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Public Notice

PG&E Remote Grid Installation Project at Whitaker's Forest Research Station

August 12, 2022

Lead Agency: The Regents of the University of California

Project Location and Description: The Project involves installation of a new remote solar micro-grid, referred to as a standalone power system (SPS), at the Whitaker's Forest Research Station within Whitaker's Forest. Whitaker's Forest is an approximately 350-acre forest plot owned and managed by the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) in Tulare County. The land surrounding Whitaker's Forest is federal public land: Sequoia National Forest and Kings Canyon National Park. Access to the Project site is via Forest Service Road 14S75. Once installed, the Project would provide existing residential structures on-site with a consistent and reliable source of electricity that would replace the need for the existing overhead electric distribution lines. PG&E will be responsible for installation, and for operation and maintenance, of the facility. The Project consists of a 12-panel solar array mounted on the roof of a new shipping container. Supporting infrastructure includes battery storage, a new driveway, and a new underground conduit between the solar array and the residential structures. The Project is part of PG&E's Remote Grids Pilot Program, a program within PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program.

Environmental Review: In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), UC Berkeley has prepared an Initial Study for the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Remote Grid Installation Project (Project). Based on the Initial Study, UC Berkeley has determined that although the Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there would not be a significant effect because UC Berkeley has incorporated into the Project mitigation measures that would avoid any significant effects of the project or reduce the effects to an insignificant level. Therefore, UC Berkeley intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project. The proposed Project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Public Review and Comment: UC Berkeley is soliciting comments on the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration from August 12, 2022, until September 13, 2022. The document is available for review electronically at: https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/environmental-review. The document may also be reviewed during normal working hours at UC Berkeley at the following address: Physical & Environmental Planning 300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382. Please call 510-642-6796 in advance.

The Notice of Intent is also available for review electronically at:
https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/environmental-review.

Comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration are due no later than 5:00 pm Pacific Daylight Time on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. Comments should be provided in writing to: Raphael Breines, Senior Planner, UC Berkeley, Physical & Environmental Planning, 300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382 or via email to: planning@berkeley.edu.

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

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Public Notice

Academic Replacement Building

September 2, 2022

UC Berkeley has published Addendum Number 3 to the UC Berkeley 2021 Long Range Development Plan and Housing Projects #1 and #2 Environmental Impact Report (2021 LRDP EIR).

Project Location: The 1.62-acre project site is in the southwest quadrant of the UC Berkeley Campus Park, south of the Valley Life Sciences Building, west of Dwinelle Hall, and north of Dwinelle Hall Annex. The south fork of Strawberry Creek is located roughly 100 feet to the south. The project site is currently a surface parking lot identified as Dwinelle Lot and has 96 automobile parking spaces. The project site is generally bounded and accessed by Frank Schlessinger Way to the south and Campanile Way to the north, with pedestrian walkways to Spieker Plaza to the west and Grade Street to the east.

Project Description: The Academic Replacement Building (project) would construct a new, approximately 78,000-gross-square-foot, academic building that would serve to partially replace classrooms and academic programs currently housed in Evans Hall. The project would be an L-shaped building that would include five above-grade floors (three floors of classrooms and two floors of offices) in the south-facing wing, and two above-grade floors and one partial basement (below-ground) level and an auditorium in the west-facing wing. The building would provide a mix of flexible office space, classrooms, and other meeting spaces. The building façades would be constructed with a combination of curtain wall, lightweight rainscreen panels, and open colonnades with exposed timber framing. The project would also include extending electrical power to the building across Strawberry Creek.

Document Availability: The Addendum and 2021 LRDP EIR are available on the UC Berkeley Capital Strategies website. If assistance accessing these documents is needed, please contact the Physical and Environmental Planning department at (510) 495-5786 or by email at planning@berkeley.edu.

UC Board of Regents Meeting: On September 20-22, 2022, the UC Board of Regents will meet to, among other items, consider approval of the Academic Replacement Building project following review of Addendum Number 3 to the 2021 Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and project design actions will consist of: 1) adoption of CEQA Findings for the Academic Replacement Building 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 the design of the Academic Replacement Building 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 September 20-22 2022, 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 September 2022 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 (PDF) and 2021 LRDP EIR

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

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Public Notice

Bechtel Engineering Center Renovation and Addition

September 2, 2022

UC Berkeley has published Addendum Number 2 to the UC Berkeley 2021 Long Range Development Plan and Housing Projects #1 and #2 Environmental Impact Report (2021 LRDP EIR).

Project Location: The project site is located in the interior of the Campus Park, inset from Hearst Avenue, and is surrounded by adjacent UC Berkeley buildings including Davis Hall to the north, McLaughlin Hall to the west, Evans Hall to the south, and Hearst Memorial Mining Building to the east.

Project Description: The Bechtel Engineering Center Renovation and Addition (project) would construct 34,700 net new gross square feet (GSF) and renovate all of the existing 47,954 GSF within the existing Bechtel Engineering Center to provide additional and reconfigured academic life and campus life space. The project would include a two-story addition, covering most of the existing building footprint. An existing exterior staircase, a landscaped area in front of the building, and the majority of the existing rooftop furnishings, concrete planters, and cafe would be removed to accommodate the addition. The project would create new outdoor study and collaboration spaces to replace the existing rooftop space. The project would also address documented barriers to accessibility.

Document Availability: The Addendum and 2021 LRDP EIR are available on the UC Berkeley Capital Strategies website. If assistance accessing these documents is needed, please contact the Physical and Environmental Planning department at (510) 495-5786 or by email at planning@berkeley.edu.

UC Board of Regents Meeting: On September 20-22, 2022, the UC Board of Regents will meet to, among other items, consider approval of the Bechtel Engineering Center Renovation and Addition project following review of Addendum Number 2 to the 2021 Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and project design actions will consist of: 1) adoption of CEQA Findings for the Bechtel Engineering Center Renovation and Addition 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 the design of the Bechtel Engineering Center Renovation and Addition 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 September 20-22, 2022, 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 September 2022 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 (PDF) and 2021 LRDP EIR

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

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Public Notice

Dwinelle Annex Renovation #12813A

October 18, 2022

In accordance with established University of California procedures, UC Berkeley Chancellor Christ will consider approval of the Dwinelle Annex Renovation; approval is anticipated no sooner than November 10. The campus has evaluated and determined that the proposed project would be categorically exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (14 CCR § 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities). The purpose of this notice is to advise the public of the proposed approval action of the project.

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

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Public Notice

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report

November 2, 2022

Project Title: Cal Softball Field Renovation Project

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

Project Location: University of California, Berkeley, within the Hill Campus West, on Centennial Drive, east of Stadium Rim Way and the Witter Rugby Field, west of the Strawberry Canyon Pool and Haas Clubhouse

County: Alameda County

Notice is hereby given that the University of California, Berkeley will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the University of California, Berkeley (University or UC Berkeley) Cal Softball Field Renovation Project (project or proposed project). The University, acting as the Lead Agency, has determined that the proposed project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts and that an EIR is required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Project Description

The University proposes to renovate and improve the existing Cal Softball Field (Cal Softball Field or field), which is the home for the UC Berkeley Intercollegiate Athletic (IA) Women's Softball Program. 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 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 (20 USC 1681 et seq.) (Title IX) 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 (refer to Attachment A, Figures 1–3). 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 (CBPs), a game-day transportation demand management (TDM) plan, and a project-specific wildfire management plan.

The use of the proposed project would be similar to the use of the existing softball field. During the fall, the facility would be primarily used for practices, intramural play, campus/clinics, and other occasional daytime competitions. During the spring semester, the facility use would be comparatively more active, with up to 21 regular season softball events and up to 4 post-season events, as well as practices and intramural sports and activities when not scheduled for IA use. Overall, competitive games would increase somewhat from 15 to 20 under existing conditions to up to 25 with the proposed project. During the summer, the facility would not be used for competition, but would be used for intramural recreation, as well as Rec Sports summer camps, similar to existing uses. Additional project details are provided in Attachment B, Initial Study, for the project.

Probable Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project

UC Berkeley has determined that an EIR will be prepared for the proposed project. Therefore, as allowed under Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 Cal. Code Regs.), UC Berkeley has prepared an Initial Study to help determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environment (see Attachment B). As required, the EIR will focus on the significant effects of the proposed project and will document the reasons for concluding that other effects will be less than significant. Where significant or potentially significant environmental impacts are identified, the EIR will also discuss feasible mitigation measures to avoid or reduce these impacts, and a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives.

Aesthetics

The EIR will assess potential impacts to scenic vistas and resources, existing visual character, and light and glare that may occur due to the construction and operation of the renovated softball field. The proposed softball field lighting will be assessed with a general illumination study to evaluate potential impacts from light and glare to the surrounding areas, which will be evaluated in comparison to existing conditions. The EIR would also rely on photo simulations of the project to assess potential impacts on views from key observation points.

Biology

Potential impacts to biological resources could occur as a result of the proposed construction and operation of the softball field project. The EIR analysis will address both direct impacts from habitat removal and indirect impacts from noise and lighting and other disturbances, as a result of the proposed construction and operation of the softball field project. A biological resources assessment for the proposed project and EIR will be conducted, which will include a review of current biological resource databases. The EIR will also rely on an updated general survey of the biological study area for vegetation communities, plant and wildlife species, and potential special-status species occurrences and habitat. Results of the project-specific literature review and field survey will be incorporated into the EIR analysis.

Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources

Potential impacts to cultural and tribal cultural resources, and paleontological resources could occur as a result of proposed construction and ground disturbing activities. It is possible that cultural resources could be present within the project site. As such, these impacts will be assessed by conducting a California Historical Resources Information Systems (CHRIS) records search update and conducting a field survey of the project

site. Results of the records search and field survey will be incorporated into the EIR analysis. Additionally, potential indirect off-site impacts on the adjacent Panoramic Hill National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed historic district will also be addressed in the EIR.

Noise

Potential temporary construction and demolition noise and vibration impacts to sensitive receivers (residences) in the vicinity of the proposed project will be assessed based on noise measurements taken at the project site and review of construction phases and equipment usage. Noise impacts from operation of the renovated softball field will be analyzed using a 3-D sound prediction model to quantify combined noise levels at the closest noise-sensitive uses from softball game activity, spectator participation, and public address system use. Results of the noise analyses will be incorporated into the EIR analysis.

Transportation

Potential construction and operational transportation impacts of the proposed project will be assessed with a qualitative transportation assessment for the surrounding street network in the project area. Impacts associated with trips generated from operation of the renovated softball field will be assessed in terms of vehicle miles traveled. In addition, the EIR will assess the project site plan for vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit circulation against campus and/or City transportation infrastructure plans and policies. The EIR will also assess the project to determine whether impacts to emergency vehicle access would occur.

Wildfire

To assess the potential wildfire impacts associated with construction and operation of the project, the EIR will include a review of publicly available fire hazard and fire history information from CAL FIRE, the City of Berkeley, UC Berkeley, and the County of Alameda, as well as emergency response or evacuation plans for the project area. The analysis will summarize emergency response resources and the existing fire environment in the project area, including slopes, climate/weather, fire history, and fuel sources on and surrounding the project site. The EIR will review applicable federal, state and local plans, policies and regulations governing wildfire hazards and will determine whether construction and operation of the project is in compliance with these plans and regulations. The EIR will also evaluate and consider the project-specific wildfire management plan being prepared for the project.

Impacts Not Found Significant

The EIR will also explain why other effects were determined to not be potentially significant and were not discussed in detail in the EIR. Based on Appendix B, Initial Study, these topics are likely to include Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities and Service Systems.

Other Sections

The EIR will include additional topics as required by the CEQA Guidelines including growth inducement, cumulative impacts, and alternatives. The EIR will describe and evaluate a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives to the proposed project that would feasibly attain most of the proposed project's basic objectives while avoiding or substantially lessening any significant effects of the proposed project. The "No Project" alternative will also be evaluated as required by CEQA.

Project Comment and Scoping Session
UC Berkeley requests comments and guidance on the scope and content of the EIR from interested public agencies, organizations, and individuals. With respect to the views of Responsible and Trustee Agencies as to significant environmental issues, UC Berkeley needs to know the significant environmental issues and reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures that are germane to each agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.
Due to time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than the close of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) review period at 5:00 p.m. December 5, 2022. If you submit comments on the scope of the EIR, you will automatically be added to UC Berkeley's distribution list to receive future notices and announcements about the environmental review process for this and all other capital projects. If you do not wish to submit comments on the scope of the EIR but would like to be added to the university's mailing list, you can subscribe here: https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/subscribe.

Responses to this NOP must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 5, 2022. Please e-mail or send your written response to:

Shraddha Navalli Patil, Senior Planner Physical & Environmental Planning University of California, Berkeley 300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Email: planning@berkeley.edu
Phone number: (510) 495-5786

Please include "Cal Softball Field Renovation EIR" as the subject. Public agencies providing comments are asked to include a contact person for the agency.

UC Berkeley will host an online public scoping session to receive public comments on the scope of the EIR. The scoping session will be held exclusively through Zoom videoconference. **The public hearing will be held on November 17, 2022 starting at 7:00 PM.** Because of time restraints, there will be a time limit of two 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

If you need to review a paper copy of this notice or have questions regarding this project and associated environmental review, please contact Shraddha Navalli Patil, Senior Planner, Physical & Environmental Planning, UC Berkeley, at planning@berkeley.edu.

Download: Notice of Preparation with Attachments A-Figures and B-Initial Study (PDF)

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

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Public Notice

Greek Theatre Safety and Restoration Improvements Project

February 13, 2023

UC Berkeley has published Addendum Number 5 to the UC Berkeley 2021 Long Range Development Plan and Housing Projects #1 and #2 Environmental Impact Report (2021 LRDP EIR).

Project Location: The 71,000 square foot (1.63 acre) project site is in the Hill Campus East, located along Gayley Road. The project site has been continuously occupied by the Greek Theatre since its construction in 1903. The project site is generally bounded by the Foothill Residence Halls to the north, undeveloped land to the east, and Bowles Hall and Stadium Rim Way to the south. The project site is accessed primarily from Gayley Road.

Project Description: The Greek Theatre Safety and Restoration Improvements Project would renovate the Greek Theatre's existing lawn (the upper bowl) to provide safer and more comfortable seating, including the addition of accessible seating; restore a portion of the original lawn that was temporarily occupied by the Residential & Student Service Programs associated with Foothill Residence Halls; provide areas for temporary storage and other support amenities; and reconfigure the existing emergency access lane to be code compliant. The Proposed Project would also repair the paving at the existing entrance plaza (Memorial Plaza) at Gayley Road and ensure that it is accessible and well lit. No permanent interior, occupiable structures would be built as a part of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not increase the Greek Theatre's current seating capacity.

Project Approval: In accordance with established University of California procedures, UC Berkeley Chancellor Christ will consider approval of the Greek Theatre Safety and Restoration Improvements Project following review of Addendum Number 5 to UC Berkeley's 2021 Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report; approval is anticipated no sooner than February 27, 2023. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and project design actions will consist of: 1) adoption of CEQA Findings for the Greek Theatre Safety and Restoration Improvements 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 the design of the Greek Theatre Safety and Restoration Improvements Project.

Public Comment: Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) an Addendum need not be circulated for public review; however, UC Berkeley invites written comments on the Addendum during a two-week public review period that begins on February 13, 2023, and ends on February 27, 2023, at 5:00pm. There will be no in-person hearing.

Mail comments to:
UC Berkeley, Physical & Environmental Planning
Attention: Greek Theatre Safety and Restoration Improvements Project
200 A&E Building
Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Email comments to: planning@berkeley.edu and include “Greek Theatre Safety and Restoration Improvements Project” in the subject line.

Document Availability: The Addendum and 2021 LRDP EIR are available on the UC Berkeley Capital Strategies website. If assistance accessing these documents is needed, please contact the Physical and Environmental Planning department at (510) 495-5786 or by email at planning@berkeley.edu.

Download: Addendum (PDF) and 2021 LRDP EIR

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

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Public Notice

Heathcock Hall Building Project

March 1, 2023

UC Berkeley has published Addendum Number 4 to the UC Berkeley 2021 Long Range Development Plan and Housing Projects #1 and #2 Environmental Impact Report (2021 LRDP EIR).

Project Location: The one-a-half-acre project site is located in the northeast quadrant of the UC Berkeley Campus Park along University Drive at its intersection with Gayley Road adjacent to the primary facilities associated with the College of Chemistry. The project site is generally a steep, undeveloped hillside bounded by University Drive to the north; Gayley Road to the east; Lewis Hall to the south; and Latimer Hall and Pimentel Hall to the west.

Project Description: The Heathcock Hall Building Project (project) would construct a new, approximately 81,700-gross-square-foot academic building, known as Heathcock Hall, that would provide a mix of flexible and operationally resilient laboratories, associated non-lab workspace, office space, and other support and collaboration meeting spaces for researchers, faculty, and students across multiple disciplines affiliated with UC Berkeley's College of Chemistry. Heathcock Hall would include six floors and a partial plate basement; the lowest two floors of the building would be partially below-ground because of the site's unique topography. To enable construction, an existing connecting structure between Latimer and Lewis halls would be demolished and replaced with new connections to these adjacent buildings. As part of the project, the intersection of Gayley Road and University Drive would be reconstructed to: 1) provide additional setbacks for the building; 2) address local accessibility issues created by existing topography; 3) address pedestrian safety and improve sidewalks; and 4) improve landscaping, lighting, and paving. Accessible parking and an accessible route to the building across Gayley Road would be constructed to support Heathcock Hall and campus-wide accessibility needs.

Document Availability: The Addendum and 2021 LRDP EIR are available on the UC Berkeley Capital Strategies website. If assistance accessing these documents is needed, please contact the Physical and Environmental Planning department at (510) 495-5786 or by email at planning@berkeley.edu.

UC Board of Regents Meeting: On March 14-16, 2023, the UC Board of Regents will meet to, among other items, consider approval of the Heathcock Hall Building Project following review of Addendum Number 4 to the 2021 Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and project design actions will consist of: 1) adoption of CEQA Findings for the Heathcock Hall Building 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 the design of the Heathcock Hall Building 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 March 14-16, 2023, 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 March 2023 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 and 2021 LRDP EIR

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