



Public Notice

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

June 28, 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 Location: 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 July 17-18, 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



Public Notice

Preparation of a Joint Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement

June 21, 2024

Project Title: Berkeley Space Center at NASA Research Park

CEQA Lead Agency: The Regents of the University of California

Project Location: The project site is on federal land located in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center (NASA ARC) adjacent to the Cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale in Santa Clara County. The project site is within Assessor Parcel Number 116-18-012.

County: Santa Clara County

The University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) and NASA have determined that a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) will be prepared for the Berkeley Space Center at NASA Research Park (project or proposed project) (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15222). The Regents of the University of California, acting as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has determined that the proposed project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts and that an EIR is required. NASA, acting as the Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for the project. NASA is the entitlement agency for the project.

When the decision to prepare an EIR has already been made, CEQA states that an initial study is not required (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(a)). Accordingly, an initial study has not been prepared. This notice of preparation (NOP) has been prepared pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15082 and 15083.

UC Berkeley has prepared this NOP to provide responsible and trustee agencies, state, federal agencies involved in approving or funding the project, and other interested parties with a description of the proposed project and information on potential environmental effects of the proposed project, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a). The NOP is available for public review on UC Berkeley's Capital Strategies website: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/environmental-review>.

Project Location

The project site within the NASA ARC, which is located on approximately 2,000 acres between U.S. 101 and the southwestern edge of San Francisco Bay (refer to the attached Project Location map). The city of Mountain View borders the NASA ARC to the south and west; the city of Sunnyvale borders the NASA ARC to the south

and east. The NASA ARC is approximately 33 miles south of the city of San Francisco and 8 miles north of the city of San José. As part of the NASA Ames Development Plan (NADP), which is NASA's vision for development of the NASA ARC, development was considered in four areas commonly referred to as the NASA Research Park (NRP), Eastside / Airfield, Bay View, and Ames Campus. The project site is within the NRP.

The approximately 36-acre triangular project site is currently developed with approximately 16 one- or two-story buildings that total approximately 112,000 square feet, along with surface parking lots, roadways, and utility infrastructure. The existing buildings are mostly vacant and many were formerly used as ancillary buildings that supported Navy operations (e.g., office buildings, food service, gas station).

The project site is bounded by Wescoat Road to the north and Cody Road to the east. The southern boundary of the project site is between Edquiba Road and Girard Road. Northwest of the project site, across Wescoat Road, is Shenandoah Plaza, a linear open space surrounded by buildings. Approximately 0.3 mile northeast of the project site, across from the intersection of Wescoat Road and Cody Road, is Hangar One, one of the largest freestanding structures in the world. Hangar One and many of the buildings, landscapes, and objects north of the project site are part of the Shenandoah Plaza Historic District. East of the project site, across Cody Road, is Moffett Federal Airfield. South of the project site is a planned residential development that would include approximately 2,000 residential units; the planned residential development would be located within the NRP, but is not part of the proposed project.

With respect to hazardous materials, ongoing remediation activities in the vicinity of the project site continue to be implemented under the jurisdictions of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Background

The project site is within the NRP, which was incorporated into the NASA ARC in 1994 following the closure of the former Naval Air Station Moffett Field. In 2002, a programmatic EIS (PEIS) was prepared pursuant to NEPA and was completed with a Record of Decision that provided environmental review for the implementation of the NADP. Since 2002, NASA (or other authorized parties) has redeveloped portions of the NASA ARC with entitled uses under the terms of several ground leases. The project site is one of the parcels considered for redevelopment in the 2002 PEIS. In 2019, NASA invited UC Berkeley, on behalf of the University of California system and its constituent campuses, to explore the feasibility of developing the project site for public and private sector research, professional education, and housing. In May 2021, the Regents authorized UC Berkeley to enter into a joint venture with SKSP NRP, LLC to create Moffett Partners, LLC for the proposed project.

Description of the Project

Moffett Partners, LLC is proposing the project. The proposed project would redevelop the project site with academic and research facilities, including office, laboratories, and research and development (collectively, "research and office uses"); conference and amenity facilities, including a gym, lobbies, and other amenities (collectively, "active uses"); student/faculty housing; short-term lodging; transportation networks; and public open spaces as well as landscaped spaces, to create a state-of-the-art research and education hub that shapes the future of technology and innovation and to advance UC Regents' educational, scientific research, charitable,

and other exempt purposes (within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code).

The following project alternatives will be analyzed in the joint EIR/EIS:

- **Build Alternative 1:** Build Alternative 1 would create approximately 2.3 million square feet of research uses, a conference center, active uses, student/faculty housing, and short-term lodging for visitors and conference attendees. Build Alternative 1 would include approximately 1.99 million square feet (87 percent) research and office uses; 22,000 square feet (1 percent) conference center uses; 89,000 square feet (4 percent) active uses; 126,000 square feet (5 percent) student/faculty housing; and 73,000 square feet (3 percent) short-term lodging uses. Build Alternative 1 is considered the proposed project under CEQA and the Proposed Action under NEPA.
- **Build Alternative 2:** Build Alternative 2 would create approximately 1.4 million square feet of research uses, a conference center, active uses, student/faculty housing, and short-term lodging for visitors and conference attendees. Compared to Build Alternative 1, Build Alternative 2 would provide the same types of uses and the same square footage for most uses, with the exception that Build Alternative 2 would provide less space for research and office uses. Build Alternative 2 would include approximately 1.09 million square feet (78 percent) research and office uses; 22,000 square feet (2 percent) conference center uses; 89,000 square feet (6 percent) active uses; 126,000 square feet (9 percent) student/faculty housing; and 73,000 square feet (5 percent) short-term lodging uses. Build Alternative 2 is considered one of the alternatives to the proposed project under CEQA; it is also one of the alternatives under NEPA. Build Alternative 2 will be evaluated at the same level of detail as Build Alternative 1 in the joint EIR/EIS.
- **No Project/No Action Alternative:**
 - No Project Alternative: For the purposes of CEQA, under the No Project Alternative, Moffett Partners, LLC would not construct and operate the proposed project at the project site.
 - No Action Alternative: For the purposes of NEPA, under the No Action Alternative, the project would not be approved by NASA, and would not be constructed and operated at the project site.

As discussed below, Build Alternative 1 and Build Alternative 2 would have the same general site layout; the same maximum building heights; the same conference center, active uses, student/faculty housing, short-term lodging, and open space; the same amount of student/faculty housing; the same amount of short-term lodging; the same utility infrastructure and roadways; and the same ratio of parking spaces.

- **Site Layout:** Both build alternatives would include buildings that would be oriented around a large open space in the center of the project site, the Central Green. This area would include retail and amenity uses. The proposed research uses would be located along the perimeter of the project site. The proposed student/faculty housing, short-term lodging uses, and conference center would be located in the southwestern corner of the project site. The proposed parking garages would be located in the southwestern and southeastern corners of the project site. Vehicular access would be provided along Wescoat Road, the realigned Cody Road, and the realigned Girard Road (refer to the discussion of Utility Infrastructure and Roadways for more details on roadway realignments).
- **Maximum Building Heights:** Under both build alternatives, maximum structure heights would be 80 feet, with an exceedance allowed of up to 25 feet for mechanical screens and equipment.
- **Conference Center, Active Uses, Student/Faculty Housing, Short-term Lodging Uses, and Open Space:** Both build alternatives would include an approximately 20,000-square-foot conference

center, approximately 92,000 square feet of active uses, and approximately 199,000 square feet of student/faculty housing and short-term lodging. In addition, both build alternatives would include approximately 10.9 acres of open space, including pathways, active uses (e.g., occupied areas that pedestrians could access via sidewalks or pathways), and passive uses (e.g., open lawns, patios). Landscaping would include a mix of native, climate-adaptive, and drought-resistant plant materials.

- **Student/Faculty Housing:** Both build alternatives would include approximately 141 student/faculty housing units, which would house approximately 352 residents. The proposed student/faculty housing would be used by students or faculty on a short-term basis (i.e., academic calendar year, semester, summer).
- **Short-term Lodging:** Both build alternatives would include approximately 99 short-term lodging units, which would accommodate approximately 197 guests. The proposed short-term lodging would be used as temporary lodging for staff, researchers, academics, tenants, and their families visiting the project site for conferences, meetings, research projects, and other short-term events affiliated with or at NASA ARC.
- **Utility Infrastructure and Roadways:** Both build alternatives would include building-level air source heat pumps for all heating, package air conditioning units for cooling at buildings without office or lab space, and water-cooled chillers for cooling at buildings with office and/ or lab spaces. In addition, both build alternatives would have the same infrastructure for utilities (i.e., wet and dry utilities) installed offsite and the same utility connection points to those utilities. Existing NASA critical infrastructure would remain within the project site. Both build alternatives would realign Girard Road north to form the southern boundary of the project site and construct a new connector road between the realigned Girard Road and Wescoat Road along the southwestern corner of the project site. Both build alternatives would also realign Cody Road east to align with centerline of Hanger One, incorporating the design intent from the NADP, which was evaluated in the 2002 PEIS.
- **Ratio of Parking Spaces:** Parking would be located off the realigned Girard Road within parking structures and/or podium parking at designated areas. While Build Alternative 1 would have more parking spaces than Build Alternative 2 because it would include more space for research and office uses, both build alternatives would have the same parking ratios for each land use, establishing a blended parking ratio of approximately 1.43 parking spots per 1,000 square feet.

As discussed below, the primary differences between Build Alternative 1 and Build Alternative 2 would be the square footage of the research uses, the number of employees, the number of students, and the number of parking spaces.

- **Research and Office Uses:** Build Alternative 1 would include approximately 1.99 million square feet for research and office uses, whereas Build Alternative 2 would include approximately 1.09 million square feet for research and office uses.
- **Employees:** Build Alternative 1 would result in approximately 5,789 employees, whereas Build Alternative 2 would result in approximately 3,260 employees. Build Alternative 1 would result in more employees because it would include more space for research and office uses.
- **Students:** Build Alternative 1 would accommodate up to approximately 177 students at a time, whereas Build Alternative 2 would accommodate up to approximately 96 students at a time. Build Alternative 1 would accommodate more students because it would include more space for research and office uses.
- **Parking Spaces:** Build Alternative 1 would include approximately 3,290 parking spaces, whereas Build Alternative 2 would include approximately 2,009 parking spaces.

The future sub-tenant users for the proposed research space are not yet known and because the project would be constructed over a period of years, the exact configuration of certain project elements has not yet been determined. Thus, the joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the project based on conservative, worst case assumptions regarding certain aspects of the project design within specific areas of the project site (referred to as subareas). Specifically, it is anticipated that variations to the following project design elements could occur within seven subareas in the project site: the number and configuration of buildings, the design of the buildings, the allocation of permitted uses among or within the buildings, and the specific locations of mechanical equipment. On the other hand, it is anticipated that the following project elements would be known at the time the joint EIR/EIS is prepared: types of permitted uses, maximum square footage by use and in total, maximum building heights, parking ratios by use, locations of access roads, types and general locations of mechanical equipment, and other project parameters. This approach to the analysis will ensure that the joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the proposed project's maximum potential impact based on potential future building design and configuration to accommodate specific future sub-tenants of the proposed research and office space.

Prior to construction of the proposed project, all of the existing buildings and utilities infrastructure within the project site would be demolished except for the existing NASA critical infrastructure that would remain.

Probable Environmental Effects

UC Berkeley has determined that Public Resources Code Section 21080.09 requires an EIR be prepared for the proposed project. Therefore, as allowed under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (Title 14 Cal. Code Regs.), UC Berkeley has not prepared an initial study and will instead begin work directly on the joint EIR/EIS process.

As required, the joint EIR/EIS 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 joint EIR/EIS will also discuss feasible mitigation measures to avoid or reduce these impacts, and a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives.

The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the probable environmental effects, including cumulative effects, of the proposed project, in the following environmental issue areas:

- **Aesthetics and Visual Resources:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate temporary and long-term impacts to scenic vistas and scenic resources, conflicts with applicable regulations governing scenic quality, and whether implementation of the project would result in a source of substantial light or glare impacting nighttime views.
- **Air Quality:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the project's consistency with applicable air quality plans and potential impacts associated with temporary increases in criteria pollutant emissions from construction and long-term increases in criteria pollutant emissions from project operations and associated vehicular trips, and potential exposure impacts associated with exposure of sensitive receptors to air pollutants during construction or project operations. In addition, a health risk analysis will be prepared for the project.
- **Biological Resources:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to result in substantial adverse effects on biological resources, including sensitive habitats and

species, wetlands, and waters, as well as potential conflicts with applicable policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, or with applicable conservation plans.

- **Cultural Resources:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of known or unknown archaeological or historical resources, or disturbance of human remains.
- **Energy:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate potential impacts related to energy use for construction and operation of the project or conflicts with applicable plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency.
- **Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to result in substantial adverse effects associated with seismic risks, soil erosion, geologic hazards, or to destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate potential impacts from temporary increases in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with mobile-source exhaust from construction worker commute trips, truck haul trips, and equipment (e.g., excavators, graders); and long-term increases in GHG emissions associated with project operations, including stationary and mobile sources. The joint EIR/EIS will also evaluate the project's potential to conflict with applicable plans, policies, or regulations for reducing GHG emissions.
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential for construction and operational activities associated with the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment associated with routine transport, use or disposal, or the accidental release of, of hazardous materials. The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential for the project to result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area due to the proximity to the Moffett Federal Airfield. The joint EIR/EIS will also evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to physically interfere with or impair implementation of an adopted emergency response or evacuation plans, or the potential for the project to expose people or structures to significant risks associated with wildland fires.
- **Hydrology and Water Quality:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, substantially degrade surface or ground water quality, decrease groundwater supplies, substantially alter existing drainage patterns, or result in any flood or inundation hazards. during construction and operation. The joint EIR/EIS will also evaluate the potential for the project to conflict with applicable water quality control plans.
- **Land Use and Planning:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to physically divide an established community or cause a significant environmental effect due to a conflict with applicable land use plans and policies adopted for the purpose of reducing or avoiding environmental impacts.
- **Noise:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate potential impacts from temporary increases in noise (including off-site, vehicle traffic noise) and vibration levels during construction; and long-term increases in noise and vibration from project operation, including stationary and mobile sources.
- **Population and Housing:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to induce (directly or indirectly) unplanned substantial population growth or displace substantial housing or residents.
- **Public Services:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate potential impacts on public services.
- **Recreation:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate potential impacts on recreation facilities.

- **Transportation and Traffic:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to increase vehicle miles traveled (VMT) locally and in the region and whether such increases would conflict with applicable plans, policies, or regulations related to the effectiveness of the local/regional circulation system. The joint EIR/EIS will also include a discussion of emergency access adequacy, and potential transportation hazards from implementation of the project.
- **Tribal Cultural Resources:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of known or unknown tribal cultural resources.
- **Utilities and Service Systems:** The joint EIR/EIS will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to increase demand for water, transmission, and treatment; demand for wastewater transmission and treatment; use of recycled water; demand for electricity and natural gas; and the potential need to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure.

No significant impacts with respect to agriculture and forestry resources or mineral resources or wildfire are anticipated, and these issue areas will not be evaluated in detail as part of the joint EIR/EIS.

Cortese List Notice

Pursuant to Public Resources Code 21092.6(a), the project site is located on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (California Department of Toxic Substances Control list of various hazardous sites). The proposed project would be required to follow existing soil and groundwater remediation protocols. Details regarding the required remediation would be coordinated with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Responsible Parties in charge of ongoing remediation efforts.

Public Review and Comment Period

UC Berkeley invites comments on the scope and content of the joint Draft EIR/EIS and appreciates your prompt review of this NOP. Written comments should focus on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the joint Draft EIR/EIS for the Berkeley Space Center at NASA Research Park, germane to agencies having statutory responsibilities associated with the proposed project, as well as public interest in the proposed project. All comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period will be considered in the joint Draft EIR/EIS. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, this NOP will be circulated for a 30-day review period, which will extend from June 21, 2024, to July 22, 2024. Responses to this NOP must be received by 5:00 p.m. on July 22, 2024. Please send your written or electronic responses, with appropriate contact information, to the following address:

Shraddha Navalli Patil, Ph.D., Senior Planner
 Physical & Environmental Planning
 University of California, Berkeley
 200 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382
 Email: planning@berkeley.edu

Please include a subject line indicating Scoping Comments: Berkeley Space Center at NASA Research Park.

Public Scoping Meetings

UC Berkeley and NASA will hold two joint online public scoping meetings to inform interested parties about the project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide oral and written comments on the scope and content of the joint EIR/EIS. The scoping meetings will be held exclusively through Zoom videoconference. The information for the meetings is as follows:

Scoping Meeting No. 1

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Link: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/public-meetings>

Scoping Meeting No. 2

Monday, July 15, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Link: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/public-meetings>

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

To request a paper copy of this notice or if you have questions concerning this NOP, scoping session, or associated environmental review for the project, please contact Physical & Environmental Planning, at (510) 495-5786 or planning@berkeley.edu.

Download: [Public Notice with Location Map \(PDF\)](#)

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



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.

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 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 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



Public Notice

Notice of Availability Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Online Public Hearing for the Proposed UC Berkeley Innovation Zone Project

February 9, 2024

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code Section 21091(a) and the Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (State CEQA Guidelines), the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) has released for public review a [Draft EIR](#) for the proposed UC Berkeley Innovation Zone Project (project). A Notice of Preparation for the EIR was issued on October 30, 2023.

Project Title: UC Berkeley Innovation Zone

Lead Agency: The Regents of the University of California

Draft EIR Review Period: Friday, February 9, 2024, through Monday, March 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Project Location:

The UC Berkeley campus is located in the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area. UC Berkeley is predominantly located within the cities of Berkeley and Oakland. The campus is organized into five land use zones for planning purposes: the Campus Park, the Hill Campus West, the Hill Campus East, the Clark Kerr Campus, and the City Environs. The project site is located in the City Environs land use zone immediately west of UC Berkeley's Campus Park, in the City of Berkeley, Alameda County (Attachment A). The project site is approximately 1.86 acres and is currently fully developed. UC Berkeley's Anchor House Student Housing Project is located to the north of the project site across University Avenue. The West Crescent, a significant and primary campus gateway to the Campus Park, is located to the east. The Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive is located to the south across Addison Street. Residential and commercial developments are located to the west; these private properties are under the jurisdiction of the City of Berkeley. The project site is bounded by University Avenue to the north, Oxford Street to the east, and Addison Street to the south. The project site comprises the following six Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 057-2034-014-02, 057-2034-014-03, 057-2034-003-00, 057-2034-004-00, 057-2034-011-00, and 057-2034-012-00.

Project Description:

The project site is developed with multiple structures (University Hall and its Annex, a surface parking lot immediately to the west of University Hall, and UC-owned commercial buildings located at 2136-2140 University Avenue [Ernest A. Heron Building] and 2154-2160 University Avenue [Martha E. Sell Building]). The project would demolish all existing structures and redevelop the project site with two laboratory buildings with vehicle parking. The two proposed buildings, referred to as the South Building and the North Building, would also include offices, and other collaborative meeting spaces. Researchers, faculty, and students from

across multiple disciplines within UC Berkeley would use the buildings. The project would not result in UC Berkeley student population growth but would result in an increase in employment on the project site. The site plan is provided in Attachment B.

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 occupants. The North Building would provide an approximately 310,000-gross-square-foot new laboratory building that would include up to 11 above-ground floors, as well as a non-occupied mechanical space at the roof, and a below-grade basement. The building would also include an approximately 154,400-gross-square-foot garage, with up to four above-ground levels providing space for up to 350 vehicles within the 11-floor building. The North Building would provide space for permanent occupancy of up to 750 occupants.

A linear-shaped publicly accessible courtyard, approximately 40-foot-wide by 200-foot-long, would be located between the South and North Buildings. In addition, streetscape features, including trees, bicycle racks, and trash receptacles, would be installed along the northern, eastern, and southern sides of the site perimeter and sidewalks. Landscaping would include native and/or climate adaptive and drought-resistant plant materials.

Significant Environmental Effects:

The Draft EIR identifies the following effects by environmental topic:

- **No Impacts:** agriculture, forestry, and mineral resources.
- **Less than Significant without Mitigation:** aesthetics; energy; geology and soils; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; noise; population, employment and housing; public services and recreation; transportation; utilities and service systems; and wildfire.
- **Less than Significant with Mitigation:** air quality (cumulative toxic air contaminants), greenhouse gas emissions (generate greenhouse gas emissions), and biological resources (bird strikes).
- **Significant and Unavoidable with Mitigation:** cultural resources (historical resources) and noise (construction noise and new stationary noise).

Hazardous Materials/Waste On-Site:

Section 15087(c)(6) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that this notice disclose whether the project site is listed on any of the lists enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5 (Cortese List). Based on the information gathered from these databases, the project site is not identified as a site that is actively under evaluation, remediation, or verification monitoring.

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 review during the public comment period on the UC Berkeley campus at the A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720. (By appointment only; please call (510) 495-5786 for appointment.)

If assistance accessing documents is needed, including documents incorporated by reference in the Draft EIR, please contact UC Berkeley's Physical & Environmental Planning office at (510) 495-5786 or by email at 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 February 9, 2024, and ends on March 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Written comments via e-mail and regular mail can be provided no later than March 25, 2024. Written comments on environmental issues will be responded to in the Final EIR.

Mail comments to:

UC Berkeley Innovation Zone Project Draft EIR
Raphael Breines, Senior Planner
Physical & Environmental Planning
University of California, Berkeley
200 A&E Building
Berkeley, California 94720-1382

Email comments to: planning@berkeley.edu

Include “Draft EIR Comments: UC Berkeley Innovation Zone Project” in the subject line.

Public Hearing to Provide Comments:

UC Berkeley will host a public hearing to receive oral comments on the adequacy of the information presented in the Draft EIR. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. exclusively through Zoom videoconference. Because of time constraints, there will be a time limit of 2:00 minutes for each public comment.

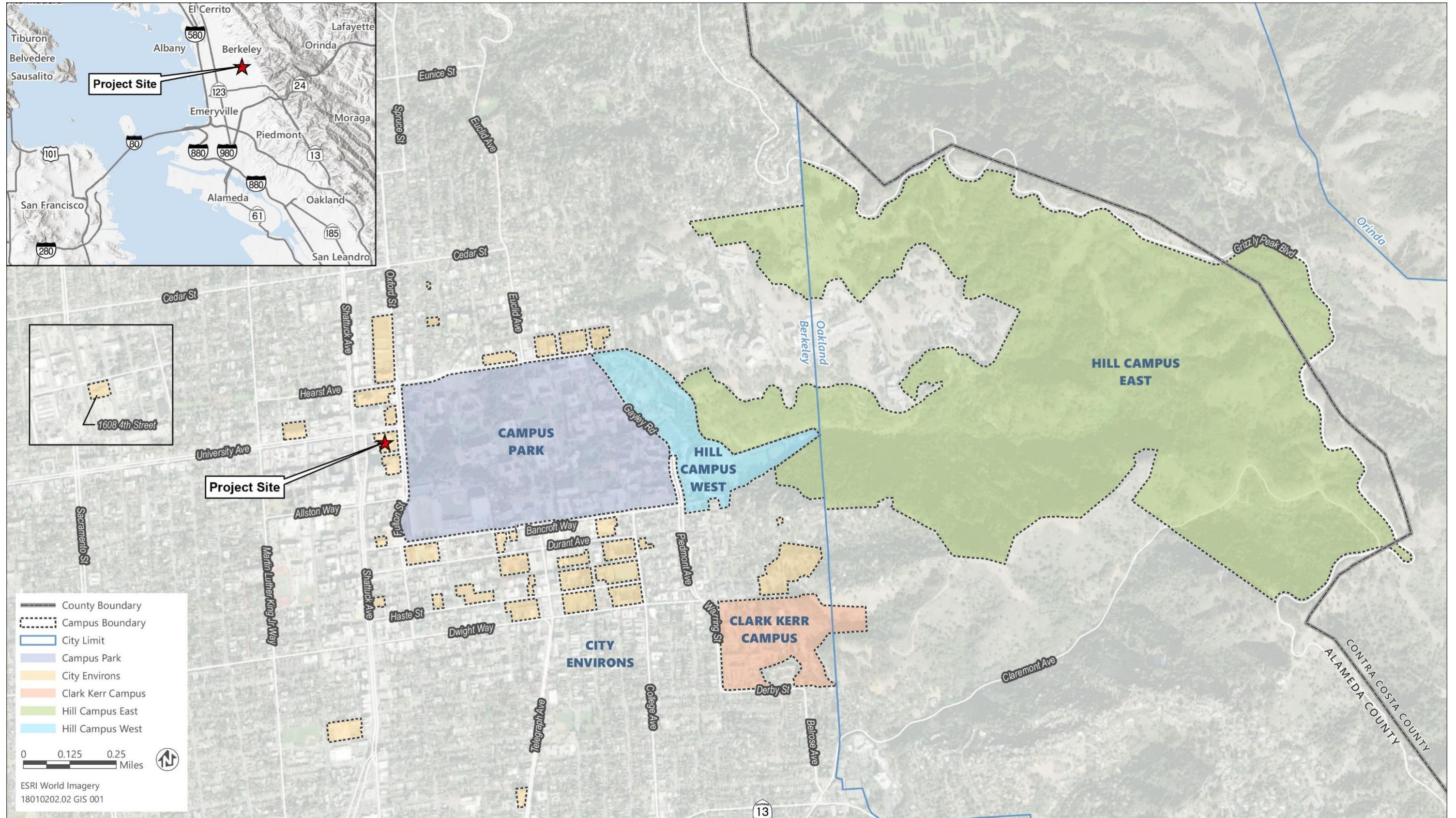
For instructions to access and participate in the Zoom meeting by telephone or from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device, please visit: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/public-meetings>

Attachments:

A - Location Map
B - Proposed Site Plan

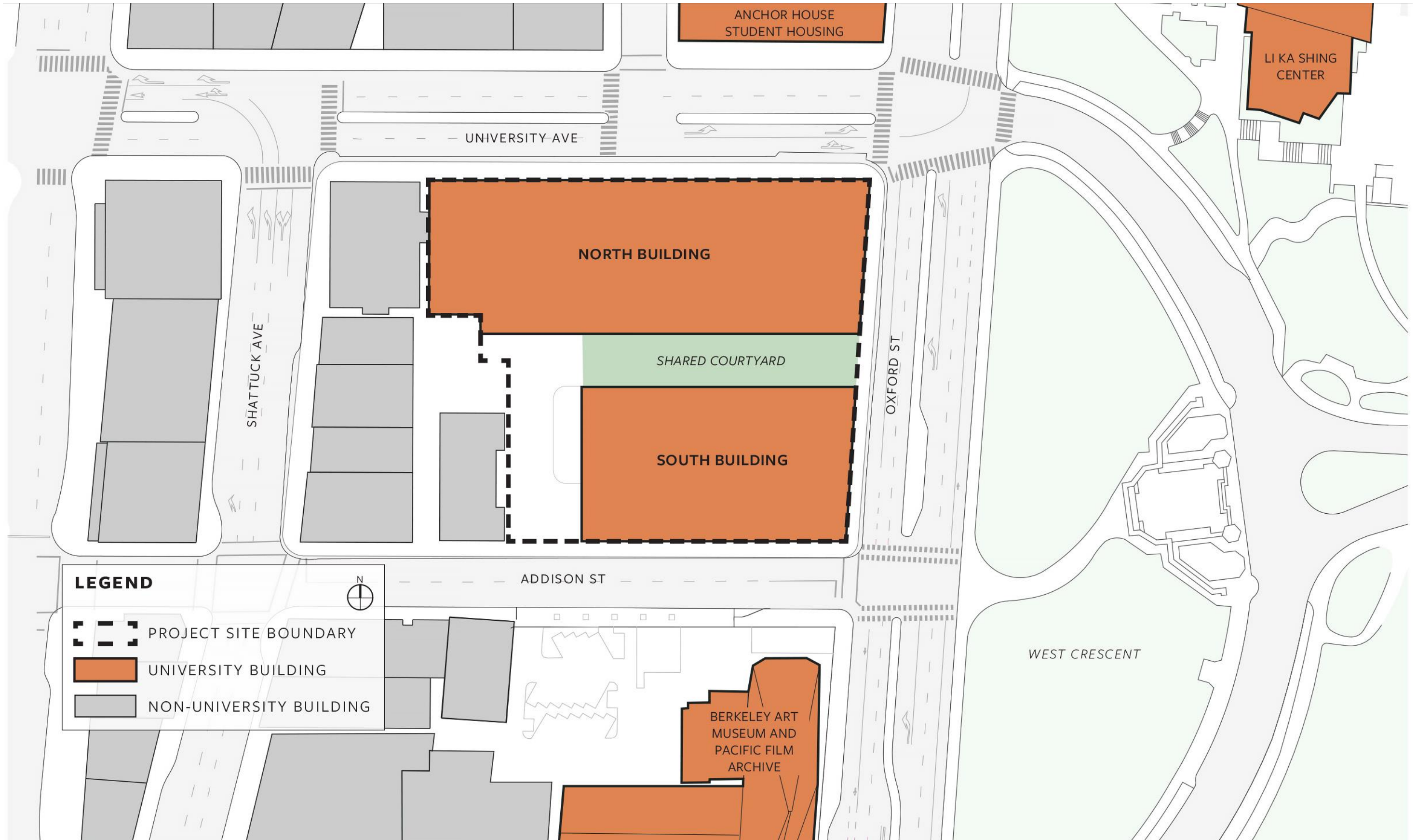
Project Inquiries: (510) 495-5786 or planning@berkeley.edu

Attachment A: Location Map (Project Site)



Source: UC Berkeley in 2023; adapted by Ascent 2023.

Attachment B: Proposed Site Plan



Source: UC Berkeley in 2024; adapted by Ascent 2024



Public Notice

Notice of Availability Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Online Public Hearing for the Proposed UC Berkeley Cal Softball Field Renovation Project

December 13, 2023

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 UC Berkeley Cal Softball Field Renovation Project. A Notice of Preparation for the EIR was issued on November 2, 2022.

Project Title: UC Berkeley Cal Softball Field Renovation Project

Lead Agency: The Regents of the University of California

Draft EIR

Review Period: Wednesday, December 13, 2023, through Monday, January 29, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Project Location:

UC Berkeley is located in the City of Berkeley, approximately 10 miles east of San Francisco (Figure 1). As shown in Figure 2, 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 protection plan.

Scope of Draft EIR:

An initial study was prepared and circulated with the Notice of Preparation for the proposed project in November 2022 (see Appendix A-1 and Appendix A-2, Notice of Preparation/Initial Study and Scoping Comments). The Initial Study indicates that the proposed project would result in either no impacts or less-than-significant impacts in the following environmental resource topics: agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials (Initial Study Section 2.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, includes a question related to adopted emergency response or emergency evacuation plans (question f) and a question related to wildfire risks (question g). The Initial Study indicates that these questions will be addressed in the Wildfire section of this EIR.), hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, and utilities and service systems. Therefore, these environmental resource topics are not evaluated in detail in the Draft EIR. Chapter 5 of the Draft EIR, Other CEQA Considerations, also summarizes the results of the Initial Study and further elaborates on these results where needed to respond to scoping comments or to account for additional information that has become available since the release of the Initial Study in November 2022. The Draft EIR provides a detailed evaluation of the following environmental resource topics: aesthetics, biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, noise, transportation, and wildfire.

Significant Environmental Effects:

The Draft 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 environmental historical resources and human remains), noise (operational, 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).

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 A&E, Berkeley, CA-94720 (By appointment only; please call (510) 495-5786 for appointment)

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.

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 December 13, 2023, and ends on January 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Written comments via e-mail and regular mail can be provided no later than January 29, 2024. Written comments will be responded to in the Final EIR.

Mail comments to:

UC Berkeley Cal Softball Field Renovation Project Draft EIR
Shraddha Navalli Patil, Senior Planner
Physical & Environmental Planning
University of California, Berkeley
200 A&E Building
Berkeley, California 94720-1382

Email comments to: planning@berkeley.edu

Include "Draft EIR Comments: UC Berkeley Cal Softball Field Renovation Project" in the subject line.

Public Hearing to Provide Comments:

UC Berkeley will host a public hearing on to receive public comments on the Draft EIR. The public hearing will be held on January 24 starting at 5:00 p.m. exclusively through Zoom videoconference. 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>

Attachments:

Figure 1: Project Location

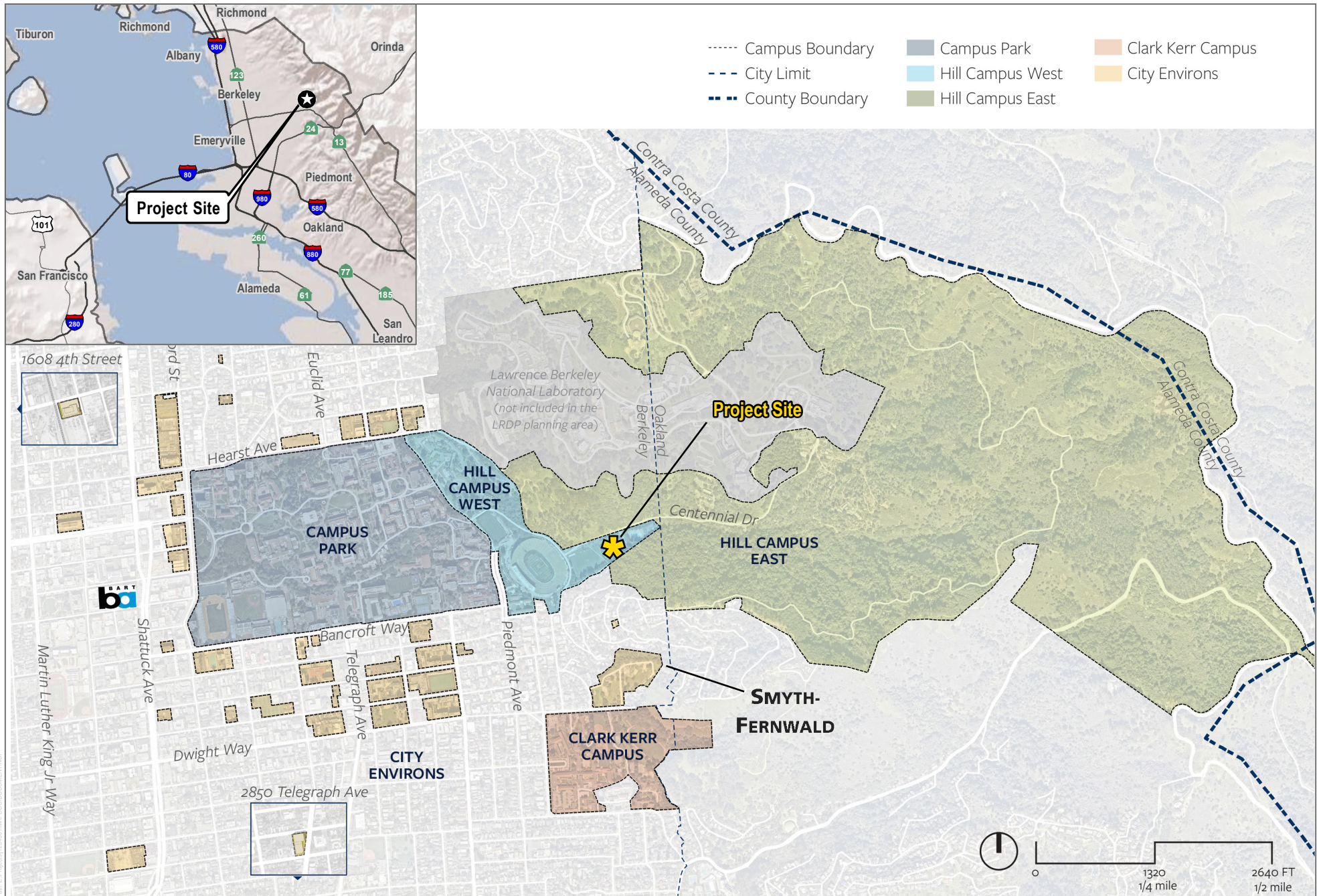
Figure 2: Project Site

Figure 3: Existing Cal Softball Field

Figure 4: Overall Site Plan

Download: [Notice of Availability with Attachments, Figures 1 -4 \(PDF\)](#)

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



SOURCE: UC Berkeley 2018

FIGURE 1
Project Location



SOURCE: ESRI World Imagery 2018



FIGURE 2
Project Site

UC Berkeley Cal Softball Field Renovation Project



SOURCE: HOK Architects

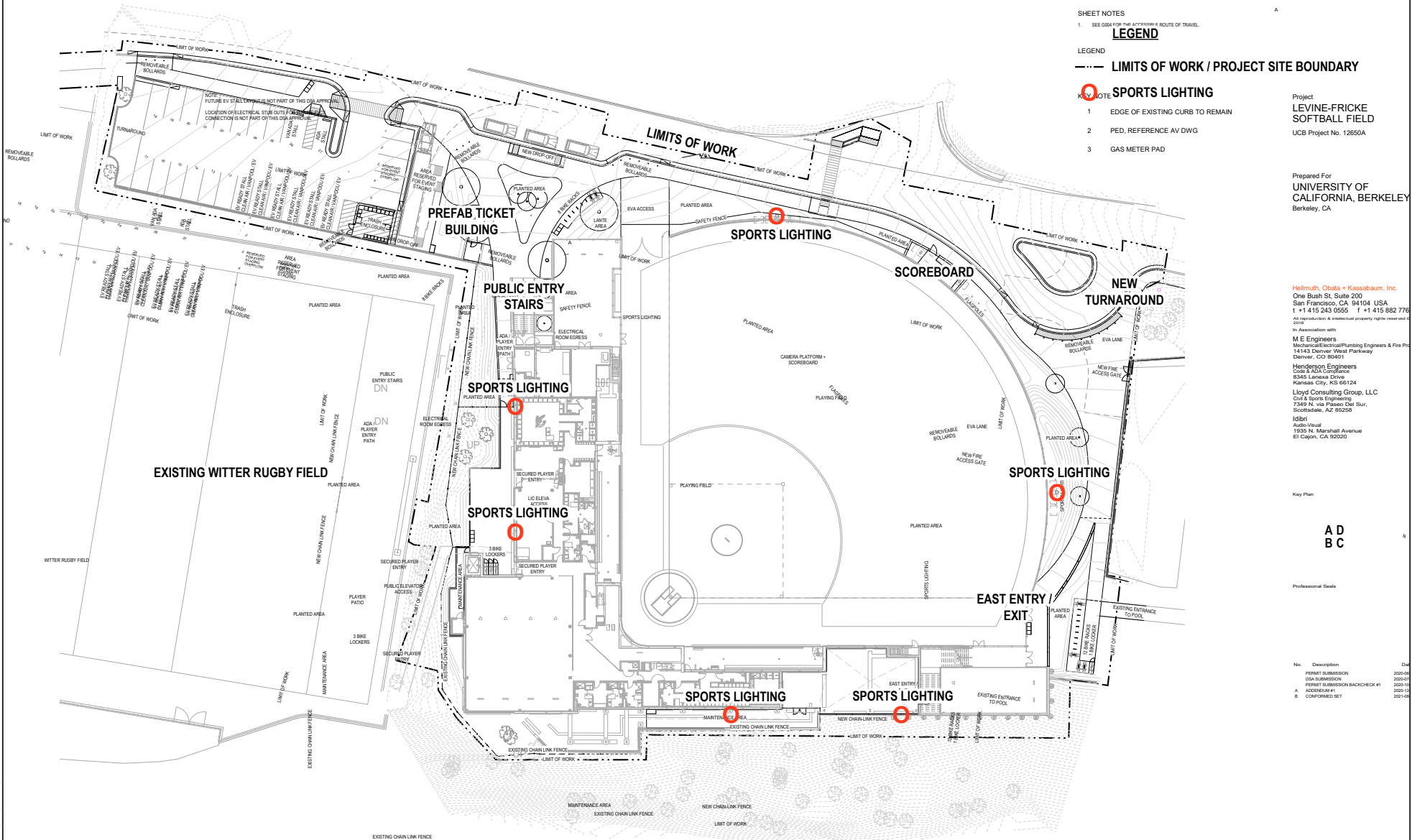
DUDEK

FIGURE 3

Existing Cal Softball Field

UC Berkeley Cal Softball Field Renovation Project

(Project Site Boundary extends west for connection to existing campus utilities.
See Figure 3-2 for full boundary extents.)



SHEET NOTES
1. SEE GOLF FOR THE APPROXIMATE ROUTE OF TRAVEL.

LEGEND
--- LIMITS OF WORK / PROJECT SITE BOUNDARY

KEY NOTE SPORTS LIGHTING
1 EDGE OF EXISTING CURB TO REMAIN
2 PED, REFERENCE AV DWG
3 GAS METER PAD

Project
**LEVINE-FRICKE
SOFTBALL FIELD**
UCB Project No. 12650A

Prepared For
**UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**
Berkeley, CA

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Scottsdale, AZ 85258
Idibri
Auto-Visual
1935 N. Marshall Avenue
El Cajon, CA 92020

Key Plan
**A
D
B
C**

Professional Seals

No.	Description	Date
1	PERMIT SUBMISSION	2020-08
2	DSA SUBMISSION	2020-07
3	PERMIT SUBMISSION CHECKCHECK #1	2020-10
A	ADDENDUM #1	2020-10
B	CONFORMED SET	2021-08

SOURCE: HOK Architects



FIGURE 4
Overall Site Plan

UC Berkeley Cal Softball Field Renovation Project



Public Notice

Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report

October 30, 2023

Project Title: UC Berkeley Innovation Zone

Lead Agency: The Regents of the University of California

Project Location: The project is located in the City of Berkeley in Alameda County immediately west of the University of California, Berkeley's (UC Berkeley's) Campus Park. The project site comprises the following six Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 057-2034-014-02, 057-2034-014-03, 057-2034-003-00, 057-2034-004-00, 057-2034-011-00, and 057-2034-012-00.

County: Alameda County

UC Berkeley has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be required for the UC Berkeley Innovation Zone (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). When the decision to prepare an EIR has already been made, CEQA states that an initial study is not required (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(a)). Accordingly, an initial study has not been prepared. This notice of preparation (NOP) has been prepared pursuant to Sections 15082 and 15083 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

UC Berkeley has prepared this NOP to provide responsible and trustee agencies, property owners, and other interested parties with a description of the proposed project and information on potential environmental effects of the proposed project, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a). The NOP is available for public review on UC Berkeley's Capital Strategies website:

<https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/environmental-review>.

Description of the Project

UC Berkeley proposes to develop an Innovation Zone in the City of Berkeley immediately west of the UC Berkeley campus. The project site currently comprises several parcels, including University Hall, its annex, the university parking lot immediately to the west of University Hall, and UC-owned commercial buildings located at 2136-2140 University Avenue (Ernest A. Heron Building) and 2154-2160 University Avenue (Martha E. Sell Building), which are city-designated landmarks. The proposed project would demolish all existing structures and redevelop the project site with two laboratory buildings with vehicle parking. The two proposed buildings, referred to as the South Building and the North Building, would include offices, and other collaborative meeting spaces, and would house researchers, faculty, and students from multiple disciplines. The North Building would also include a parking garage. The project would not result in UC Berkeley student population growth, but the proposed project could increase employment-population growth.

The South Building would provide an approximately 176,000-gross-square-foot new laboratory building that includes 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 occupants.

The North Building would provide an approximately 310,000-gross-square-foot new laboratory building that includes eight above-grade floors and a non-occupied mechanical space at the roof, and an approximately 154,400-gross-square-foot garage, with up to either four above- or below-grade levels, for vehicle parking. The North Building would be leased to a private developer and would house space for UC Berkeley's Innovative Genomics Institute (IGI), as well as other organizations, such as government entities, private companies, and research institutes with which UC Berkeley and/or IGI has research affiliations for industrial scientific and technological research purposes. The North Building would provide space for permanent occupancy of up to 750 occupants.

A linear-shaped courtyard, approximately 40-foot-wide by 200-foot-long, would be located between the South and North Buildings. In addition, streetscape features, including trees, bicycle racks, and trash receptacles, would be installed along the northern, eastern, and southern sides of the site perimeter and sidewalks. Landscaping would be consistent with the surrounding landscape and would include native and/or climate adaptive and drought-resistant plant materials.

Project Location

The project site is located in the City of Berkeley in Alameda County immediately west of UC Berkeley's Campus Park ([Attachment A](#)). The project site is approximately 1.86 acres and is currently fully developed. UC Berkeley's Anchor House Student Housing Project is located to the north of the project site across University Avenue. The West Crescent, a significant and primary campus gateway to the Campus Park, is located to the east. The Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive are located to the south across Addison Street. Residential and commercial developments are located to the west; these private properties are under the jurisdiction of the City of Berkeley.

Probable Environmental Effects

UC Berkeley has determined that an EIR will be prepared for the proposed project. Therefore, as allowed under Section 15060 of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 Cal. Code Regs.), UC Berkeley has not prepared an initial study and will instead begin work directly on the EIR process. 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. The EIR will evaluate the probable environmental effects, including cumulative effects, of the proposed project, in the following environmental issue areas:

- **Aesthetics:** The EIR will evaluate changes in views, visual character, and lighting resulting from implementation of the project.
- **Air Quality:** The EIR will evaluate potential impacts associated with temporary increases in air pollutant emissions from construction and long-term increases in pollutant emissions from project operations and associated vehicular trips.
- **Biological Resources:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to result in substantial adverse effects on biological resources, including sensitive habitats and species, wetlands, and waters, as well as potential conflicts with local/regional conservation planning efforts.
- **Cultural Resources:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of known or unknown archaeological or historical resources.

- **Energy:** The EIR will evaluate potential impacts related to energy use for construction and operation of the project.
- **Geology / Soils:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to exacerbate geologic hazards and disturb unknown paleontological resources.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** The EIR will evaluate potential impacts from temporary increases in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with mobile-source exhaust from construction worker commute trips, truck haul trips, and equipment (e.g., excavators, graders); and long-term increases in GHG emissions associated with project operations, including stationary and mobile sources. The EIR will also evaluate the project's potential to conflict with applicable plans, policies, or regulations for reducing GHG emissions.
- **Hazards / Hazardous Materials:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for construction and operational activities associated with the project to increase hazards on the site and in the surrounding area and the potential for increased risk of exposure to hazards and hazardous materials. The EIR will also evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to physically impair emergency response or evacuation plans.
- **Hydrology / Water Quality:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to alter drainage patterns, increase impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff, and result in potential impacts on water quality (surface waters and groundwater) during construction and operation.
- **Land Use / Planning:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to affect established communities and conflict with applicable plans and policies adopted for the purpose of reducing or avoiding environmental impacts.
- **Noise:** The EIR will evaluate potential impacts from temporary increases in noise (including off-site, vehicle traffic noise) and vibration levels during construction; and long-term increases in noise from project operation, including stationary and mobile sources.
- **Population / Housing:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to induce (directly or indirectly) unplanned substantial population growth or displace substantial housing or residents.
- **Public Services and Recreation:** The EIR will evaluate potential impacts on public services and recreation facilities.
- **Transportation:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to increase vehicle miles traveled (VMT) locally and in the region and whether such increases would conflict with applicable plans, policies, or regulations related to the effectiveness of the local/regional circulation system. The EIR will also include a discussion of emergency access adequacy, and potential transportation hazards from implementation of the project. In addition, a discussion of potential wind hazards associated with building design features will be included in the EIR.
- **Tribal Cultural Resources:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of known or unknown tribal cultural resources.
- **Utilities / Service Systems:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to increase demand for water, transmission, and treatment; demand for wastewater transmission and treatment; use of recycled water; demand for electricity and natural gas; and the potential need to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure.
- **Wildfire:** The EIR will evaluate the potential for implementation of the project to exacerbate wildfire risks and associated hazards.

No significant impacts with respect to agriculture and forestry resources or mineral resources are anticipated, and these issue areas will not be evaluated in detail as part of the EIR.

Public Review and Comment Period

UC Berkeley invites comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR and appreciates your prompt review of this NOP. Written comments should focus on the scope and content of the environmental information to be

included in the Draft EIR for the Innovation Zone Project, germane to agencies having statutory responsibilities associated with the proposed project, as well as public interest in the proposed project. All comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period will be considered in the Draft EIR. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, this NOP will be circulated for a 30-day review period, which will extend from October 30, 2023, to November 29, 2023. **Responses to this NOP must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 29, 2023.** Please send your written or electronic responses, with appropriate contact information, to the following address:

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner
Physical & Environmental Planning
University of California, Berkeley
200 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382
Email: planning@berkeley.edu

Please include a subject line indicating Scoping Comments: UC Berkeley Innovation Zone.

Public Scoping Meeting

UC Berkeley will hold an online public scoping meeting to inform interested parties about the project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide oral and written comments on the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting will be held exclusively through Zoom videoconference. The meeting information is as follows:

Wednesday, November 15, 2023
Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Meeting Link: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/public-meetings>

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>.

To request a paper copy of this notice or if you have questions concerning this NOP, scoping session, or associated environmental review for the project, please contact Raphael Breines, Senior Planner, Physical & Environmental Planning, at (510) 642-6796 or planning@berkeley.edu.

Download: [Notice of Preparation with Attachment A-Location Map \(PDF\)](#)

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