PROJECT SUMMARY
University of California, Santa Barbara
Davidson Library Addition
Project Number 981230

Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
(State Clearinghouse # 2008011080)

February 2009

DAVIDSON LIBRARY ADDITION PROJECT
Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Impact Summary
February 2009

Pursuant to State law and University procedures for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH #2008011080), dated January 2008, was prepared for the proposed Davidson Library Addition Project.

Project Description

The Santa Barbara Campus, is proposing to construct a 43.787 assignable square-foot (ASF) (63,123 gross square-foot (GSF)) three story structure, plus mechanical penthouse, as a stand alone building addition to the Davidson Library. The addition will function as new space for the library, be open seven days a week, 24 hours a day (24/7), and is intended to be heavily weighted towards open study and reading areas with library specific programmed areas (currently special collections). The project includes reconfiguration of the sidewalk north and east of the Library Addition.

Project Objectives

The objective of the proposed library addition is to reorganize the existing functions of the existing UC Santa Barbara Library to improve operational efficiency and consolidate the satellite Arts Library into the main Library building. After completion of the project the Davidson Library will have capacity for over 3 million bound volumes and seating capacity for over 2,700 users.

Environmental Analysis

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) concluded that impacts would be less than significant for aesthetics, transportation and traffic, and utilities/service systems. The IS/MND concluded there would be no impacts to agricultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, mineral resources, population/housing, public services, and recreation.

The IS/MND concluded that impacts in the following areas would be less than significant after incorporation of proposed mitigation measures: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Noise. Mitigation measures incorporated into the project are listed in the next section. A project-specific Mitigation Monitoring Program is included as Section 6.0 of the Final MND. Monitoring of the implementation of all mitigation measures will be conducted during various phases of project development as appropriate.

Impacts and Mitigations

Air Quality

Construction activities at the project site have the potential to result in fugitive dust generation impacts resulting from site preparation and grading activities. Construction activities would also contribute to regional emissions of ozone precursors. Project Mitigation Measures AQ-1, AQ-2, and AQ-3 require the implementation of standard dust control measures during project construction. AQ-4 will reduce potential health impacts from diesel particulate matter to less than significant. These Mitigation Measures would reduce potential dust and diesel exhaust emission impacts to a less than significant level.

Biological Resources

Construction activities including site preparation and demolition at the project site include the removal of non-native, ornamental trees which has the potential to result in impacts to nesting birds. Project Mitigation Measure BIO-1 requires a bird nesting survey be performed two weeks prior to removal of mature trees during the nesting season for sensitive birds (February 15 through August 31). This Mitigation Measure would reduce the impact to nesting birds to a less than significant level.

Cultural Resources

In the unlikely event cultural resources are identified during construction activities Mitigation Measure CULT-1 would be implemented which requires work within in the vicinity of the find to be temporarily suspended or redirected until an archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. This Mitigation Measure would reduce impacts to cultural resources to a less than significant level.

Geology and Soils

Construction activities at the project site have the potential to result in significant short-term erosion and sedimentation impacts. Mitigation Measure GEO-1 would implement typical “best management practice” standards to minimize erosion and the effects of sedimentation. This Mitigation Measure would reduce potential short-term erosion and sedimentation impacts associated with the proposed project to a less than significant level.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Project-related construction activities have the potential to result in impacts from erosion and sediment transport off the project site and impact water quality. Mitigation Measure HYD-1 (GEO-1) would require the implementation of a variety of best management practices to reduce the potential for impacts from erosion and sedimentation to a less than significant level. This Mitigation Measure would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

Noise

Construction activities at the proposed project site have the potential to result in increased noise in the project area potentially impacting sensitive receptors (faculty, staff, students occupying adjacent buildings and classrooms). Mitigation Measures NOISE-1, NOISE-2, and NOISE-3 requiring coordination/timing of construction and demolition activities creating excessive noise or vibration levels and shielding of stationary construction equipment would substantially reduce the noise and vibration impacts generated by the proposed project. Impacts would be reduced to less than significant levels.

Environmental Review Process

The Draft IS/MND was submitted on January 22, 2008 to the State Clearinghouse, local agencies, utility providers, and other interested parties. The Draft IS/MND was circulated for a 30-day public review period from January 22, 2008 through February 20, 2008. Copies of the Draft IS/MND were made available at one on-campus and two community libraries, and were distributed to interested agencies, groups, and individuals. The UCSB Office of Campus Planning and Design received three comment letters on the Draft IS/MND from the following agencies:

1. Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, dated January 31, 2008
2. County of Santa Barbara Fire Department, dated February 11, 2008
3. Native American Heritage Commission, January 30, 2008

The comment letters are included in the Final IS/MND as are the University's full responses to the comments. For convenience, however, a brief summary of the comments and responses are provided below.

The Draft IS/MND analyzed a four story (65-foot high) 40,884 assignable square-foot (ASF) (54,191 gross square-foot (GSF)) building addition. Since the circulation of the Draft IS/MND the project was changed to a 3-story 43,787 ASF (63,123 GSF) structure. Programming remains the same.

The Project, as revised, will result in a slightly larger construction site area in the project area. The originally proposed project consisted of a 14,000 square-foot building construction area and the project was expanded by 4,000 square feet to include reconfiguration of the sidewalk. The building site construction area for the Library addition is still 14,000 square feet as analyzed in the IS/MND and the 4,000 additional square feet of disturbance is for the realigned sidewalk. The total construction area would be 18,000 square feet. Though ground disturbance is a larger area the project does not result in adverse impacts because the area surrounding the building addition is a previously disturbed area with sidewalks and ornamental trees. Five more trees would be removed than described in the Draft IS/MND to realign the sidewalk. There would be a total of 15 trees removed.

As reflected in the Findings, upon reviewing the comment letters and the proposed Project revisions, it was determined that no new significant environmental concerns regarding the project were raised, and that no new significant information has been added to the IS/MND in response to comments requiring recirculation under Section 15088.5 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary of Comments and Responses

The APCD raised a concern that the MND did not discuss global climate change. The APCD recommended at a minimum the MND include mitigation measures to address green building technologies, energy efficiency, recycling, and landscaping. The APCD also provided updated rules that relate to boilers and requested some clarity regarding the boiler in the Library

Addition, and stated diesel engine permit requirements. A GHG analysis was included in the Final IS/MND. Updated rules for boilers are incorporated into the Final IS/MND. The boiler for the Project will only be used in the Addition and will not operate as a combined function. All necessary permits will be obtained from the APCD.

The SBCFD raised concerns that there is inadequate fire water infrastructure system in place to handle the required fire flow and requested confirmation from the Goleta Water District that the fire water main infrastructure is capable and the water supply is sufficient. The Library Addition is a Type I-A building that requires 6,000 gallons per minute (gpm) fire flow for a duration of four hours. In accordance with the California Fire Code, a fully sprinklered building will only require 50 percent of the fire flow value (3,000 gpm). The Library Addition will be fully sprinklered and the fire system will provide the required flow.

The SBCFD also raised concerns that the current firefighter staffing and emergency response capabilities are not adequately funded. As stated in the IS/MND on Page 2-1, all 30 staff occupants of the library addition would come from the existing library on campus. Students using the addition are currently using the library. There would not be an increase in campus population from the Project. The Project would not increase the demand for a new fire station or other facilities. An impact would occur if the increase in demand necessitated the need to build a new station, resulting in physical impacts to the environment. The SBCFD letter indicates the need for funding to support increased emergency fire protection service to campus facilities and does not state the need for new facilities. Funding for fire service is not a CEQA issue but the Campus will continue to work with the Fire Department to address the adequacy of Departmental services.

The NAHC made recommendations to mitigate potential project-related impacts to archaeological resources uncovered during construction. Cultural resources have not been identified at the Project site. Mitigation Measure CULT-1 and all LRDP policies pertaining to the protection of archeological and paleontological resources will be followed to protect these resources.