UC Berkeley

Capital Strategies
Capital Projects
Physical and Environmental Planning
Real Estate

1995 University Ave., Rm. 530
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 495-5786
capitalstrategies@berkeley.edu
capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu

Public Notice

UC Berkeley Clean Energy Campus Utility Improvement Project

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UC Berkeley has published Addendum Number 8 to the 2021 Long Range Development Plan (2021 LRDP) and Housing Projects #1 and #2 Environmental Impact Report (2021 LRDP EIR). Addendum Number 8 documents that none of the conditions described in Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 have occurred and that the UC Berkeley Clean Energy Campus Utility Improvement Project (Proposed Project) will not have any significant effects that were not already disclosed, analyzed and mitigated, as necessary, in the 2021 LRDP EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2020040078). The 2021 LRDP is a comprehensive land use plan that guides physical development on the UC Berkeley campus to accommodate projected UC Berkeley population increases and expanded and new program initiatives. The 2021 LRDP and 2021 LRDP EIR are available for review as described below.

Project Location and Site: The Proposed Project would be located on the UC Berkeley campus, on approximately 253 acres of the Campus Park, Hill Campus West and City Environs land use zones, and consists of components that would be dispersed throughout the 253-acre site. The primary component, a new electrified heating and cooling plant (EHCP), would be located on the existing North Field recreational facility in the Campus Park. North Field is now a natural grass field bordered by Peppertree Way and Morrison Hall to the north; Optometry Lane and Hargrove Music Library to the east; Optometry Lane, Hearst Memorial Gym, the Bancroft Parking Structure and the Anthropology and Art Practice Building to the south; and South Hall Road and the Social Sciences Building to the west.

Project Description: The Proposed Project would transform the UC Berkeley campus into an electrified and renewable energy microgrid that reduces campus building energy carbon emissions by at least 85 percent from 2019 levels. The Proposed Project would provide heating and cooling through new, underground hot and chilled water distribution piping to approximately 90 campus buildings. New facilities identified under the Proposed Project would include a centralized EHCP, a new rooftop recreational field to replace the existing North Field, a thermal energy storage tank, a new battery storage system, a new geothermal heat exchange field, new distributed energy systems, upgrades to the existing campus electrical infrastructure, upgrades to the existing steam boilers, thermal utility distribution lines, up to seven cooling tower modules on the roof of the Bancroft Parking Structure, a regional heat exchanger skid, and repurposing the existing cogeneration plant as a backup only source of electrical power. The Proposed Project would also include landscaping, pathways, roadways and access improvements throughout the campus and restoration of areas disturbed during construction.

The Proposed Project would be constructed in at least two phases. Phase 1, currently under consideration, would include the following components: 1) the EHCP; 2) a 550-foot wide and 80-foot tall thermal energy storage tank located southeast of the EHCP; 3) underground electrical and thermal distribution lines to distribute hot and cold water to approximately 32 campus buildings from the EHCP; 4) converting buildings to utilize new hot and cold water utilities; and 5) electrical infrastructure upgrades to support future power needs.

Document Availability: Addendum Number 8 and the 2021 LRDP EIR are available on the UC Berkeley Capital Strategies website (https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/environmental-review). If you need assistance accessing these documents,

please contact the Physical and Environmental Planning department at (510) 495-5786 or by email at planning@berkeley.edu.

UC Regents Meeting: On July 15-17, 2025, the UC Board of Regents will consider approval of the Clean Energy Campus Utility Improvement Project - Phase 1 following review of Addendum Number 8 to the 2021 Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report. Approval actions will include: 1) adoption of CEQA Findings for the Berkeley Clean Energy Campus Utility Improvement Project; 2) implementation of applicable mitigation measures and continuing best practices as identified in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted for the 2021 LRDP EIR; and 3) approval of design for Phase 1 of the Berkeley Clean Energy Campus Utility Improvement Project. The UC Board of Regents meeting agenda and schedule can be found online at: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings

Members of the public can provide public comment on this project in two ways: 1) request to speak during public comments at the July 15-17, 2025, meeting of the UC Board of Regents by contacting the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff at publiccomment@ucop.edu prior to 5:00 p.m. the day before the public comment period, and/or 2) provide written comments to the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff at regentsoffice@ucop.edu no less than forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the scheduled start time of the first session of the July 2025 UC Board of Regents meeting.

Guidelines for public comment can be found on the UC Board of Regents website at: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/public-comment.html

Download: Addendum (Capital Strategies website, Environmental Review - City Environs), and 2021 LRDP EIR (Capital Strategies website, Campus Planning Documents)

Project Inquiries: (510) 495-5786 or planning@berkeley.edu