

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Title: San Joaquin Marsh Reserve Water Conveyance and Drainage Improvement Project
Location: University of California Natural Reserve System
Lead Agency: University of California
County: Orange

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and University of California Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA, an Initial Study for the San Joaquin Marsh Reserve Water Conveyance and Drainage Improvement project (Project) was prepared by the University of California, Irvine (UCI), and was determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is the appropriate level of analysis.

The proposed Project would improve the long-term water management and habitat value of the San Joaquin Marsh Reserve (Marsh Reserve) located northwest of the Jamboree Road and Campus Drive intersection. The Marsh Reserve is owned by the University of California (UC) and managed by the UC Natural Reserve System (NRS) and the University of California, Irvine (UCI). The Project proposes new and repair of existing hydrology and water quality infrastructure to better manage flows within the Marsh Reserve. Design Goal 1 proposes infrastructure establishment and/or modifications that anticipate impacts of climate change (e.g., drought, flooding, and sea level rise). Design Goal 2 focuses on water sourcing, treatment, and measurement. The Marsh Reserve would continue as a preservation area during and after construction.

The Project has been analyzed in the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and determined that, with the incorporation of mitigation, it will not have a significant effect on the environment. The Draft IS/MND is available for public review and is accessible online at <https://cpep.uci.edu/environmental/review.php>. While offices are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, viewing of hard copies of the documents can be scheduled by appointment through the contact listed below. Comments will be received March 11, 2021 through April 9, 2021, and can be emailed to hashimol@uci.edu or mailed to:

Lindsey Hashimoto, Senior Planner
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The Draft IS/MND, along with comments received during the public review period, will be considered by the University of California in conjunction with project approval.

Sincerely,



Richard Demerjian
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Physical & Environmental Planning