

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Faculty and Family Student Housing, Open Space Plan & LRDP Amendment

***Volume 3
Response to Comments and MMRP***

September 2004



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**FACULTY AND FAMILY STUDENT HOUSING,
OPEN SPACE PLAN, AND LRDP AMENDMENT EIR**

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**SECTION 10.0
INTRODUCTION TO THE FINAL EIR**

*Section 10.0
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to the
Final EIR*

10.1 CEQA REQUIREMENTS

Before approving a project, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the Lead Agency to prepare and certify a Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR). The contents of a Final EIR are specified in Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines, which states that:

The Final EIR shall consist of

- (a) The Draft EIR or a revision of the Draft
- (b) Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary
- (c) A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR
- (d) The responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process
- (e) Any other information added by the Lead Agency

The Lead Agency (the University of California) must also provide each public agency that commented on the Draft EIR with a copy of the University's response to those comments at least 10 days before certifying the Final EIR.

10.2 PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

The Draft EIR for the proposed Faculty and Family Student Housing, Open Space Plan, and LRDP Amendment project was circulated for review and comment by the public, agencies, and organizations for a 45-day public review period that began on April 9, 2004 and concluded on May 24, 2004. A Public Hearing was held on May 4, 2004 to receive comments on the Draft EIR. Ten speakers provided verbal comments at the hearing. In addition, 28 individual written comment letters were received during the review period.

10.3 CONTENTS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE FINAL EIR

This Final EIR is composed of three volumes. They are as follows:

- Volume 1** **Draft EIR**—This Volume describes the existing environmental conditions on the project site, and in the vicinity of the project site; analyzes potential impacts on those conditions due to the proposed project; identifies mitigation measures that could avoid or reduce the magnitude of significant impacts; evaluates cumulative impacts that would be caused by the project in

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combination with other future projects or growth that could occur in the region; analyzes growth-inducing impacts; and provides a full evaluation of the alternatives to the proposed project that could eliminate, reduce, or avoid project-related impacts.

- Volume 2** **Technical Appendices**—This Volume includes supporting technical data used in the preparation of the Draft EIR. Refer to the Table of Contents provided in Volume 1 of this Final EIR for a complete list of Appendix titles.
- Volume 3** **Changes to the Draft EIR, Response to Comments, and MMRP**—This Volume contains an explanation of the format and content of the Final EIR; all text changes to the Draft EIR; a complete list of all persons, organizations, and public agencies that commented on the Draft EIR; copies of the comment letters received by the University on the proposed project; the Lead Agency’s responses to those comments; and the UCSB Faculty and Family Student Housing, Open Space Plan, and LRDP Amendment Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).

10.4 USE OF THE FINAL EIR

The Final EIR serves as the environmental document to support approval of the proposed project, either in whole or in part.

After completing the Final EIR, and before approving the project, the Lead Agency must make the following three certifications as required by Section 15090 of the CEQA Guidelines:

- That the Final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA
- That the Final EIR was presented to the decision-making body of the Lead Agency, and that the decision-making body reviewed and considered the information in the Final EIR prior to approving the project
- That the Final EIR reflects the Lead Agency’s independent judgment and analysis

Additionally, pursuant to Section 15093(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, when a Lead Agency approves a project that would result in significant, unavoidable impacts that are disclosed in the Final EIR, the agency must state in writing its reasons for supporting the approved action. This Statement of Overriding Considerations is supported by substantial information in the record, which includes this Final EIR. Since the proposed project could result in significant, unavoidable impacts, the University would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations if it approves the proposed project.

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These certifications, the Findings of Fact, and the Statement of Overriding Considerations are included in a separate Findings document. The Final EIR will be considered, and, in conjunction with making Findings, the University may decide whether or how to approve the proposed project.

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