

CHAPTER 1.0

INTRODUCTION

This volume of the Environmental Impact Report for the proposed University of California, Irvine (UCI) 2007 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) contains a project-level analysis that assesses the potentially significant environmental effects of a project proposed by UCI: the University Hills Area 9/2 Faculty/Staff Housing Project. For this project, the analysis addresses the potentially significant project-specific impacts of the project; identifies means of avoiding or minimizing potential adverse impacts; and evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project. The Regents of the University of California (The Regents) is the “lead agency” for this project.

This document evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed Area 9/2 Housing Project, which would result in the construction of up to 120 residences within the UCI South Campus. The residences may be detached, attached, or some combination of both, and the ultimate number of homes built would be determined by the mix selected; however, the total number would not exceed 120 homes. The Area 9/2 Housing Project site is shown in Figures 3-1 and 3-2 and is further described in Section 3.0 Project Description.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT-LEVEL IMPACT ANALYSES

This project-level environmental impact analysis has been prepared to support the purposes of the EIR identified in Volume I, Section 1.2. This volume augments Volumes I and II of this EIR which analyze the implementation of land uses and physical development proposed under the 2007 LRDP and identify measures to mitigate significant impacts. The project-level environmental analysis in this volume builds upon the broader programmatic analysis in Volumes I and II, and focuses on evaluating and disclosing environmental impacts that could potentially result if the Area 9/2 Housing Project is implemented as proposed.

The organization of the project-level environmental analysis follows the same overall format as the 2007 LRDP Draft EIR in Volume I. However, it avoids repetition of general background and setting information for environmental topic areas; the regulatory context; overall growth-related issues; issues that were evaluated in sufficient detail in Volumes I and II for which there is no additional information that would require further analysis; and alternatives to the proposed 2007 LRDP. Instead, the project-specific environmental analysis provides and evaluates more detailed project-level information. Mitigation measures identified in Volume I that apply to a significant effect on the environment caused by the proposed project will be implemented as part of the project and are identified in this volume. Project-

specific mitigation measures are also included where necessary and would also be implemented as part of the proposed project.

REVIEW PROCESS

As described in Volume I, Section 1.6, the NOP and Initial Study issued on July 6, 2006 for the 2007 LRDP Draft EIR included a discussion and analysis of the Area 9/2 Housing Project.

Volume III is part of the proposed 2007 LRDP Draft EIR and circulated in conjunction with Volumes I and II for public and agency review as described in Volume I, Section 1.6. Following the close of the public comment period, responses to all formally submitted comments that raise environmental issues regarding the 2007 LRDP or the Area 9/2 Housing Project will be prepared.