

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

<b>Project Title:</b>	2021 Long Range Development Plan
Lead Agency:	University of California
Project Location:	University of California, Riverside (UC Riverside) 900 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 92521
County:	Riverside County
Contact Person:	Stephanie Tang Campus Environmental Planner Planning, Design & Construction 1223 University Avenue, Suite 240 Riverside, CA 92507

The proposed 2021 Long Range Development Plan (2021 LRDP) is a plan put forth by UC Riverside to guide development on the main UC Riverside campus for the next 15 years. The campus is generally bounded by Blaine Street on the north, Watkins Drive on the east, Le Conte Drive on the south, and Chicago Avenue on the west. Interstate 215/State Route 60 (I-215/SR 60) bisect the campus diagonally. The two resulting areas of campus are depicted as East Campus and West Campus on **Figure 1**.

Development under the 2021 LRDP is designed to accommodate a total enrollment of approximately 35,000 students (Fall quarter headcount) by the academic year 2035/2036. The 2021 LRDP would guide long-range land use development, open space preservation and improvements, multi-modal mobility planning, and infrastructure sustainability and resiliency efforts.

To accommodate the anticipated increase of approximately 11,078 students and 2,806 faculty and staff by academic year 2035/2036, the 2021 LRDP proposes a net increase in development of approximately 3.7 million assignable square feet (approximately 6 million gross square feet) of additional academic buildings, support facilities, and student housing. The 2021 LRDP would provide on-campus or campus-controlled student housing for approximately 40 percent of the student population, equal to approximately 7,489 new on-campus beds. The 2021 LRDP proposes the following land use designations: Academics & Research, Campus Support, Land-based Research, Open Space Reserve, Recreation & Athletics, Student Neighborhood, Agricultural/Campus Research, UCR Botanic Gardens, Canyon Crest Gateway, and University Avenue Gateway. **Figure 2** depicts the proposed 2021 LRDP land use designations on the campus.

The proposed 2021 LRDP is a campus wide plan to guide development, however adoption of the proposed 2021 LRDP does not constitute a commitment to any specific project. Rather, development under the 2021 LRDP would occur over time, based on campus needs and funding availability. The UC Regents and/or its delegated authorities must approve each development proposal, as appropriate. At the campus level, the review of campus development proposals is informed by a process that involves input from staff, faculty, and students (and the local community as appropriate). The proposed 2021 LRDP would require approval by the Board of Regents of the University of California.

## **Environmental Review and Comment**

The University of California will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2021 LRDP, which will analyze the environmental effects of the physical development program proposed by the LRDP at a programmatic level. An Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines to identify potential



environmental impacts that will be addressed in the EIR. The Initial Study also includes a description of the proposed 2021 LRDP. At this time, it is anticipated that the EIR will address environmental impacts in the following resource areas: aesthetics, agriculture resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. A copy of this NOP and the Initial Study supporting the scoping of the proposed 2021 LRDP EIR is available for viewing or downloading on the Planning, Design & Construction website at https://pdc.ucr.edu/environmental-planning-ceqa.

The University will hold a public scoping meeting on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 for the EIR. Due to public safety concerns regarding COVID-19, the meeting will be held online via Zoom from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. To attend this Zoom meeting:

- 1) Click on the following link at the time of the meeting: https://ucr.zoom.us/j/98545140324?pwd=WkJBazJFMFNkcTBOYXE5UXM4aW5sZz09; or
- 2) Go to <u>www.zoom.us</u>, Select "Join a Meeting," and enter the following:

**Meeting ID:** 985 4514 0324 **Password:** 067203

3) For those calling in, dial 16699006833, password: 98545140324#

We request your views as to the scope and contents of the EIR for the proposed project. This NOP is being circulated for 30 days, from July 7, 2020 through August 6, 2020. Your comments must be received no later than 5:00 PM on August 6, 2020. Your name, email and/or address should be included with your comments. Please send your comments to the attention of Stephanie Tang at the address noted above.

Comments can also be submitted via email to the following address: <u>CEQA@ucr.edu</u>. Email comments must also be received no later than 5:00 PM on August 6, 2020.

If you have any questions regarding this NOP, please contact Stephanie Tang at the above address or via email at <u>CEQA@ucr.edu</u>.



Figure 1 – Aerial Map



Data provided by VII Cosoft Bing and its incensors © 2020.



## Figure 2 – Proposed 2021 LRDP Land Use Designations



LEGEND: LAND USE DIAGRAM



Caltrans Yard, not in LRDP planning scope City of Riverside property, not in LRDP planning scope

Development of this approximately 3.25-acresite shall be prohibited from developing usesper a Covenant to Restrict Use of Property entered into between the Department of Toxic Substances Control and The Regents of the University of California, in which a deed restriction was filed on July 26, 2006



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