 2005 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as supplemented and updated by the UCR 2005 LRDP Amendment 2 EIR. Based upon the Tiered Initial Study, it has been determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate for this project.

It has been determined that with incorporation of applicable LRDP Planning Strategies (PSs), Programs and Practices (PPs), and Mitigation Measures (MMs), and project-specific Mitigation Measures, this project will not result in any new significant impacts that are not examined in the UCR 2005 LRDP EIR as supplemented and updated by the UCR 2005 LRDP Amendment 2 EIR, and the project Draft Initial Study, or in a significant increase in the previously identified impacts. This project would result in significant and unavoidable short-term noise and vibration impacts during construction, consistent with the findings of the 2005 LRDP EIR. This letter is intended to serve as the Notice of Completion for the project. The project’s anticipated environmental effects are discussed in the Draft Initial Study. Copies of the Draft Initial Study and all documents referenced therein are available for review at the address below. In addition, the Initial Study is available for review on the web at [http://odc.ucr.edu/legal.html](http://odc.ucr.edu/legal.html).

Please submit written comments via email at CEQA@ucr.edu or to Tricia D. Thrasher, ASLA, LEED AP, Principal Environmental Planner, UCR Capital Planning, Capital Asset Strategies, 1223 University Avenue, Suite 240, Riverside, CA 92507 no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 4, 2016.