

**BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES FACILITY  
FINAL INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
SUMMARY**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project consists of the construction of a 92,300-gsf Biomedical Sciences Facility in the academic core area of the UC Santa Cruz campus. The proposed facility, which would include four-stories above ground and a basement rodent vivarium, would provide interdisciplinary wet laboratory space, core specialized facilities and faculty offices for scientists from the departments of Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Environmental Toxicology, and Biomolecular Engineering, with concentrations in research in health and medical issues. The facility would not include classroom space.

The new building would be located on a 1.5-acre site in the Science Hill area of the main campus at UC Santa Cruz, immediately north of the Sciences and Engineering Library and east of the Physical Sciences Building, on the south side of McLaughlin Drive, at the present location of a campus parking lot. Vehicle access to the building would be provided via McLaughlin Drive and an existing service drive that also accesses the Science and Engineering Library.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The proposed project would accommodate projected program growth at UC Santa Cruz in the biomedical sciences, and address existing laboratory and office space shortages. The primary purpose of the project is to provide "generic use" wet laboratories designed for flexibility in assigning biomedical sciences research clusters. Recent technological advances (such as the decoding of the human genome), an aging population, the identification of new environmental and inherited health risks, and the emergence of new infectious diseases all are driving biomedical sciences to advance at an unprecedented rate.

The objectives of the project are to provide the following:

- Wet laboratory space to support increased biomedical research;
- Additional research and support space and facilities for collaborative inter-departmental research in the biomedical sciences;
- Interactive spaces for research teams, such as scholarly activity areas, meeting rooms, copy rooms, and break areas so as to foster informal interaction and augment the sharing of ideas in a collaborative environment;

- An adequately sized vivarium that is secure, functional, and appropriate for size of the building and that would support envisioned biomedical research;
- Laboratory space to laboratory support space, at a 1:1 ratio;
- Space arrangement that allows for flexibility in assigning interdisciplinary research clusters.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

As a tiered document, the Initial Study for the project relies, in part, on the 2005 LRDP EIR, for:

- 1) A discussion of general background and setting information for environmental topic areas;
- 2) Overall growth-related issues, associated with continuing campus-wide development
- 3) Issues that were evaluated in sufficient detail in the 2005 LRDP EIR, for which there are no significant new information or changes in circumstances that would require further analysis.

This Tiered Initial Study (IS) analyzes the potential site-specific and localized impacts of the project, as well as the adequacy of the environmental assessment in the LRDP EIR, with regard to 17 environmental topics, listed below:

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Aesthetics                      | • Mineral resources             |
| • Agricultural Resources          | • Noise                         |
| • Air Quality                     | • Population and Housing        |
| • Biological Resources            | • Public Services               |
| • Cultural Resources              | • Recreation                    |
| • Geology and Soils               | • Transportation and Traffic    |
| • Hazards and Hazardous Materials | • Utilities and Service Systems |
| • Hydrology and Water Quality     | • Cumulative Impacts            |
| • Land Use and Planning           |                                 |

## **IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Based on the analysis presented in the Tiered IS, it was determined that this project would not result in any significant impacts that cannot be mitigated to less-than-significant levels or are not sufficiently addressed by the 2005 LRDP EIR.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

The Initial Study/Mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) was prepared in conformance with the State CEQA Statutes and Guidelines and the University of California procedures for Implementation

of CEQA. As noted earlier, the IS/MND was tiered from the 2005 LRDP Program EIR, pursuant to Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Draft IS/proposed MND was circulated for agency and public review and comment, between November 9, 2006 and December 8, 2006.

## **COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

The Draft IS/MND was reviewed by various state, regional, and local agencies, and by a number of interested individuals and organizations, on- and off-campus. During the comment period, comments were received from the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding tree removal, potential fire hazards, and measures to address the potential spread of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) associated with tree removal. An LRDP-identified mitigation measure was included in the project in the final IS/MND to address potential SOD issues. The State Department of Water Resources requested additional detail on project provisions to address storm water runoff. A figure providing additional detail on the storm water features was included in the Final IS, and clarifying data on storm water runoff are provided in responses to the comment. The California Department of Transportation raised an issue on traffic standards of significance, and requested information on how the Campus proposes to implement fair share traffic mitigation measures. Local agencies expressed concerns regarding the tiering process. One individual expressed concerns about the project's displacement of parking, and one individual about the potential for the project to result in cultural resources impacts. All of these issues are addressed in responses to comments. Copies of the letters and the responses to the letters are presented in Appendix E of the final IS/MND. The comments did not raise any new environmental impact issues that had not been identified, analyzed, and mitigated to a less-than-significant level, as discussed in the Tiered IS. One figure and one LRDP-identified mitigation measure were added to the Tiered IS/ND in response to these comments.