

Office of the President

TO MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE AND CAPITAL STRATEGIES COMMITTEE:

ACTION ITEM

For Meeting of July 16, 2025

**2018 LA JOLLA CAMPUS LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SAN DIEGO
CAMPUS: AMENDMENT #1 FOLLOWING CERTIFICATION OF A SUBSEQUENT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego) La Jolla Campus Long Range Development Plan (2018 LRDP) serves as a general land use plan that guides the physical development of the campus. The 2018 LRDP was approved by the Regents of the University of California in November 2018. As a result of high demand and to support the shared goal of the State of California and the UC system to increase access to higher education, UC San Diego has experienced higher rates of enrolled students and associated campus population growth than was projected at the adoption of the 2018 LRDP (November 2018). Since fall 2015 (the baseline for the adopted 2018 LRDP), UC San Diego's campus enrollment has grown by nearly 9,500 students, a 29 percent increase, reaching approximately 42,400 students as of fall 2023 (baseline for modeling purposes). When including staff and faculty population growth, the total campus population now exceeds 65,000, which is approaching the total estimated campus population projected in the 2018 LRDP. This necessitates that the campus update its future growth projections to ensure that growth plans adequately consider the future programmatic needs of academic, research, healthcare, and other supporting campus functions.

The proposed update to the 2018 LRDP (Amendment #1) revises the previous campus population growth and development projections, makes minor land-use modifications, updates development projections, and extends the planning horizon year from 2035 to 2040. Amendment #1 preserves the primary goals, objectives, and principles of the 2018 LRDP. Amendment #1 proposes a total campus population of 96,300 (including students, staff, and faculty) and development of up to approximately 36.2 million gross square feet (gsf) of building space by the 2040 planning horizon, increases of approximately 45 percent and 30 percent, respectively.

In this action, the Regents are being asked to (1) certify the 2018 LRDP Subsequent Environmental Impact Report; (2) adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; (3) adopt the California Environmental Quality Act Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations; and (4) approve Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP.

RECOMMENDATION

The President of the University recommends that, following review and consideration of the environmental consequences of Amendment #1 to the UC San Diego La Jolla Campus 2018 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including any written information addressing this item received by the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents no less than 48 hours in advance of the beginning of this Regents meeting, testimony or written materials presented to the Regents during the scheduled public comment period, and the item presentation, the Regents:

- A. Certify the UC San Diego 2018 LRDP Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (2018 LRDP SEIR).
- B. Make a condition of approval the implementation of applicable mitigation measures within the responsibility and jurisdiction of UC San Diego as identified in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted in connection with Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP SEIR.
- C. Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP.
- D. Adopt the CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations for Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP.
- E. Approve Amendment #1 the 2018 LRDP, San Diego campus.

BACKGROUND

Past Regents Items

The 2018 LRDP and accompanying Environmental Impact Report (EIR) were approved and certified, respectively, by the Regents of the University of California in November 2018.

Project Background and Context

UC San Diego's La Jolla campus is located adjacent to the communities of La Jolla and University City, within the northwest portion of the City of San Diego. UC San Diego's campus is composed of three distinct, but contiguous, geographical areas: the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) portion of the campus (178.7 acres), the West Campus (635.7 acres), and the East Campus (265.7 acres). The East and West Campuses are bisected by Interstate 5 (I-5) but are internally connected via two bridges. Other nearby properties include the La Jolla del Sol housing complex (12 acres), the Audrey Geisel House and an adjacent canyon and beachfront parcel (25.8 acres), and the Torrey Pines Gliderport, Torrey Pines Center, and Torrey Pines Court properties (41 acres). In total, the 2018 LRDP includes campus lands totaling

approximately 1,159 acres (See Attachment 1). Existing facilities amount to approximately 23 million gsf (including projects currently under construction) and the 2018 LRDP projected approximately 27.9 million gsf. Student enrollment has reached approximately 45,000 (fall 2024), which in addition to staff and faculty growth is nearing the 2018 LRDP total campus population projection of 65,600, representing an increase of approximately 33 percent since adoption of the 2018 LRDP.

This update, “Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP”, anticipates continued population growth as the UC System strives to achieve the goal shared with the State of California to increase access to higher education¹. Demand for a UC education remains high, including at the San Diego campus; for the fall 2024 academic session, approximately 157,000 undergraduate student applications were received at UC San Diego, which represents a 34 percent increase over the last seven years.

UC San Diego’s future growth continues to be guided by its Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan defines the campus’ mission and vision and associated values, goals, and strategies. This mission is grounded in a commitment to public service and is focused on advancing UC San Diego’s responsibilities as a public university, “to be a destination public university that is student-centered, research-driven, patient dedicated and service-oriented.”

Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP responds to the following key drivers:

- Update total campus population and development projections, while extending the planning horizon from 2035 to 2040;
- Bring UC San Diego’s long range land use planning up to date in light of changes in the academic and environmental landscape since adoption of the 2018 LRDP;
- Consider and maintain the 2018 LRDP’s primary goals, principles, and objectives; and
- Provide a basis for future decisions concerning land use and capital projects for the La Jolla campus.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 2018 LRDP is the guiding land use plan for the campus and delineates general types of development anticipated and, along with development and population projections, provides a framework for future expansion initiatives. The 2018 LRDP is not intended to be a detailed project implementation plan, nor does it constitute a commitment to a specific level of future enrollment, campus population, specific physical development projects, construction schedules, or capital funding. As future projects are advanced under the LRDP, they would go through other required approvals, including detailed project-level environmental analysis, and would be reviewed for consistency with the LRDP framework.

¹ UC 2030 Capacity Plan: <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july22/b5attach2.pdf>
Multi-Year Compact with Governor: <https://dof.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/352/Programs/Education/UC-Compact-May-2022.pdf>

Population Projections

Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP proposes an increase in total campus population compared to the projections outlined in the adopted 2018 LRDP. Since adoption of the 2018 LRDP, the total campus population (i.e., students, faculty/researchers, and staff) has increased from 48,850 (fall 2015 baseline) to 65,050, including 42,400 students and 22,650 faculty and staff (fall 2023). Under Amendment #1 the student population is projected to increase to 56,000 by the 2040 horizon year, while the staff and faculty population would increase to 40,300. The total campus population is projected to reach 96,300 by 2040, an increase of 30,700, or approximately 45 percent over the 2035 projection in the 2018 LRDP. These projections are an estimate for modeling purposes informed by more recent enrollment and staffing trends across the campus. The total campus population also includes growth related to UC San Diego Health facilities (located primarily on the La Jolla East Campus) as well as affiliates associated with potential future research and other academic support initiatives, including public-private partnerships (P3s).

Table 1: Updated Campus Population Projections

Category	Fall 2023 Population (Baseline)	2018 LRDP (Fall 2035)	Update (Fall 2040)	Difference in Projected Growth
Students	42,400	42,400	56,000	13,600
Staff and Faculty	22,650	23,200	40,300	17,100
Total Population	65,050	65,600	96,300	30,700

- Student population is expressed in terms of total enrollment/headcount.
- Staff and faculty population is expressed as full-time equivalent.

Development Projections

Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP projects an increase in land use development intensity compared to the projections outlined in the adopted 2018 LRDP. The increased square footage would occur within the West and East Campuses only. Development on the West Campus primarily consists of student housing, academic facilities, research, and other academic support. Development on the East Campus primarily consists of student housing, healthcare and research facilities. No increase in development is proposed at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) portion of the campus beyond what was assumed in the adopted 2018 LRDP. On-campus student housing, a key development objective under the 2018 LRDP, is projected to grow from 19,710 beds (as of fall 2023 baseline) to 38,620 beds by 2040. This aligns with the campus goal of providing on-campus housing for approximately 65 percent of the eligible student population to allow for a four-year housing guarantee.

Table 2: Updated Campus Development Projections

Campus Location	2018 LRDP (to Fall 2035)	Proposed Updated GSF (to Fall 2040)	Total Projected GSF (Fall 2040)	Increase Above Adopted 2018 LRDP
West Campus	16,046,000	5,820,200	21,866,200	36%
East Campus	9,358,300	2,367,100	11,725,400	25%
Scripps Institution of Oceanography	2,011,000	0	2,011,000	0%
Nearby Properties	471,000	105,000	576,000	22%
Total Space	27,886,300	8,292,300	36,178,600	

- Nearby Properties' increase due to incorporation of recently completed 8980 Villa La Jolla Drive project into the UC San Diego Campus (105,000 gsf).

Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP proposes minor changes to the LRDP Land Use Plan (See Attachment 2) and all land use categories (e.g., Academic, Academic Healthcare, Academic Mixed-Use, Administrative, Community Oriented, General Services, Housing, Open Space Preserve, Science Research, and Sports and Recreation) would remain the same. Along with new anticipated development, investment in existing facilities and infrastructure would be pursued to support expansion, renew facilities, incorporate flexibility and sustainability, and improve seismic safety. The proposed Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP and the 2018 LRDP are provided as Attachment 3.

SUSTAINABILITY

The 2018 LRDP and Amendment #1 advance both UC and campus climate resilience and sustainability goals by complying with the University of California Sustainable Practices Policy (referred to as “Policy”) and supporting achievement of UC’s aggressive greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. Notably, UC San Diego has lower total GHG emissions now than when the 2018 LRDP was adopted, despite adding over four million gsf of net new space and nearly 9,500 new students (source: UC San Diego The Climate Registry inventories for calendar years 2019 and 2022). The most current Policy sets revised goals, directing UC campuses to reduce GHG emissions to 90 percent below 2019 levels by 2045. UC San Diego completed a “Decarbonization Study” in 2024 to identify decarbonization, sustainability, electrification, and energy savings actions that would allow the campus to achieve a 90 percent reduction in its emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels on campus by 2045; the LRDP, as amended, would facilitate implementation of projects necessary to decarbonize the campus and meet its climate action goals.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP considers the substantial campus, public, and agency engagement undertaken for the development of the approved 2018 LRDP, which guided the development of key planning principles, goals, and objectives that remain relevant today. In addition, outreach was undertaken to gain feedback and educate the campus, public community,

and outside agencies on the need to update the 2018 LRDP. Updates on the LRDP were provided to UC San Diego's Community Advisory Group (CAG) to reinforce the campus's commitment to work with and communicate with local communities regarding its future development. Presentations were given to local community groups including the University Community Planning Group, La Jolla Community Planning Association, and La Jolla Shores Association. A dedicated website (<https://plandesignbuild.ucsd.edu/planning/lrdp/la-jolla.html>) was created to provide information, including content presented at the community meetings, and to share information about the steps in the process and opportunities for public input. As part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) outreach process, a Public Scoping Meeting was held on March 20, 2024 and a Public Hearing was held April 22, 2025, both of which were advertised via email, mail, and website notices.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

In accordance with CEQA and the University of California Procedures for implementation of CEQA, a program-level Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (consistent with certified SCH# 2016111019) has been prepared (Attachment 4). A summary of the CEQA process and the environmental impacts of the proposed Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP are provided in Attachment 5. The CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations, provided in Attachment 7, have been prepared to support the University's determination regarding project impacts, mitigation measures, and CEQA alternatives.

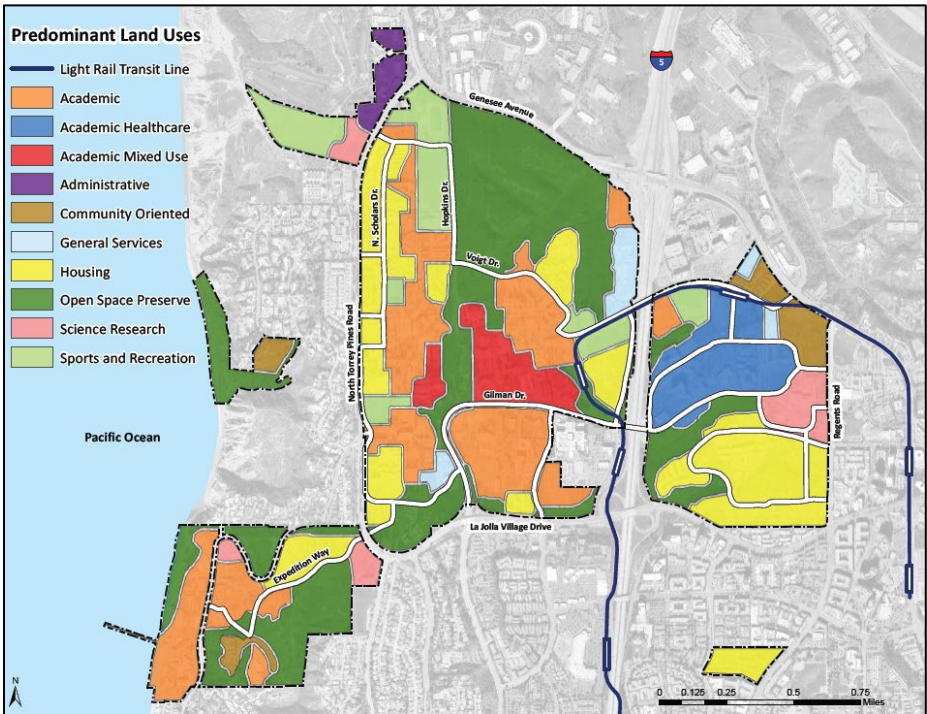
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1:	Campus Location Map
Attachment 2:	Existing and Proposed LRDP Land Use Map
Attachment 3:	Proposed 2018 LRDP Amendment #1: https://plandesignbuild.ucsd.edu/_files/planning/LRDP-Amendment.pdf 2018 LRDP (November 2018): https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-BSIAq5pOSYbFH6nQ1wuc-BY0CEmxxqn/view
Attachment 4:	2018 LRDP Amendment #1 Subsequent EIR and Mitigation Monitoring and Report Program: Vol.1: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zDPjkNtQ3l6fuThMe0x6vVLUoCzrX0na/view Vol.2: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S3fdVIw9NXACfeTIBqsciD-Sepp6SpJ3/view Vol.3: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KjU0JZjJNBGQQY0Z-kmEbExmnCYfibrC/view
Attachment 5:	Environmental Impact Summary
Attachment 6:	2018 LRDP EIR and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program: https://plandesignbuild.ucsd.edu/planning/lrdp/la-jolla.html#2018-LRDP-Environmental-Impact-
Attachment 7:	CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vKJ1yPt2OkaPnTCjWufABlut0AvQVkTY/vi ew

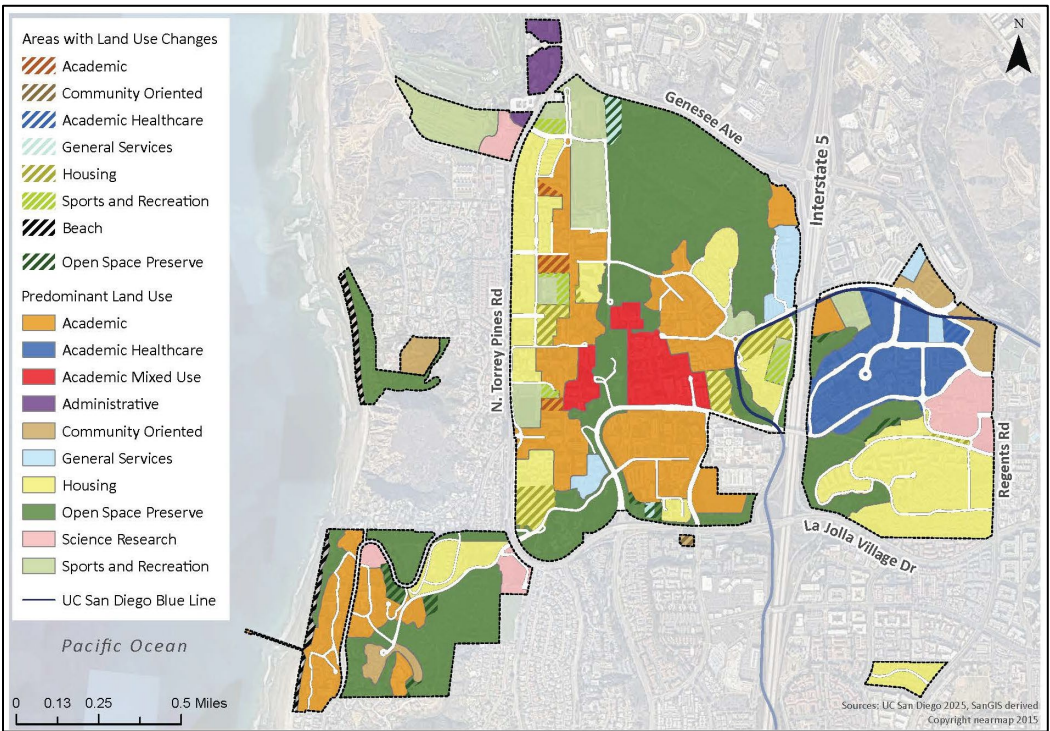
CAMPUS LOCATION MAP



EXISTING 2018 LRDP LAND USE MAP



REVISED 2018 LRDP LAND USE MAP



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Environmental Review Process

Pursuant to State law and University procedures for implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Subsequent Impact Report (SEIR) was prepared for Amendment #1 to the 2018 Long Range Development Plan] (SCH # 2016111019) (Attachment 4). The SEIR is tiered from the Program EIR prepared for the 2018 LRDP certified in November 2018 (SCH #2016111019) (Attachment 6). The SEIR incorporates the 2018 LRDP EIR by reference and summarizes its information where applicable. The Draft SEIR was circulated to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, and interested agencies, organizations, and individuals for a 45-day public review period beginning April 3, 2025 and ending May 19, 2025. The Draft SEIR was made available at the UC San Diego Campus Planning Office and website at <https://plandesignbuild.ucsd.edu/planning/environmental.html#projects-currently-under-environmental-review>. A copy of all comments received and the University's responses is included in the final SEIR and further discussed in the *Public Comments* section below.

Environmental Impacts

The SEIR found that the Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP would not result in new significant impacts or substantially more severe significant impacts on the environment from what was disclosed in the 2018 LRDP EIR, with the exception of the following resource topics: Air Quality (odor emissions), Utilities and Service Systems (new facilities and wastewater treatment capacity), and Cumulative Impacts (potential adverse physical impacts from new school facilities and cumulative demand on wastewater infrastructure). Additionally, the SEIR found that Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP would result in a reduced impact to following environmental resource topics: Transportation (compliance with circulation system programs, plans, ordinances or policies), and Cumulative Impacts (degradation of scenic vistas and compliance with circulation system programs, plans, ordinances, or policies).

Incorporation of project revisions and new and/or revised mitigation measures will avoid or reduce potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels to the extent feasible. The Final SEIR is accompanied by a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program to assure that all mitigation measures are implemented in accordance with CEQA (Attachment 4). Impacts that remain significant and unavoidable have been fully analyzed and there are no feasible mitigation measures to reduce the impacts to less than significant (see Findings section below).

Public Comments

A public hearing on the Draft SEIR was held on April 22, 2025 to provide an overview of the SEIR findings and solicit comments; no comments were provided at the hearing. During the comment period, four comment letters were received, including one from State agencies, two from Local agencies, and one from organizations. These included the California Department of

Transportation, San Diego Unified School District, City of San Diego Public Utilities Department, and San Diego County Archaeological Society. The comment letters did not raise any new issues that were not adequately analyzed in the SEIR pursuant to CEQA that would require recirculation of the SEIR. Responses are included as Volume 3 of the final SEIR. Therefore, no changes or amendments to the SEIR were warranted based on public comments and recirculation of the document was not required. The project Final SEIR contains all of the comments received during the public comment period, together with written responses to those comments which were prepared in accordance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines.

Findings

CEQA Findings for the Amendment #1 to the 2018 LRDP are provided in Attachment 7. Based on the analysis in the EIR, it has been determined that significant and unavoidable impacts would result from the project, even with the incorporation of project-specific mitigation measures; therefore, the University acting as Lead Agency must prepare and adopt a “Statement of Overriding Considerations” before it can approve the project. The Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOC) states that the decision-making body has balanced the benefits of the proposed project against its unavoidable significant environmental effects and determined that the benefits of the project outweigh the adverse effects and, therefore, the adverse effects are considered acceptable. The SOC is included in the CEQA Findings.