

PROJECT SUMMARY

**University of California, Irvine
Humanities Building**

Project No. 991077

FINAL INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

State Clearinghouse No. 2007011035

March 2007

**Humanities Building Project
Summary of Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Project Description

The proposed project would construct an approximately 83,883 gross square feet (GSF) structure, with 4-6 floors on the University of California, Irvine (UCI) campus. The building would provide 34,595 assignable square feet (ASF) of new space for the School of Humanities, for instructional and research activities and faculty and administrative support offices, 1,800 ASF for an approximately 110-seat auditorium, 8,400 ASF of general office space to consolidate humanities-based research programs currently housed in other buildings, 720 ASF to replace two 22-seat general assignment classrooms within the Humanities Hall, 540 ASF for four UCI Disability Services testing rooms and 5,500 ASF of general/surge space which is currently unassigned. Construction would begin in November 2007 and be completed by late summer 2009.

Site development would include grading, infrastructure, drainage, and landscape improvements. Landscape improvements will include hardscape and planting elements, including a new courtyard that would provide a visual linkage to the existing Humanities Plaza. Local connections to the existing campus utility systems would be constructed. Service access will be provided from an existing service drive connection to West Peltason Drive.

The proposed project site is approximately one acre. Existing facilities on the project site include the Humanities Trailer Complex. Three classroom trailers within this complex will be relocated to UCI Parking Lot 8 for continued use as classrooms. All other trailers will be removed from the campus. The adjacent Disability Services Center building will remain in place and fully operational. Project construction will include the removal of existing site improvements including landscaping, vending machines, automated banking teller machines, and outdoor seating areas. Proposed building space allocations are summarized below, and described in detail immediately thereafter.

Humanities Building Space Program (ASF)

Instructional Lab and Support	3,120 sq. ft.
Research and Scholarly Activity	9,385 sq. ft.
Faculty Office	8,910 sq. ft.
Teacher Assistant and Lecturer Office	5,265 sq. ft.
Administrative Office and Support	6,655 sq. ft.
Replace Two General Assignment Classrooms	720 sq. ft.
Testing Rooms for Disability Services Center	540 sq. ft.
Auditorium	1,800 sq. ft.
General Office	8,400 sq. ft.
Surge/Unassigned	5,500 sq. ft.
Total:	<u>50,295 sq. ft.</u>

Proposed Space Description

Teaching space: Within the Humanities Building, teaching space will total 4,380 ASF and include an open access video editing laboratory and 60-seat film screening room. Instructional

support spaces will include a materials prep room, equipment storage, and a studio for faculty training in various computer technologies. Also included are two 22-seat classrooms to be relocated from Humanities Hall in order to provide contiguous space for expansion of instructional support space in the Humanities Instructional Resource Center.

Research and scholarly activity space: Research and scholarly space would total 9,385 ASF. This will include research offices to accommodate graduate students and other research team members; rooms for research meetings, group projects, graduate seminars, dissertation defenses, etc.; library/reading rooms and a colloquium room to accommodate scholarly meetings, seminars, and symposia.

Office and administrative space: Academic office and administrative space would total 20,830 ASF. The building will include offices to house 66 faculty, space for teaching assistants and lecturers, and administrative office and support space for two school-wide technical units (HumaniTech and Humanities computing staff), as well as departmental offices and support spaces.

Surge space: An approximately 110-seat auditorium, plus general assignment instructional space and office space for activities yet to be determined would occupy 15,700 ASF.

Building Systems

Building systems would include conventional HVAC, electrical, telecommunications, sanitary sewer, and chilled water. Utility service is available from the central campus utility tunnel located under the Ring Mall, near the project site. Utilities would be delivered to the building by a branch tunnel built as part of this project. No upgrades to existing utility systems are required to meet the needs of this project.

Project Objectives

Student enrollment in the School of Humanities is projected to increase by approximately 900 full-time equivalent undergraduate and graduate students, between academic year 2004/2005 and 2010/2011. Another 66 faculty positions are required to alleviate existing shortages and to meet increased demands of higher student enrollment.

This project is intended to satisfy the following programmatic objectives:

- Provide additional open laboratories and instructional support space that the School of Humanities needs to accommodate existing and projected programs and enrollments.
- Accommodate new faculty required to support enrollment growth in the humanities.

Project design objectives include the following:

- An overall building massing that complements the Humanities Instructional Building
- A courtyard appropriate for social and academic programs, located adjacent to the Colloquia Room, Screening Room and other first floor functions
- A visual connection between the courtyard and the Humanities Plaza

Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting

This site is at the northwest corner of the Humanities Quadrangle, at a major pedestrian node, where the Ring Mall joins a Radial Mall that links the Arts Village to Aldrich Park. Vehicular access is provided via Mesa Road and West Peltason Drive. Site access is currently provided

from a service drive that connects to West Peltason Drive. Campus shuttle stops occur just west of the project site at the northern edge of parking Lot 7, and to the north, next to West Peltason Drive and the pedestrian bridge. A bus stop is located immediately north, on the south side of West Peltason Drive. The proposed project site currently houses a complex of modular buildings and trailers that provide space for classrooms and Humanities program activities, a small courtyard area, and a group of Automated Teller Machines. An open lawn area descends from the trailer complex north to West Peltason Drive. Surrounding land uses include, the Arts Village to the North, Humanities Hall to the South, the Humanities Instructional Building to the West, and Biological Sciences Greenhouses and Surface Parking Lot 7 to the East.

Environmental Analysis

The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration evaluates the Project, potential environmental effects associated with its construction and operation, and measures taken to mitigate any potentially significant environmental effects identified. The analysis supports the conclusion that the Project, with mitigation incorporated, will not result in any potentially significant environmental effects.

This Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration is an independent CEQA analysis and is neither tiered from the 1989 LRDP EIR, as amended, or the Draft 2007 LRDP EIR currently being prepared for the UCI campus. Studies and analyses performed for the 1989 LRDP EIR are relied upon for background and setting information applicable to the project. The 1989 LRDP EIR, as amended, is incorporated by reference into the Initial Study. Technical studies performed for the Draft 2007 LRDP EIR are also relied upon for some of the impact analyses. All of the potential impacts and mitigation associated with the Humanities Building project are discussed in this Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. Construction of the Humanities Building is expected to commence after the 2007 LRDP Update is deemed effective and the building will be consistent with that document.

This Initial Study (IS) analyzes the potential site-specific and localized environmental impacts of the project with regard to the following:

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

Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Based on the evaluation of environmental impacts and mitigation measures presented in the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, the project would not result in any significant impacts to the environment. The project site contains no habitat for any federal, state, or local listed plants or wildlife. Required project specific mitigation measures are as follows:

- 1: All construction contractors shall comply with SCAQMD regulations, including Rule 403 and Rule 402, the Nuisance Rule. Specifically, the contractor will:
 - a. Moisten soil more than 15 minutes prior to moving soil or watering as necessary to prevent visible dust emissions from exceeding 100 feet in any direction.
 - b. Apply chemical stabilizers to disturbed surface areas (completed grading areas) within five days of completing grading or apply dust suppressants or vegetation sufficient to maintain a stabilized surface.
 - c. Water open storage piles hourly or cover with temporary coverings.
 - d. Water exposed surfaces at least twice a day under calm conditions and as often as needed on windy days when winds are less than 25 miles per hour or during very dry weather in order to maintain a surface crust and prevent the release of visible emissions from the construction site.
 - e. Wash mud-covered tires and under-carriages of trucks leaving construction sites.
 - f. Provide for street sweeping, as needed, on adjacent roadways to remove dirt dropped by construction vehicles or mud, which would otherwise be carried off by trucks departing project sites.
 - g. Securely cover loads of dirt with a tight fitting tarp on any truck leaving the construction sites to dispose of excavated soil.
 - h. Cease grading during periods when winds exceed 25 miles per hour.
 - i. Use low-sulfur diesel fuel in earth moving equipment and haul trucks.
2. Construction plans and specifications will include a requirement to define and implement a work program that would limit emissions of reactive organic gases (ROGs) during the application of architectural coatings to the extent necessary to keep total daily ROGs from all sources below 75 pounds/day, throughout that period of construction activity. The specific program may include any combination of restrictions on the types of paints and coatings, application methods and amount of surface area coated, as determined by the Contractor.
3. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to perform periodic project-specific inspections of the excavations and to salvage exposed fossils. The paleontologist shall be allowed to divert or direct grading in the area of an exposed fossil in order to facilitate evaluation and, if necessary, salvage the exposed fossil. The paleontologist shall be allowed to divert or direct grading in the area of an exposed fossil in order to facilitate evaluation and, if necessary, salvage the exposed fossil. Due to the small nature of the fossils present, fine mesh screens shall be used at the discretion of the paleontologist at project-specific inspections to collect matrix samples for processing. Provisions for preparation and identification of any fossils collected shall be made before donation to a suitable repository. All fossils collected shall be donated to an institution with a research interest in the materials.

Environmental Review Process

The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared in conformance with the State CEQA Statutes and Guidelines and the University of California procedures for implementation of CEQA. The document was circulated for public review and comment between January 9 and February 11, 2007.

Comments and Responses

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was reviewed by various state, regional and local agencies and by a number of interested individuals and organizations, both on and off campus. Five written comments were received and are included in Appendix D of the Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. None of the comment letters raised any new potentially significant environmental impacts that had not already been adequately addressed in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, and no changes were made to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration as a result of public comment. Responses to the comments are included in Appendix D.