

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE UC ANR SOUTH COAST REC ENGAGEMENT CENTER PROJECT

(Pursuant to CEQA Public Resources Code Section 21092 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15072)

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, the University of California (University), Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) has prepared an Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the South Coast REC Engagement Center Project (the proposed project). Based on the results of the Initial Study, UC ANR determined that construction and operation of the proposed project would not have significant impacts on the environment. All potentially significant impacts identified in the Initial Study would be reduced to less than significant levels with implementation of the identified appropriate mitigation measures.

Project Description: The South Coast REC Engagement Center Project would construct a new Engagement Center at the southeast corner of the South Coast REC, which is a 193-acre facility located at 7601 Irvine Boulevard, within the eastern portion of the City of Irvine, Orange County, California. The Engagement Center would support existing programming at the South Coast REC. Overall, the Engagement Center would include approximately 13,750 square feet of building space, including a conference center, demonstration kitchen, classrooms, audio/video (AV) technical center, and ancillary uses. The approximately 6,000 square-foot conference center would be designed with a flexible, open concept to allow for reprogramming to accommodate a range of activities and events, with capacity for up to 200 people. An approximately 7,750-square foot building adjacent to the conference center would include the other proposed indoor uses (e.g., classrooms, demonstration kitchen, and roof observation deck). The demonstration kitchen would be approximately 800 square feet and would provide a space for food preparation and cooking as part of on-site engagement and extension activities. Connected to the kitchen would be approximately 5,400 square feet of classroom space, as well as the AV technical center for production and storage associated with broadcasting events and classes, restrooms, break rooms, and additional storage. Connecting the conference center and kitchen/classroom building would be an approximately 22,000 square-foot, partially covered outdoor plaza. The design would be a flexible, hardscaped area to be used for overflow of larger events. Additionally, the Engagement Center would include a 1.25-acre outdoor space adjacent to the conference center as part of the University's Master Gardener program. This space would include a range of landscapes for the purpose of food and water education. The project would also include a new access point at Modjeska and Still Night and internal roadway improvements to facilitate ingress/egress to the proposed development and through the South Coast REC.

Public Comment Period: June 7, 2024, to July 8, 2024.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that UC ANR intends to adopt a CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project in July 2024, in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

The public, all interested agencies, and stakeholders are invited to review the IS/MND and submit written comments, pursuant to CEQA. The IS/MND may be accessed at the following locations:

Online: <https://environmentalplanning.ucdavis.edu/uc-anr-south-coast-rec-engagement-center-project>

UC ANR Headquarters: 2801 2nd St, Davis, CA 95618

UC ANR South Coast REC: 7601 Irvine Blvd, Irvine, CA 92618

Irvine Heritage Park Library: 14361 Yale Avenue, Irvine, CA 92604

Written comments are due by 5 PM on July 8, 2024, and may be sent via USPS mail to:

UC Agriculture & Natural Resources

ATTN: Brian Oatman

2801 Second Street,

Davis, CA 95618

Or via email to: environreview@ucdavis.edu

Please reference South Coast REC Engagement Center in the subject line.

Agency Distribution List

City of Irvine
Community Development Dept.
Attn: Stephanie Frady
1 Civic Center Plaza
Irvine, CA 92606-5207

County of Orange
Planning & Development Services
300 N. Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

Orange County Transportation Authority
550 South Main Street
Orange, CA 92868

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Ecological Services
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Regional Water Quality Control Board - Santa Ana
Region
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3348

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90017

CA Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 East Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182

Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

California Department of Transportation
District 12
1750 E 4th Street, #100

Santa Ana, CA 92705
Orange County Fire Authority
P.O. Box 57115
Irvine, CA 92619-7115

Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine, CA 92618

Public Utilities Commission
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Transportation Corridor Agencies
125 Pacifica
Irvine, CA 92618-3304

Irvine Unified School District
5050 Barranca Parkway
Irvine, CA 92604-4698

Metropolitan Water District
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054

Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Orange County Flood Control
601 N Ross St,
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Southern California Edison
1201 K St # 1810,
Sacramento, CA 95814

Portola Springs Community Association
Rancho Santa Margarita Office
30211 Avenida De Las Banderas, Suite 120
Rancho Santa Margarita CA, 92688

Great Park Neighborhoods Community Association
First Service Residential California
15241 Laguna Canyon Road
Irvine, CA 92618