

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT RESPONSIBLE AGENCY  
FINDINGS IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRANTING OF A TEMPORARY  
EASEMENT TO THE CITY OF DAVIS FOR THE INTERSTATE 80/RICHARDS  
BOULEVARD INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, UNIVERSITY OF  
CALIFORNIA, DAVIS**

I. CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUSLY PREPARED CEQA DOCUMENTATION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq. (“CEQA”) and the State CEQA Guidelines, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq. (“CEQA Guidelines”), the Board of Regents of the University of California (“the University”), or its delegate (collectively referred to herein as “the University”), has considered the Interstate 80/Richards Boulevard Interchange Improvements Project’s (hereinafter, “Project”) Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (SCH# 2022020587) that was prepared and adopted by the City of Davis (City), the CEQA lead agency, on July 19, 2022. On July 22, 2022, the City filed a Notice of Determination for this Project.

The University is acting as a responsible agency for the Project pursuant to the Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines. As a responsible agency, the University’s role is more limited than that of the City as the lead agency, and the University has approval authority for, and responsibility for mitigating potentially significant environmental effects of, the Project only to the extent of the University’s jurisdiction over certain elements of the Project, as described below. The University finds that the Project’s IS/MND contains the environmental analysis and information necessary to support the University’s actions regarding the Project, as set forth in Section III, below.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project proposes to reconstruct the west bound ramps at the Interstate 80 (I-80)/Richards Boulevard interchange in the City of Davis by converting from a cloverleaf to a tight diamond configuration, construct a grade-separated bicycle and pedestrian path along the west side of Richards Boulevard, and make other related improvement to relieve existing congestion at the interchange to accommodate increased traffic demand generated by approved and/or proposed development in the project area and to reduce conflicts between bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles.

The University’s approval in association with the Project is limited to the granting of a temporary construction easement to allow for the construction of the Project. The easement would allow the City access to 5,129 square feet of land at 1441 and 1333 Research Drive, Davis, CA 95616 for 24 months. Landscaping within the proposed easement area will be protected in place or restored by the project contractor after construction.

### III. FINDINGS

Having reviewed and considered the Projects IS/MND and NOD, the University hereby adopts the following Findings as required by CEQA Guidelines Sections 15096 and 15162 in conjunction with the University's approval of the Project.

#### A. Environmental Review Process

The Draft IS/MND was circulated from February 25, 2022 to March 28, 2022. Circulation of this document involved distribution to interested members of the public, government agencies, and the State Clearinghouse for review and comment. The City provided responses to comments received during the public review period in the Final IS/MND, which was issued in April 2022. The City adopted this IS/MND on July 19, 2023. The City filed a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse on July 22, 2022.

#### B. Environmental Impacts

The IS/MND analyzed the environmental impact and found that the project would have a less than significant or no impact on the following environmental topic areas: aesthetics, agricultural resources, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. The IS/MND determined that the project would have no significant impacts on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, and tribal cultural resources with incorporation of mitigation measures. No significant impacts would result from the project. The Notice of Determination stating this was filed on July 22, 2022 and is incorporated by reference in these Findings.

The mitigation measures for the project were compiled into an Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP), and are not within the University's responsibility or jurisdiction to implement, but the University finds that they suffice to address any potentially significant impacts that could result from the University's approval of the Action, and the University finds that no additional mitigation measures are within its authority that would substantially lessen or avoid any significant environmental effect of the Project.

#### C. University Review as a Responsible Agency

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15162, the University finds that none of the conditions or circumstances that would require preparation of subsequent or supplemental environmental review has occurred with respect to the Project. No substantial changes have been proposed to the Project, and the circumstances under which the Project will be undertaken have not changed substantially since the

preparation of associated environmental documentation. In addition, there is no new information of substantial importance showing that new or more severe environmental impacts not previously addressed would occur, that mitigation measures or alternatives found infeasible would in fact be feasible, or that different mitigation measures or alternatives from those analyzed would substantially reduce one or more significant impacts.

All mitigation measures relevant to this project were accepted and adopted as the MMRP, and the University has identified no Project revisions or specific mitigation measures relevant to the University's Action that would further reduce the impacts of the Project. The University therefore finds that the IS/MND adequately analyze any potential environmental impacts of the University's Action and that no additional mitigation measures are required for the University's approval.

#### IV. APPROVALS

The University hereby takes the following actions:

- A. The University has reviewed and considered and approves the adequacy of the environmental analysis contained in the Initial Study prepared for the Project as described in Section II above.
- B. The University adopts the Findings in their entirety as set forth in Section III above.
- C. Having independently reviewed and considered the Initial Study, and the adopted Findings, the University hereby approves granting of a temporary easement to the City of Davis for the Interstate 80/Richards Boulevard Interchange Improvement Project.

#### V. REFERENCES

City of Davis

- 2022 Interstate 80/Richards Boulevard Interchange Improvements Project Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. April
- 2022. Staff Report: Richards Boulevard Interchange Improvements Final Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), CIP No. ET8730. July