



---

## Public Notice

Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the UC Berkeley Innovation Zone

April 29, 2024

**Project Title:** UC Berkeley Innovation Zone

**Project Location:** University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720. The Berkeley Innovation Zone is located on a 1.86-acre site in Downtown Berkeley across Oxford Street from the UC Berkeley Campus Park.

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

**Brief Project Description:** The Berkeley Innovation Zone Project would involve the demolition of existing on-site structures and the construction and operation of two laboratory buildings, referred to as the South Building and the North Building. The South Building would provide an approximately 176,000-gross-square-foot new laboratory building that would include five above-ground floors, a non-occupied mechanical space at the roof, and a below-grade basement. The South Building would provide space for permanent occupancy of up to 340 people.

The North Building would provide an approximately 310,000-gross-square-foot building with 11 above-ground floors, a non-occupied mechanical space at the roof, and a below-ground basement. The North building would include space for laboratory and office uses, as well as a parking garage with up to 350 spaces. This building would also include roughly 5,000 gross square feet of ground-floor commercial space. The North Building would provide space for permanent occupancy of up to 750 people. A linear-shaped courtyard, approximately 40-foot-wide by 200-foot-long, would be located between the South and North Buildings.

**Environmental Review:** UC Berkeley prepared and issued to the public for review a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Berkeley Innovation Zone on February 9, 2024. The Draft EIR was made available for a 45-day public review and comment period that ended on March 25, 2024. The complete EIR consists of two documents: the Draft EIR that was issued on February 9, 2024 and the Final EIR. The Final EIR comprises comments received during the public review period for the Draft EIR and responses to those comments, as well as revisions and clarifications to the Draft EIR. The Final EIR is available for viewing online at: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/environmental-review>. For further information about the Berkeley Innovation Zone Project, please contact UC Berkeley's Office of Physical and Environmental Planning by email at [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu).

**Environmental Effects:** The EIR identifies potentially significant and unavoidable environmental impacts in the following categories: archaeological, historical, tribal cultural resources related to demolition of two historic buildings; noise and vibration related to 1) generating substantial temporary construction noise and 2)

exposing sensitive receptors to new stationary noise sources; and cumulative impacts related to causing an adverse change in the significance of historic resources.

**Public Hearing:** On May 14-16, 2024, the UC Regents will hold a public hearing to consider certification of the EIR and approval of the design of the Berkeley Innovation Zone Site Preparation and South Building projects. Actions will consist of: 1) certification of the EIR for the Berkeley Innovation Zone; 2) adoption of all mitigation measures and Continuing Best Practices within the responsibility and jurisdiction of UC Berkeley; adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and the Continuing Best Practices Implementation and Monitoring Program for the Berkeley Innovation Zone; adoption of the CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Berkeley Innovation Zone; and approval of the design of the Berkeley Innovation Zone Site Preparation and South Building projects. Information on the UC Regents meeting can be found at: <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

Members of the public can provide public comment on the Berkeley Innovation Zone Project in two ways: 1) request to speak during public comments at the May 14-16, 2024, meeting of the UC Board of Regents by contacting the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff at [publiccomment@ucop.edu](mailto: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](mailto:regentsoffice@ucop.edu) no less than forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the scheduled start time of the first session of the May 2024 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>

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