

Public Notice

Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Proposed UC Berkeley Cal Softball Field Renovation Project

September 10, 2024

Project Title: UC Berkeley Cal Softball Field Renovation Project

Lead Agency: The Board of Regents of the University of California (the Regents)

Project Location: UC Berkeley is located in the City of Berkeley, approximately 10 miles east of San Francisco. The project site is located within the Hill Campus West of UC Berkeley and the Strawberry Canyon Recreation Area at the site of the existing Cal Softball Field. The project site includes the Cal Softball Field and Witter Lot located on Centennial Drive, portions of Centennial Drive right-of-way and sidewalk, and utility facilities located at the southeast corner of the Centennial Drive and Stadium Rim Way intersection. Witter Rugby Field is directly to the west of the project site, and Strawberry Canyon Recreation and Pool are to the northeast. California Memorial Stadium is located at the terminus of Centennial Drive to the west. Immediately south of the project site is a densely wooded area, which includes an unnamed recreational trail running eastward up into the Hill Campus East. Beyond the wooded area to the south of the project site is the Panoramic Hill Neighborhood. Witter Lot, a 110-space campus permit parking lot for faculty, staff, and students, is located along the northern edge of the project site.

Project Description: UC Berkeley proposes to renovate and improve the existing Cal Softball Field, which is the home for the UC Berkeley Intercollegiate Athletic (IA) Women's Softball Program. The project would preserve and upgrade the existing softball facility to meet modern safety and competition standards for the IA Women's Softball Program and Recreational Sports Intramural softball players, as well as support campus compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 through the provision of equitable athletics facilities for male and female student athletes. The use of the softball facility would remain largely similar to current uses, primarily providing additional spectator and player amenities and seating for up to 1,511 spectators, up from approximately 1,340 spectator seats under existing conditions. The primary physical changes associated with the project would include providing additional permanent spectator seats in place of temporary bleachers, a press box, spectator concourse, replacement competition-grade lights, restrooms, public address system, expanded playing field dimensions, team and locker rooms, a ticket booth, improved training facilities (e.g., batting cages), entry plaza, landscaping, sustainable design features, access and bus stop improvements, and utilities. The proposed project will remove approximately 85 parking spaces and retain approximately 25 parking spaces in the existing Witter Lot. The proposed project also includes the implementation of applicable UC Berkeley's continuing best practices, a game-day transportation demand management plan, and a project-specific wildfire management plan.

Environmental Review: UC Berkeley prepared and issued to the public for review a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Project on December 13, 2023. The Draft EIR was made available for a 45-day public review and comment period that ended on January 29, 2024. The complete EIR consists of two documents: the Draft EIR 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>.

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

- **Less than Significant without Mitigation:** aesthetics, biological resources (riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities, state or federally protected wetlands, resident migratory fish and wildlife movement and native wildlife nursery sites), cultural resources (built environment historical resources and human remains), noise (operational noise, excessive vibration), transportation (geometric design and emergency access), and wildfire.
- **Less than Significant with Mitigation:** biological resources (candidate, sensitive, or special-status species), cultural resources (archaeological resources and tribal cultural resources), and transportation (conflict with a plan).
- **Significant and Unavoidable with Mitigation:** noise (construction noise) and transportation (vehicle miles traveled).

Public Hearing: On September 18-19, 2024, the UC Regents will hold a public hearing to consider certification of the EIR for the proposed UC Berkeley Cal Softball Field Renovation Project (project), as well as approval of the proposed project. Actions will consist of certification of the EIR and adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, the Continuing Best Practices for the project and adoption of CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the project. The Regents will also consider whether to approve the proposed project.

Information on the Regents meeting can be found at <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/> Guidelines for public comment and information on the Regents meeting can be found at: <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/public-comment.html>

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

