SUMMARY
University of California, Davis
King Hall Renovation and Expansion

Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration
(State Clearinghouse No. 2006092036)

October 27, 2006
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The King Hall Renovation and Expansion project integrates a building addition with renovation of key portions of the existing Martin Luther King, Jr. School of Law building. The project would add approximately 29,975 gross square feet (gsf) (18,800 assignable square feet [asf]), renovate approximately 20,870 gsf (14,300 asf), and upgrade building systems in the existing facility. The 2 ½ acre project site is on Mrak Hall Drive, and is bordered by the UC Davis Arboretum on the south, an Operations and Maintenance complex to the west, Parking Lot 3 to the north, and Mrak Hall and the circular drive to the east. The addition would enclose the existing C-shaped courtyard, and the project would include landscaping (both hardscape and softscape) in the courtyard and around the building.

Building systems will include the following services: domestic and fire water, utility water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, electrical, natural gas, telecommunications, steam, and chilled water. Utility service is available from existing systems, except for steam and chilled water. The project would require upgrade of offsite steam and chilled water utility lines. In the event these upgrades cannot be completed before the building renovation and addition were completed and occupied, the project design includes options to provide heating and cooling to the building on a stand-alone basis during the interim period between project completion and the installation of the steam and chilled water pipeline upgrades.

One of five Robert Arneson site-specific sculptures commissioned for the campus, colloquially referred to as the “eggheads,” is located on the project site. The sculpture (titled See No Evil/Hear No Evil and comprised of two of the “eggheads”) would be relocated on the Mrak Hall Drive Circle next to the project site to preserve the intent of the artist.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project would support the teaching, research and service mission of the University of California. The project would relieve over-crowding and allow consolidation of program functions in the existing building to address the most urgent needs for office space and library space, and it is specifically intended to achieve the following academic and support space objectives:

- Upgrade the existing building, to install fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems throughout the facility and provide domestic water connections to support the fire sprinkler system;
- Reorganize the library to improve circulation and security;
• Consolidate faculty offices, instructional space, and student services;

• Provide space to expand academic and administrative functions not accommodated in the original 40-year-old design, including moving all non-clinical functions from temporary buildings where those functions are located into King Hall;

• Provide expanded and improved office, library, and student services spaces; and

• Implement sustainable design features.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

As a tiered document, the Initial Study for the project relies, in part, on the 2003 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 2003 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
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Cumulative Impacts

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 2003 LRDP EIR.
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The IS/ND 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/ND was tiered from the 2003 LRDP Program EIR, pursuant to Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines. The report was circulated for agency and public review and comment, between September 8, 2006 and October 9, 2006.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

The Draft IS/ND 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, two public comments were received regarding the relocation of the sculptures associated with the project site, and the Department of Water Resources commented upon a possible requirement for a flood plain encroachment permit to reconfigure existing stormwater drains. Copies of those letters and responses, are presented in Appendix B of this final IS/ND. 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. No changes to the Tiered IS/ND were required to acknowledge these comments.