

To: Office of Planning and Research
 PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
 County Clerk County of _____

From: University of California, Merced
 Physical & Environmental Planning
 5200 North Lake Road
 Merced, CA 95343

**Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination
 in Compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.**

State Clearinghouse Number: 2018041010
Project Title: Field Education Center
Parties Undertaking Project: University of California, Merced
Project Location: Merced Campus
County: Merced County

Project Description: UC Merced proposes to develop the Field Education Center site in an area approximately 10 acres in size and located in the northernmost portion of the UC Merced campus, adjacent to the Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve. The Field Education Center site is located within the Research Open Space land use designation of the 2020 Long-Range Development Plan, which allows for a research and field station facility on the site. The overall project area also includes 16 acres to the south and east that will accommodate access improvements. The project involves the construction and operation of a Field Education Center. The Field Education Center, will consist of a 2,500-square foot, open-air pavilion that would offer educational and research opportunities to university and K-12 students, an entry garden and gathering area, an outpost with viewing instruments, internal circulation and parking for motorized and non-motorized transportation, infrastructure to support the uses on-site, and access road improvements.

None of the proposed project improvements would be located on the adjacent MVPGR. Proposed development on the Field Education Center project site would maintain a minimum 50-foot setback from the MVPGR property.

The proposed Field Education Center is an important project that is intended to facilitate the MVPGR’s educational and research program by providing a facility that supports field research and educational programming, including increases in the levels of K-12 and public outreach.

The primary objectives of the proposed project are to:

- Create opportunities for students of all ages to appreciate, understand, and engage with nature.
- Inspire and empower next generations of leaders through environmental stewardship.
- Highlight and support UC Merced environmental research; and
- Continue to protect the MVPGR by expanding education and research opportunities in the area adjacent to the MVPGR.

This Notice of Determination is to advise that the University of California Lead Agency has approved the above-described project on April 12, 2023 and has made the following determinations:

For an Addendum to an EIR:

Dated Received for filing at OPR:

1. January 2023 Addendum to the UC Merced 2020 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) (SCH# 2018041010) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
2. UC Merced 2020 LRDP SEIR and 2009 LRDP EIS/EIR sufficiently analyzes and addresses potential environmental impacts from the project and the project will not trigger any of the criteria requiring additional CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The project will not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the environmental impacts identified in the UC Merced 2020 LRDP SEIR and 2009 LRDP EIS/EIR.
3. Mitigation measures from the UC Merced 2020 LRDP SEIR were made a condition of the approval of the project; no new project-specific mitigation measures are required.
4. The implementation of applicable 2020 LRDP SEIR mitigation measures will be monitored and reported pursuant to the 2020 LRDP SEIR's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.
5. The previous statement of overriding considerations in the 2020 LRDP SEIR was reaffirmed for this project.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to confirm that the January 2023 Addendum to the UC Merced 2020 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the general public at: University of California, Merced, Physical and Environmental Planning, 655 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340 and <https://planning.ucmerced.edu/ceqa-environmental-documents>.

Please contact Phillip Woods (209) 349-2561 or at pwoods3@ucmerced.edu for any questions.

Signature: Phillip Woods
Digitally signed by Phillip Woods
Date: 2023.08.04 11:35:22
-07'00'
Phillip Woods
Title: Director, Physical and Environmental Planning
Date: *April 12, 2023*

Dated Received for filing at OPR: