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## Public Notice

Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Online Public Hearing for the Proposed Clark Kerr Campus Beach Volleyball Courts Project

January 6, 2022

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code Section 21091(a) and the Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines), the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) has released for public review a Draft EIR for the proposed Clark Kerr Campus (CKC) Beach Volleyball Courts Project. A Notice of Preparation for the EIR was issued on August 5, 2020.

**Project Title:** Clark Kerr Campus Beach Volleyball Courts Project

**Lead Agency:** The Regents of the University of California

**Draft EIR Review Period:** Thursday, January 6, 2022, through Monday, February 21, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

**Project Location:** The project is located on two sites within the UC Berkeley CKC. The 50-acre CKC contains student and faculty housing, conference facility, childcare, maintenance and storage, and recreational facilities. As shown in Figure 1, CKC is southeast of the main UC Berkeley campus (Campus Park) and south of the Hill Campus. CKC is primarily within the City of Berkeley, with a portion of the easternmost panhandle of the CKC within the City of Oakland. CKC is surrounded by residential neighborhoods to the north, south, and west and by the East Bay Regional Park District's Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve to the east.

As shown in Figure 2, the proposed project includes two different project sites on CKC. The project site for the beach volleyball courts is the existing CKC recreational softball field at the intersection of Dwight Way and Sports Lane, along the northern boundary of CKC. The proposed project also includes the partial demolition of Building 21, which is located near the eastern boundary of CKC, east of Eastway Drive and north of Derby Street.

**Project Description:** UC Berkeley proposes the conversion of an existing recreational softball field to recreational and Intercollegiate Athletics (IA) beach volleyball courts to improve the training and competition facilities provided to female student athletes, support ongoing gender equity, and comply with Title IX. The proposed project would include four beach volleyball courts and a 3,710-square-foot support building with team rooms, locker rooms, restrooms, and coaches' offices and storage. Improvements to the site would include new lighting, a scoreboard, a public address system, and a refurbished lawn area for spectators to watch matches.

In addition, the project would demolish an approximately 9,230-square-foot portion of Building 21, the former Wilkinson Lodge, which is a contributor to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) District No. 82000962 State Asylum for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind (also known as the California Schools for the Deaf and Blind Historic District), which is comprised of the CKC. The partial demolition of Building 21 addresses the seismic safety risk posed by the building in order to comply with the University of California Seismic Safety Policy. It also complies with the 1982 Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions (Covenants) that UC Berkeley entered into with neighbors of CKC. The Covenants incorporate portions of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UC Berkeley and

the City of Berkeley, which was entered into at the same time as the Covenants. After demolition, the area would be landscaped and a new driveway to Building 21 would be paved to allow for loading. The existing western portion of the building would remain and continue to be used for storage.

The existing recreational softball uses would be accommodated off site at the softball field on UC Berkeley's Hill Campus and the existing archery and other recreational uses would be accommodated on site at the proposed beach volleyball courts or at other CKC recreational facilities. Usage of recreation facilities would be scheduled through IA consistent with their guidelines. After project implementation, the two existing CKC sand courts would remain available for community use during daylight hours and would be managed by the Recreational Sports Department.

**Scope of Draft EIR:** An initial study has been prepared concurrently with the Draft EIR and is provided in Draft EIR Appendix B, Initial Study. Environmental resource topics analyzed in the initial study and not further studied in this EIR include: agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. The Draft EIR provides a detailed evaluation of the following environmental resource topics: aesthetics, cultural and tribal cultural resources, land use and planning, noise, and transportation. The scope of the Draft EIR also includes the review, evaluation, and in some cases, revision and/or replacement of previously adopted mitigation measures from the 1979 Dwight-Derby Site Plan EIR, which was developed and adopted in conjunction with UC Berkeley's proposed acquisition of the Schools for the Deaf and the Blind site; now referred to as the CKC. UC Berkeley purchased the CKC in 1982.

**Significant Environmental Effects:** The Draft EIR identifies the following effects by environmental topic:

- **Less than Significant without Mitigation:** aesthetics, cultural resources (human remains), land use and planning, noise (excessive vibration), and transportation (plan consistency, geometric design, and emergency access).
- **Less than Significant with Mitigation:** cultural resources (archaeological resources and tribal cultural resources) and noise (increase in ambient noise).
- **Significant and Unavoidable with Mitigation:** cultural resources (historic built environment) and transportation (vehicle miles traveled for maximum beach volleyball events).

**Document Availability:**

The Draft EIR is available online at: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/environmental-review>

In addition to the digital copy of the Draft EIR available online at the above website, a printed copy of the Draft EIR is available for public review during the comment period at the following locations:

- A&E, Berkeley, CA-94720 (By appointment only; please call (510) 495-5786 for appointment)
- College of Environmental Design Library, 210 Bauer Wurster Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720. Access to the printed copy will be available from January 10, 2022.

If assistance accessing documents is needed, including documents incorporated by reference in the Draft EIR, please contact UC Berkeley's Physical and Environmental Planning department at (510) 495-5786 or by email at [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu).

**Public Review and Comment Period:** UC Berkeley is soliciting written comments on the Draft EIR during a 45-day public review period that begins on January 6, 2022, and ends on February 21, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Written comments via e-mail and regular mail can be provided no later than February 21, 2022. Written comments will be responded to in the Final EIR.

Mail comments to:

UC Berkeley, Physical & Environmental Planning

Attention: Shraddha Navalli Patil, Senior Planner; Clark Kerr Campus Beach Volleyball Courts Project Draft EIR

300 A&E Building

Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Email comments to: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

Include "Draft EIR Comments: Clark Kerr Campus Beach Volleyball Courts Project" in the subject line.

**Public Hearing to Provide Comments:** UC Berkeley will host a public hearing to receive public comments on the Draft EIR. The public hearing will be held exclusively through Zoom videoconference. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and restrictions placed on in-person gatherings throughout California, no physical meeting location will be available. The public hearing will be held on February 10, 2022, starting at 5:00 PM. Because of time restraints, there will be a time limit of 2:00 minutes for all public comments.

For instructions to access and participate in the Zoom meeting by telephone or from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device, please visit: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/public-meetings>

**Figure 1:** [Regional Location and UC Berkeley Campus \(PDF\)](#)

**Figure 2:** [Clark Kerr Campus and Project Sites \(PDF\)](#)

**Figure 3:** [Proposed Beach Volleyball Courts Site Plan \(PDF\)](#)

**Figure 4:** [Proposed Partial Demolition of Building 21 Site Plan \(PDF\)](#)

**Project Inquiries:** (510) 495-5786 or [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)