

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SOLAR PROJECT, A PROJECT ELEMENT OF THE 2014 RICHMOND BAY CAMPUS LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, BERKELEY CAMPUS

I. OVERALL APPROVAL OF 2014 LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE RICHMOND BAY CAMPUS

Pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15090, the Board of Regents of the University of California (The Regents) (hereinafter referred to collectively as the “University”), took the following actions on the Long Range Development Plan (“LRDP”) on May 14, 2014:

- A. Certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2013012007) prepared for the 2014 LRDP ;
- B. Adopted Findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations pertaining to the 2014 LRDP Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- C. Adopted mitigation measures and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the 2014 LRDP; and
- D. Approved the 2014 Long Range Development Plan for the Richmond Bay Campus

The 2014 LRDP EIR included analysis of proposed new buildings and infrastructure up to 5,400,000 gross square feet at the Richmond Bay Campus site intended to meet needs for research, development and supportive uses. The FEIR also analyzed construction, expansion, renewable energy or improvement of utility infrastructure, such as the proposed project, and roadway improvements.

The execution of the power purchase agreement of the Solar Project following action pursuant to CEQA, is now being considered separately and subsequently by the University.

II. FINDINGS

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

UC Berkeley proposes to enter into an agreement for solar photovoltaic (PV) array ground installations in two site locations at the Richmond Field Station. The project will also include conduit for future electric vehicle charging. Anticipated solar system size for the two locations is 900 KW and would produce about 1.4 kWh a year which would meet approximately 30 percent of the site’s power needs. The Project involves construction of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic panels. The panels will be mounted on concrete piers with consistent spacing. The photovoltaic panels will be oriented to the south. Electric wiring will run through buried conduit. Planning for the Project is guided by the LRDP. Under the framework established in the LRDP, the sites are identified in terms of land use zones and the project sites are all located in the land use zone, Research, Education & Support. The LRDP also identifies the existing land use at the two sites as Other Grasslands/Open Space. Site development is guided by a Removal Action Workplan and Soil Management Plan in compliance with an order by the California Department

of Toxic Substances Control. While the identified project sites do not have known contaminants, the entirety of Richmond Field Station is included in the order.

PROJECT LOCATION

UC Berkeley's Richmond Field Station (RFS) is located in the City of Richmond, approximately six miles northwest of the main campus in Berkeley. Interstate 580 provides regional vehicular access to the campus. Regional transit access is provided by Alameda-Contra Costa Transit (AC Transit), as well as a Bear Transit shuttle, which provides a direct connection to the main campus. The Solar project consist of two project sites identified for new photovoltaic installations. The first site is a rectangular site directly west of the Northern Regional Library Facility, along Regatta Boulevard. The second site is on an irregularly shaped site bounded by South 46th Street, Egret Way, Plover Drive, and Jay Way. This site is south of the Earthquake Engineering Center on a former hydrogen fueling station.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site plan for the Richmond Field Station Solar PV project is shown in Attachment 1. The total project area for two installations is approximately 100,800 square feet, distributed as follows: Site west of the NRLF is approximately 48,000 square feet; Site of the former Hydrogen fueling station, approximately 52,800 sf.

B. ENVIRONEMNTAL REVIEW PROCESS

Having received, reviewed, and considered the 2014 LRDP EIR, the 2014 LRDP Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations, and other information in the administrative record, the University hereby adopts the following Findings for the project in compliance with CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines, and the University of California Procedures for Implementation of CEQA. The University adopts these Findings in conjunction with its approval of the design of the project, as set forth in Section IV, below.

The Solar Project is consistent with the scope of activities anticipated in LRDP EIR. The Solar project follows the objectives in the LRDP including: design infrastructure to minimize energy use and maximize on-site renewable energy generation. It meets the sustainability policy on energy and climate in the LRDP to pursue energy efficiency targets and renewable energy use consistent with leading-edge best practices in mitigating climate change. The EIR appropriately evaluated the impacts related to the land uses. In terms of land use zones, the two sites for solar arrays are located in the land use zone: Research, Education & Support. Planning principles in the proposed LRDP feature commitment to sustainability through infrastructure; preservation of the site's important natural open spaces, including the marsh and coastal grasslands. As part of the solar project and the requirements met within the LRDP EIR, the University has conducted a site-specific native plant survey and all the survey results are published at the University environmental website for the Richmond Field Station. No changes in this project element or in

the circumstances have occurred since the approval and adoption of the LRDP EIR, Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

The solar project takes into account the natural open space preserved for marsh and coastal grasslands. The significant environmental impacts of this project element have been eliminated or substantially lessened where feasible. Any significant impacts to which the solar project contributes and that were found to be unavoidable were fully analyzed and adequately addressed in the 2014 LRDP EIR, and are acceptable because of the factors described and adopted in the Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations, which were adopted in connection with The Regents' approval of the 2014 LRDP. Solar Project will not result in any new significant environmental effects that have not been mitigated or substantially increase the severity of the significant environmental effects previously identified in the 2014 LRDP EIR.

The LRDP EIR identified mitigation measures to mitigate significant impacts to less-than-significant levels. These measures would be implemented in relation to the Solar Project, consistent with the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

III. ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

A. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

These Findings incorporate by reference in their entirety the text of the 2014 LRDP Final EIR, the 2014 LRDP and the Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations and Mitigation Monitoring Program adopted by The Regents in connection with its approval of the 2014 LRDP and the LRDP EIR. Without limitation, this incorporation is intended to elaborate on the scope and nature of the project, its potential environmental impacts, and the basis for determining the significance of the project's impacts.

B. MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

When making findings, a lead agency must adopt a reporting or monitoring program for the changes to the Project that it has adopted or made a condition of project approval to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The Project incorporates all applicable mitigation measures in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted in connection with the 2014 LRDP EIR as identified in Attachment 2.

C. RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Various documents and other materials constitute the record of proceedings upon which the University bases its findings and decision contained herein. These documents and materials are located at the Physical and Environmental Planning department located at 300 A&E, Berkeley or online at Capital Strategies: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/richmond-bay->

campus-long-range-development-plan. This information is provided in compliance with Public Resources Code § 21081.6(a)(2) and CEQA Guidelines § 15091(e).

IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Based on the adopted LRDP Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations and the information contained in the record, it is hereby determined that:

- A. The Project is within the scope of activities anticipated in the LRDP and evaluated in the EIR.
 - B. The Project will not result in any new significant environmental effects that have not been mitigated or substantial increases in the severity of the significant environmental effects previously identified in the EIR.
 - C. The Project will not result in substantial changes that require major revisions in the LRDP EIR.
 - D. There have not been substantial changes with respect to the circumstances under which the Project will be undertaken that require major revisions in the LRDP EIR.
- This determination reflects the University's independent judgment and analysis.

V. APPROVALS

The University hereby takes the following actions:

- A. Adopt the CEQA Findings for the Solar Project having considered the previously certified 2014 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Richmond Bay Campus.
- B. Make a condition of approval, the implementation of applicable mitigation measures within the responsibility and jurisdiction of Berkeley Campus as identified in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted in connection with the 2014 LRDP EIR.
- C. Execute the Power Purchase Agreement

ATTACHMENTS

1	Project Sites https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h3Xn3ljXQCnjO7rCvYdgZA1rkhOLt649/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105244733778882391021&rtpof=true&sd=true
2	Applicable Mitigation Measures for the Solar Project https://drive.google.com/file/d/18REr33omnuuzHglYwj64jUxWtPGhJdt-/view?usp=sharing
3	2014 LRDP and LRDP EIR and MMRP https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/pep_final_rbc_lrdp_complete.pdf https://berkeley.app.box.com/s/yib7n4ktfjgmyu7po1mr5cv5hldyngz5