

**SUMMARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE
MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH BUILDING 1
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed The proposed Multidisciplinary Research Building 1 (MRB1) project is located on North Campus Drive, east of the soccer field, west of Aberdeen Drive, south of the Student Recreation Center, and north of the existing Materials Science and Engineering (MS&E) Building on UCR's East Campus. 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, on the approximately 0.8-acre building site. The proposed 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 MRB1 would be designed and constructed to achieve a minimum LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) "Silver" rating.

The proposed Project would also involve the implementation of open space, landscape, and hardscape areas and installation of lighting and utility infrastructure. No new parking facilities/spaces would be added with implementation of the proposed Project, with the exception of parking for service vehicles and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible parking.

It is expected that the proposed MRB1 would accommodate a population of approximately 400 individuals; the analysis in the IS/MND assumes that all 400 positions would be new to the campus. This increase would fall within the population projections assumed in the 2005 LRDP Amendment 2 approved in November 2011.

Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to begin in August 2016 with substantial completion by October 2018. Potential construction traffic routes have been identified to efficiently move construction vehicles. There are two options being considered for local construction access. The proposed/preferred access would involve construction of a new all-weather roadway extending from University Avenue between Canyon Crest Drive and Parking Lot 19, and the alternative access would involves construction of an access road from the south end of Parking Lot 25.

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

A Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (State Clearinghouse No. 2016041021) was prepared for the MRB1 project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and UC Procedures for Implementing CEQA. The Draft IS/MND 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/MND 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/MND, 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/MND it was determined that the Project, which includes all relevant PSs, PP's 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/MND concluded that the proposed Project would have no impact or a less-than significant Project-specific impact in the following topical areas: aesthetics (page 21), agricultural resources (page 28), biological resources (page 46), geology and soils (page 59), greenhouse gas emissions (page 66), hazards and hazardous materials (page 73), hydrology and water quality (page 82), land use and planning (page 92), mineral resources (page 101), noise (page 102), population and housing (page 111), public services (page 113), recreation (page 119), transportation and traffic (page 121), and utilities and services systems (page 133). The Draft IS/MND concluded that the proposed Project would have a less-than-significant project-specific impact, with project-level mitigation incorporated in the following topical areas: air quality (page 30) related to violation of or substantial contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation during construction, and cultural resources (page 53) related to potential to cause an adverse impact to an archaeological resource.

A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is included in the Final IS/MND (page 3-1).

Further, it was concluded that the proposed Project would have potentially significant impacts related to vibration during construction (to on campus uses) (page 105). 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 on-campus vibration 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 Mitigated Negative Declaration is the recommended appropriate environmental document for the proposed Project, in accordance with CEQA.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED

On April 5, 2016, the Draft IS/MND was submitted to the State Clearinghouse in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research; and its public review period concluded May 4, 2016. The IS/MND was provided to approximately 36 interested agencies,

organizations and individuals; it was also made available on the UCR Architects & Engineers website and at the UCR Capital Planning-Capital Asset Strategies 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 has no comments, but wants to be informed of any project changes. The University's response to the Caltrans letter is included in the Final IS/MND (Section 2). Neither of the letters contains any substantive comments requiring reconsideration of or changes to the conclusions set forth in the Draft IS/MND. No other agencies commented on the Draft IS/MND.