

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING
ADDENDUM FEBRUARY 23, 2021 TO THE 2018 LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT
PLAN AND DESIGN APPROVAL FOR
USDA Sustainable Agricultural Water Systems Research Unit – Phase II Project
Davis Campus
State Clearinghouse No. 2017012008**

I. CONSIDERATION OF 2018 LRDP EIR AND ADDENDUM FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code (“PRC”) Sections 21000 *et seq.* and the State CEQA Guidelines, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 *et seq.* (“CEQA Guidelines”) (collectively, “CEQA”), the Board of Regents of the University of California (the “University”), or its delegate (collectively referred to herein as the “University”), has considered the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the University of California, Davis (“UC “Davis” or “Davis campus”) 2018 Long Range Development Plan (“LRDP”), State Clearinghouse Number 2017012008, which was certified by the University in July 2018 (“2018 LRDP EIR”), and the Addendum thereto, February 23, 2021, for the University’s design approval of the USDA Sustainable Agricultural Water Systems Research Unit – Phase II Project (“Addendum February 23, 2021”).

The 2018 LRDP EIR, including the information contained in the Addendum February 23, 2021, contains the environmental analysis and information necessary to support approval of the USDA Sustainable Agricultural Water Systems Research Unit – Phase II Project (hereafter, the “Project”), as set forth in Section III, below.

II. FINDINGS

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As part of implementing the 2018 LRDP, UC Davis has established a new research unit for the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Office of National Programs to conduct research on sustainable agricultural production systems that reduce economic risks and increase farm profitability; improve soil quality and productivity; and reduce the effects of short-term droughts.

The project site is located on the west campus between the Hopkins Building and Pomology Field House C. The approximately 1-acre site is located at northwest corner of the intersection of Hopkins Road and Bee Biology Road, where USDA holds a ground lease from UC Davis and has already developed one pre-engineered building and surface parking. The project site is flat and wholly within the area designated as *Academic and Administrative* under the 2018 LRDP.

USDA would install a second approximately 4,000-square foot (sf) single-story pre-engineered building next to the first building to support USDA ARS research activities, along with five surface vehicle spaces. No new employees nor new students would be generated by this Project. The new building would include three laboratories, one cold storage room, one controlled temperature room, and one autoclave sterilization room to support collaborative studies of

agricultural eco-system productivity and sustainability. The Project would be built, operated, and maintained by the USDA ARS under the terms of the ground lease with the University.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

In July 2018, the University certified the UC Davis LRDP EIR in accordance with CEQA and the University of California Procedures for Implementation of CEQA and adopted the 2018 LRDP. The 2018 LRDP EIR analyzed the scope and nature of development proposed to meet the growth of the Davis campus through 2031, including projections in enrollment and total campus population. The 2018 LRDP EIR identified measures to mitigate, to the extent feasible, the significant adverse project and cumulative impacts associated with growth of the UC Davis campus under the 2018 LRDP.

The 2018 LRDP anticipated that up to 2 million net new gross square feet (GSF) of academic and support space would be developed on the UC Davis campus over the lifetime of the 2018 LRDP. The USDA Sustainable Agricultural Water Systems Research Unit – Phase II Project is consistent with the *Academic and Administrative* land uses designation defined by the 2018 LRDP. The project would not result in new students or staff and would not contribute to enrollment levels nor increase campus population. Therefore, the campus population would remain within levels analyzed in the 2018 LRDP EIR.

The 2018 LRDP EIR was prepared in accordance with PRC Section 21094 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15168 and analyzed the environmental impacts of the 2018 LRDP. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c) “subsequent activities in the program must be examined in the light of the program EIR to determine whether an additional environmental document must be prepared.” Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(4), an agency should use “...a written checklist or similar device to document the evaluation of the site and the activity to determine whether the environmental effects of the operation were covered in the program EIR.” Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164(a), “[t]he lead agency . . . shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.”

Addendum February 23, 2021 for the Sustainable Agricultural Water System Research Unit - Phase II Project was prepared in compliance with CEQA to document the UC Davis’ determination that a subsequent or supplemental EIR is not required. Addendum February 23, 2021 contains a detailed and comprehensive review of the Project and the resulting impacts, and concludes that implementation of the Project would not cause any new significant environmental impacts nor an increase in the severity of significant impacts previously identified and studied in the 2018 LRDP EIR. There have not been any substantial changes with respect to the circumstances under which implementation of the 2018 LRDP would be undertaken that would require major revisions to the previously certified 2018 LRDP EIR. In addition, there is no new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known at the time that the 2018 LRDP EIR was certified, showing that new or more severe environmental impacts not addressed in the 2018 LRDP EIR would occur, that mitigation measures or alternatives found infeasible in the 2018 LRDP EIR would in fact be feasible, or that different mitigation

measures or alternatives from those analyzed in the 2018 LRDP EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant impacts.

Addendum February 23, 2021 analyzes the environmental effects of the Project in relation to the environmental analysis in the 2018 LRDP EIR with regard to the following environmental topic areas: Aesthetics; Agricultural and Forestry Resources; Air Quality; Archeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resource; Biological Resources; Energy; Geology, Soils and Seismicity; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Noise; Population and Housing; Public Services; Recreation; Transportation, Circulation, and Parking; and Utilities and Service Systems. It also identifies mitigation measures adopted as part of the 2018 LRDP EIR relevant to the Project that have been incorporated into and must be implemented as part of the Project. All mitigation measures in the 2018 LRDP EIR relevant to the Project, as well as all components of the Project described in Addendum February 23, 2021, are included in the Approval and are made conditions of the Project.

C. ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

1. Incorporation by Reference

These Findings incorporate by reference in their entirety the text of the February 23, 2021 Addendum prepared for the Project, the 2018 LRDP EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2017012008), and the Findings adopted in support of the 2018 LRDP previously certified and/or adopted by the University.

2. Mitigation Monitoring

The University adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (“2018 LRDP MMRP”) in connection with the certification of the 2018 LRDP EIR. The 2018 LRDP MMRP includes mitigation measures applicable to the Sustainable Agricultural Water System Research Unit - Phase II Project and designates responsibility and anticipated timing to ensure the implementation of adopted mitigation measures within the jurisdiction of UC Davis.

The following mitigation measures identified in the 2018 LRDP MMRP are hereby incorporated into the Sustainable Agricultural Water System Research Unit - Phase II Project:

Environmental Issue Area	2018 LRDP, Mitigation Measures
Aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation Measure 3.1-3a: Building Surfaces. • Mitigation Measure 3.1-2b: Lighting fixtures.
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation Measure 3.3-1: Reduce construction-generated emissions of ROG, NO_x, and PM₁₀. • Mitigation Measure 3.3-2: Reduce emissions of ROG and NO_x. • Mitigation Measure 3.3-4: Reduce short-term construction-generated TAC emissions.

Environmental Issue Area	2018 LRDP, Mitigation Measures
Biological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation Measure 3.5-4a: Avoidance of Swainson’s hawk and other nesting raptors. • Mitigation Measure 3.5-5a: Burrowing owl avoidance and compensation. • Mitigation Measure 3.5-6: Tricolored blackbird avoidance. • Mitigation Measure 3.5-11: Tree surveys and tree removal mitigation.
Geology, Soils, & Seismicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation Measure 3.7-4: Manage stormwater flows to reduce soil erosion.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation Measure 3.9-2b: Hazardous materials contingency plan. • Mitigation Measure 3.9-6. Prepare and implement site-specific construction traffic management plans.
Hydrology and Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation Measure 3.10-6: Implement project-level stormwater controls.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation Measure 3.12-1: Reduce construction noise.

3. Record of Proceedings

Various documents and other materials constitute the record of proceedings upon which the University bases its findings and decision contained herein. Because of the complexity of the issues addressed in connection with the review of the Project, these documents and materials are located in various offices of the UC Davis campus, the UC Davis Campus Planning and Environmental Stewardship, and/or offices of consultants retained by the University to assist with the development and analysis of the Project. The custodian for these documents and materials is the Campus Planning and Environmental Stewardship, located at 436 Mrak Hall, Davis, California 95616.

III. APPROVALS

The University hereby takes the following actions:

- A. Adopt the CEQA Findings for USDA Sustainable Agricultural Water Systems Research Unit – Phase II Project having considered the 2018 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for UC Davis, as well as Addendum February 23, 2021 to the 2018 LRDP EIR for the USDA Sustainable Agricultural Water Systems Research Unit – Phase II Project.
- B. Make a condition of approval, the implementation of applicable mitigation measures within the responsibility and jurisdiction of UC Davis as identified in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted in connection with the 2018 LRDP EIR.

- C. Approve the design of the USDA Sustainable Agricultural Water Systems Research Unit Phase II Project, UC Davis, based on the information contained herein.