

## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

### **Draft Environmental Impact Report Central Utility Plant Expansion Project**

**(State Clearinghouse No. 2023050563)**

In accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) has released for public review a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) to solicit comments on the environmental analysis of implementation of the Central Utility Plant Expansion Project, which would expand the Central Utility Plant (CUP) at the UC Davis Sacramento Campus (Campus). The CUP Expansion Project involves demolishing a portion of the Facility Support Services Building (FSSB) and construction of the new CUP annex building. The project also involves construction of a new 40 megavolt amperes (MVA) electrical yard and new feed from the SMUD East City Substation, changes to Parking Structure 6 access, utility upgrades, and a minor land use amendment to the 2020 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Update. The Draft EIR is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA (Public Resources Code [PRC], Division 13, Sections 21000–21177) and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000–15387).

**Project Location and Description:** The UC Davis Sacramento Campus is located off U.S. 50 near the Highway 99/Business 80 interchange in the City of Sacramento. The Sacramento Campus consists of approximately 150 acres and houses UC Davis Health (UCDH). The California Tower Project would be located within the UC Davis Sacramento Campus, which is bounded by V Street on the north, Stockton Boulevard on the west, Broadway to the south, and a residential neighborhood to the east. The existing CUP is bounded on the north and east by 2nd Ave, on the south by 49th Street, and on the west by the Facilities Support Services building.

The CUP Expansion Project would support Sacramento campus growth to 2035 and take further strides toward onsite reductions in natural gas combustion and GHG emissions.

The CUP Expansion Project includes the following components.

**Make-Ready Projects**—To prepare for construction and operation of the project components described below, several make-ready projects would be required prior to initiation of the CUP Expansion Project. These include site preparation, an extension of infrastructure to the site, transportation improvements related to Parking Structure 6 (PS6) access, removal of the existing Waste Management Facility, and partial removal of the Facilities Support Services Building (FSSB), including foundation work for the future CUP Annex.

**CUP Expansion Project Construction and Operation**—After make-ready work is complete, construction at the existing CUP and the expansion site would include remodeling the control room, including Americans with Disabilities Act improvements; routing new underground utilities for electricity and diesel fuel; and demolishing unused CUP yard walls to complete new roadway connections, pavement work, and landscaping. The CUP Annex would be constructed, new diesel tanks would be installed in the existing CUP yard, and new transformers and switchgear would be installed in the electrical yard. A new replacement well and supporting structure would be installed and connected to the existing water infrastructure, and a bioswale would be constructed in the major campus open space to reduce stormwater runoff.

**New SMUD Feeder for Normal Power**—UC Davis Health plans to eliminate dependence on gas and steam turbines for primary energy production and transition to electrical power from SMUD. To accomplish this, the existing normal-power service would need to be expanded. This project component would include construction of new infrastructure for a 116/21.9 kV, 40 MVA transformer and installation of a 40 MVA underground transmission line between SMUD’s East City Substation and the new electrical service yard at the CUP. This installation would also require new 21 kV, 1,200-ampere switchgear; new parallel conductors;

new manholes; and a new circuit breaker at the CUP. This new service would be from SMUD's East City Substation and delivered to campus from one of two potential routes, which are being evaluated in this EIR.

- Route 1: The transmission line would extend from SMUD's East City Substation at 6180 Folsom Blvd in Sacramento, then continue east along the railroad tracks and south on 65<sup>th</sup> Street to Broadway. The line would then run along Broadway west to 59<sup>th</sup> Street and north to the new electrical service yard at the CUP.
- Route 2: The transmission line would extend from SMUD's East City Substation at 6180 Folsom Blvd in Sacramento, then continue east along the railroad tracks and south on 65<sup>th</sup> Street to T Street. The line would then continue west along T Street, south at 57<sup>th</sup> Street, and west along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to the new electrical service yard at the CUP.

**Environmental Impacts of the Project:** The preliminary conclusions of the Draft EIR indicate that most of the environmental impacts associated with the Project are less than significant or can be mitigated to less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures. The Project would have potential impacts related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, archaeological resources, geology and soils, hazardous materials, hydrology, noise and traffic. Mitigation measures are available to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. There is one significant and unavoidable environmental impacts related to construction noise.

The project site is not known to contain any significant hazardous waste contamination as characterized by Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

**Where to Review the Draft EIR:** The Draft EIR is available for review at the following locations.

*Online:* <https://environmentalplanning.ucdavis.edu/CUP-Expansion>

*Public Review Copies:*

- UC Davis Health Center, Facilities Design and Construction, 4800 Second Avenue, Suite 3010, Sacramento, CA 95817.
- UC Davis Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability, 436 Mrak Hall on the UC Davis campus, Davis, CA 95616.
- Reserves at Shields Library on the UC Davis campus, Davis, CA 95616
- Colonial Heights Library, 4799 Stockton Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95820.

**Public Review and Comment:** The public review period for the Draft EIR starts on September 21, 2023 and ends on November 6, 2023. Formal comments regarding the Draft EIR may be submitted in writing via mail or email and received by UC Davis prior to the close of the public review period. Written comments regarding the scope and content of the Draft EIR are due no later than **November 6, 2023 at 5:00 pm**. Comments must be submitted to:

Heather Davis, AICP  
Interim Director of Environmental Planning  
Campus Planning and Environmental Stewardship  
University of California, One Shields Avenue  
Davis, CA 95616  
[environreview@ucdavis.edu](mailto:environreview@ucdavis.edu)

**Public Meeting:** UC Davis will also conduct a virtual public hearing during the public comment period. The hearing objective is to provide a verbal comment opportunity for the public on the environmental impact details of the proposed project. The public hearing will be on October 4, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The public can register to attend the hearing, obtain additional commenting details, and get full access to the Draft EIR while visiting the website link above.