

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Desert Research and Extension Center (REC) Engagement Center Project

Lead Agency: The University of California

Contact Name: Brian Oatman

Email: baoatman@ucanr.edu

Phone Number: (530) 304-2054

Project Location: Holtville

City

Imperial

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The University of California (University), Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) Desert Research and Extension Center (Desert REC) is proposing to redevelop the southwest corner of the Desert REC site with a new Engagement Center and site improvements to support existing programming at the Desert REC. The Desert REC is a 255-acre facility located at 1004 Holton Road, west of the City of Holtville, Imperial County, California. The Engagement Center building would include approximately 6,975 square feet of building space, including classrooms, an office, and storage areas, as well as bathrooms, an engagement space, and a demonstration kitchen. The Proposed Project will also construct a new 600 square foot greenhouse, an outdoor space with an arrival plaza, an approximately 3,475 square foot covered plaza, and presentation gardens. The project will demolish a former residence and garage, remodel a former residence, and improve the central driveway to widen it and provide a bus pickup/drop off area and 15 new parking spaces.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

During construction, potential impacts to biological resources resources may occur. To reduce potential impacts to burrowing owls, Mitigation Measure BIO-1 requires a pre-construction burrowing owl take avoidance survey be conducted to determine presence/absence of burrowing owls. To reduce potential impacts to nesting birds during the nesting bird season, Mitigation Measure BIO-2 requires a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey be conducted to determine the presence/absence, location, and status of any active nests on or adjacent to the project site. Both measures include protective efforts if any birds are found.

Project-related excavation could uncover previously undiscovered archaeological or paleontological resources during excavation into native soil. In the unlikely event that archaeological resources are encountered during ground disturbing activities, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would require all project excavation efforts to halt until a qualified archaeologist is retained by UC ANR, or their designee, and examines and evaluates the find. If the archaeological find is determined to be significant under CEQA, the archaeologist would prepare and implement a data recovery plan, in consultation with a culturally-affiliated Native American if applicable. Mitigation Measure GEO-1 includes similar requirements during any possible inadvertent discoveries of paleontological resources.

Potential construction during off hours could also cause impacts with regards to lighting and noise. AES-1 and NOI-1 will require measures to reduce impacts with regards to lighting and noise during nighttime hours.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 requires that a Phase 1 be conducted before the start of construction.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

No known areas of controversy have been identified at this time.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

The Regents of the University of California, or their Designee (Lead Agency)

- University Approval; and
- Approval of California Environmental Quality Act Document.

University of California Fire Marshall, or their Designee (Responsible Agency)

- Fuel Modification Program; and
- Fire Permit.

Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board (Colorado RWQCB) (Responsible Agency)

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit.

Imperial County Department of Public Works/Colorado River RWQCB (Responsible Agencies)

- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit.

Imperial County (Possible)

- Encroachment Permit.