

**SUMMARY OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE  
STUDENT RECREATION CENTER EXPANSION  
INITIAL STUDY/ NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed Student Recreation Center Expansion is located adjacent to the existing Student Recreation Center building at the Recreation Complex site on the University of California, Riverside's (UCR) East Campus. Specifically, the project site is located south of Linden Street, west of Aberdeen Drive, east of the Parking Lot 25 and the Track Stadium, and north of the Materials Science and Engineering building.

UCR proposes the construction of a new 71,147-gross square foot (gsf) Student Recreation Center Expansion building and a 8,509-gsf renovation of portions of the existing, 2-story, Student Recreation Center building for a total of 79,656 gsf of new and reconstructed space. The total size of the Student Recreation Center building would increase from 86,140 gsf to 157,287 gsf. New and/or expanded facilities within the Student Recreation Center buildings would include a weight training and fitness area, wellness center, Multi-Use Athletic Court (MAC), locker rooms, indoor jogging track, rock climbing wall, instructional kitchen, juice/nutrition bar, administrative offices, and support facilities. South of the new Student Recreation Center Expansion building, improvements to the outdoor Recreation Complex would be made, including construction of an outdoor swimming pool/spa and deck area, a new sand volleyball court and new tennis courts. A multi-purpose turf area would be provided in the southwest corner of the project site.

The proposed Project would be designed and constructed to achieve a minimum LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) "Silver" rating, and strive to achieve a Gold rating. The proposed Project would not result in increased student enrollment or an increase in UCR faculty; however, approximately 20 new non-student staff would be employed on campus to serve the proposed Project. Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to begin in June 2012 with completion by December 2013 (construction duration of approximately 19 months).

**2. SUMMARY OF INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION IMPACT CONCLUSIONS**

A Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) (State Clearinghouse No. 2012031088) was prepared for the Student Recreation Center Expansion in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and UC Procedures for Implementing CEQA. The Draft IS/ND for the proposed Project is tiered from the 2005 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) EIR (2005 LRDP EIR) (SCH No. 2005041164), certified by the University of California Board of Regents (The Regents) in November 2005, as augmented, revised and supplemented by the 2005 LRDP Amendment 2 EIR (SCH No. 2010111034) certified by The Regents on November 28, 2011. The Draft IS/ND analyzed the Project's potential impacts with regard to the following environmental topical areas: (1) aesthetics, (2) agriculture and forest resources, (3) air quality, (4) biological resources, (5) cultural resources, (6) geology and soils, (7) greenhouse gas emissions, (8) hazards and hazardous materials, (9) hydrology and water quality, (10) land use and planning, (11) mineral resources, (12) noise, (13) population and housing, (14) public services, (15) recreation, (16) transportation/traffic, and (17) utilities and services systems.

The proposed Project, as analyzed in the Draft IS/ND, incorporates all relevant UCR Planning Strategies (PSs), Campus Programs and Practices (PPs), and Mitigation Measures (MMs), as revised by the 2005 LRDP Amendment 2 EIR for purposes of determining environmental impacts of Project implementation. Based on the Project-specific analysis presented in the Draft IS/ND it was determined that the Project, which includes all relevant PSs, PPs and MMs from the 2005 LRDP Amendment 2 EIR, for each topical area would have either no impact, a less than significant impact, or that project impacts were adequately analyzed in the 2005 LRDP EIR as augmented, revised and supplemented by the 2005 LRDP Amendment 2 EIR.

The Draft IS/ND concluded that the proposed Project would have no impact or a less-than significant Project-specific impact in the following topical areas: aesthetics (page 22), agricultural resources (page 30), air quality (page 32), biological resources (page 46), cultural resources (page 54), geology and soils (page 58), greenhouse gas emissions (page 66), hazards and hazardous materials (page 72), hydrology and water quality (page 80), land use and planning (page 91), mineral resources (page 99), operational noise (page 99), population and housing (page 110), public services (page 111), recreation (page 117), transportation and traffic (page 110), and utilities and services systems (page 128).

Further, it was concluded that the proposed Project would have potentially significant impacts related to construction noise (page 94). This impact was analyzed in the 2005 LRDP EIR as supplemented by the 2005 LRDP Amendment 2 EIR, and determined to be a significant and unavoidable impact associated with implementation of the 2005 LRDP as amended, of which the Project is a part.

Statements of Overriding Considerations for this significant unavoidable impact were adopted by the UC Board of Regents as part of the approval of the 2005 LRDP Amendment 2. There are no mitigation measures that would further reduce the short-term construction-related noise impacts. The proposed Project is consistent with and implements the LRDP and would not result in any new impacts that cannot be mitigated to less than significant levels, nor would it increase the severity of any previously identified impacts. Therefore, the Statement of Overriding Considerations is re-affirmed for the proposed Project and a Negative Declaration is the recommended appropriate environmental document for the proposed Project, in accordance with CEQA.

### **3. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED**

On March 27, 2012, the Draft IS/ND was submitted to the State Clearinghouse in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research; and its public review period concluded April 26, 2012. The IS/ND was provided to approximately 47 interested agencies, organizations and individuals; it was also made available on the UCR Capital Programs, Architects & Engineers website and at the UCR Capital Resource Management offices.

During the public review period, the University received one letter from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse (OPR) confirming that UCR complied with CEQA review requirements; no response to this letter is required. One comment letter was received from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) indicating that the agency reviewed the project and has no further comments. The University's response to the Caltrans letter is included in the Final IS/ND (Section 2). Neither of the letters contains any substantive comments requiring reconsideration of or changes to the conclusions set forth in the Draft IS/ND. No other agencies commented on the Draft IS/ND.