

1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter summarizes the purpose of this environmental impact report (EIR) for the University of California, Santa Cruz (UC Santa Cruz) 2021 Long Range Development Plan (2021 LRDP). It also describes the intended uses of the EIR, addresses the procedures that are to be followed according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), presents summaries of the 2021 LRDP and of the agency and public comments received during the public review period for the notice of preparation (NOP) of an EIR, and describes the scope and organization of this EIR.

The UC Santa Cruz 2021 LRDP (2021 LRDP) is the proposed project under CEQA. It has been prepared to guide the physical development necessary to achieve UC Santa Cruz's mission through 2040 and would replace the previous LRDP (2005 LRDP) that is currently being implemented within the LRDP area. The 2021 LRDP establishes a land use framework for academic and administrative space needs, housing, open space, circulation, and other land uses that ultimately facilitate the appropriate siting of capital projects.

1.1 PURPOSE AND INTENDED USES OF THIS EIR

This EIR has been prepared under the direction of the Board of Regents of the University of California (the Regents) in accordance with the requirements of CEQA (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.). The Regents are serving as the lead agency under CEQA for consideration of certification of this EIR and potential approval of the 2021 LRDP; State CEQA Guidelines Section 15367 defines the lead agency as the agency with principal responsibility for carrying out and approving a project. UC Santa Cruz is part of the University of California (UC), a constitutionally created entity of the State of California, with "full powers of organization and government" (Cal. Const. Art. IX, Section 9). As a constitutionally created State entity, UC Santa Cruz considers and provides authority for all land use decisions on property owned or controlled by UC Santa Cruz that are in furtherance of UC Santa Cruz's education purposes.

According to CEQA, if the lead agency determines that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, the lead agency shall prepare an EIR (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064[f][1]). An EIR is an informational document used to inform public agency decision makers and the general public of the significant environmental effects of a project, identify possible ways to mitigate or avoid the significant effects, and describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project that could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project while substantially lessening or avoiding any of the significant environmental impacts. Public agencies are required to consider the information presented in the EIR when determining whether to approve a project.

CEQA requires that public agencies consider the environmental effects of projects over which they have discretionary authority before they take action on those projects (PRC Section 21002.1). CEQA also requires that each public agency avoid or mitigate to a less-than-significant level, wherever feasible, the significant environmental effects of projects it approves or implements. If implementing a project would result in significant and unavoidable environmental impacts (i.e., significant effects that cannot be feasibly mitigated to a less-than-significant level), the project can still be approved, but the lead agency must prepare and issue a "statement of overriding considerations," explaining in writing the specific economic, social, or other considerations that make those significant effects acceptable (PRC Section 21002; State CEQA Guidelines Section 15093).

An LRDP is defined by statute (Public Resources Code Section 21080.09) as a "physical development and land use plan to meet the academic and institutional objectives for a particular campus or medical center of public higher education." All UC campuses are required to prepare an LRDP to guide physical campus development. The 2021 LRDP establishes a land use framework for academic and administrative space needs, housing, open space, circulation, and other land uses that ultimately facilitate the appropriate siting of capital projects. UC Santa Cruz has commissioned this EIR evaluating the environmental effects of the 2021 LRDP for the following purposes:

- ▶ to satisfy the requirements of CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, and the University of California Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA;

- ▶ to inform the general public, local community, responsible and interested public agencies, and the Regents of the nature of the proposed project, its potential significant environmental effects, measures to mitigate those effects, and alternatives to the proposed project;
- ▶ to enable the Regents to consider the environmental consequences of approving the 2021 LRDP;
- ▶ to provide a basis for tiering subsequent environmental documents from the 2021 LRDP EIR pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15152, 15168(c) and 15183.5; and
- ▶ for consideration by responsible agencies in issuing permits and approvals for projects under the 2021 LRDP and other actions.

1.1.1 Responsible and Trustee Agencies

Under CEQA, responsible agencies are State and local public agencies, other than the lead agency, that have the discretionary authority over a project or a portion of it. Trustee agencies are State agencies with legal jurisdiction over natural resources affected by a project that are held in trust for the people of the state of California.

The agencies listed below may have responsibility for or jurisdiction over implementation of elements of the project. The list of agencies also identifies potential permits and other approval actions that may be required before implementation of certain project elements. The list is not intended to imply that specific permits would be required or that specific actions would occur; rather, it identifies agencies that *may* have responsibilities related to project components and the potential associated reasons. Chapter 3 of this EIR provides detailed analysis that explores further the potential for the need for responsible agency action.

This EIR is expected to be used to satisfy the CEQA requirements of the listed responsible and trustee agencies. Further, this analysis is anticipated to provide useful information for any federal agency that may issue a permit in support of the 2021 LRDP.

STATE

- ▶ California Coastal Commission (responsible agency)—to comply with the California Coastal Act for any development within the Coastal Zone
- ▶ California Department of Fish and Wildlife (responsible and trustee agency)—to comply with the California Endangered Species Act for potential take of State-listed species and to comply with the California Fish and Game Code with respect to work within a river, stream, lake, or its tributaries
- ▶ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (responsible agency)—to comply with the California Forest Practice Act for potential removal/harvesting of trees
- ▶ California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) (responsible agency)—to authorize temporary access for construction within Caltrans rights-of-way
- ▶ Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (responsible agency)—to issue waste discharge requirements for impacts on waters of the state and approve a stormwater pollution prevention plan for construction/operation
- ▶ State Water Resources Control Board (responsible agency)—to authorize coverage under Construction General and Industrial Storm Water permits

LOCAL

- ▶ Monterey Bay Air Resources District (responsible agency)—to comply with stationary source permitting requirements (e.g., Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate)
- ▶ City of Santa Cruz (responsible agency)—to authorize approval of roadway, bike path, utility, and sidewalk improvements within City-owned right-of-way
- ▶ County of Santa Cruz (responsible agency)—to authorize approval of roadway, bike path, utility, and sidewalk improvements within County-owned right-of-way

FEDERAL

In addition, this EIR may be used to provide environmental information for the following federal agencies in any permitting actions they may take on the project:

- ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—to comply with Clean Water Act Section 404 requirements related to any impacts on waters of the United States
- ▶ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act for any take of listed species

1.2 LRDP BACKGROUND

Each campus in the UC system prepares an LRDP to guide campus development in anticipation of potential growth of student enrollment and new university-added programs. For UC Santa Cruz's campus, which includes the main residential campus and the Westside Research Park, the 2021 LRDP proposes a land use plan to support potential growth predominantly through redevelopment of existing facilities and construction on previously developed land. UC Santa Cruz anticipates that under the 2021 LRDP, the on-campus population could grow from an estimated 18,518 full-time equivalent (FTE) students to a potential enrollment of 28,000 FTE students (three-quarter average) by the 2040–2041 academic year. UC Santa Cruz faculty and staff are also anticipated to increase from approximately 2,800 FTE to approximately 5,000 FTE in the same timeframe. To accommodate the increased campus population, the 2021 LRDP proposes the renovation of existing facilities and the construction of an additional 3.1 million assignable square feet of academic and support building space. The 2021 LRDP does not include planning for the third UC Santa Cruz property in Santa Cruz, the Coastal Science Campus, which is governed by a separate Coastal Long Range Development Plan. It also does not include planning for remote satellite campuses in Scotts Valley, Santa Clara, and Marina.

The 2021 LRDP proposes to accommodate 100 percent of the increase in students beyond approximately 19,500 FTE students and up to 25 percent of the additional 2,200 FTE faculty/staff members in on-campus housing. It would accommodate an estimated 17,783 students in campus housing, compared to existing on-campus housing capacity of an estimated 9,283 students.

Much like a city or county general plan, the 2021 LRDP does not mandate growth or the provision of new facilities. Varying factors affect whether campus population levels may increase, decrease, or remain unchanged. The 2021 LRDP provides a guide to the land development patterns and associated physical infrastructure that could be built to support a forecasted level of enrollment and employment growth. Its approval does not constitute a commitment to any specific project, construction schedule, or funding priority, nor does it constitute a commitment by UC Santa Cruz to enrollment growth or a certain amount of development.

Further, the 2021 LRDP does not sunset, and there is no set timeframe for when a new LRDP would be needed. However, for analytical purposes, this EIR assumes that the forecasted student and faculty/staff growth would occur by the 2040–2041 academic year, along with development of related facilities and housing. This EIR uses the 2018–2019 academic year as the baseline year to reflect existing environmental conditions unless otherwise specified and explained in relation to a specific topic. This approach is consistent with the CEQA guideline recommendation that the date when the NOP is issued should normally constitute the date of the baseline conditions against which project conditions should be compared. At the time when the NOP was issued for the 2021 LRDP EIR, the 2018–2019 academic year represented the most complete and accurate data regarding the campus population.

1.3 PLANNING PROCESS

The Regents adopted the most recent LRDP for UC Santa Cruz, the 2005 LRDP, and certified its EIR at its September 19–21, 2006, meetings. LRDPs do not expire and remain in effect until updated or replaced. The 2005 LRDP requires updating to reflect new growth projections and plans. The 2021 LRDP builds on prior Campus planning efforts with projections for potential population growth and land use designations for new initiatives. The 2021 LRDP would accommodate growth in UC Santa Cruz's student, faculty, and staff campus population while supporting the academic program, enriching community life, and creating a sustainable future.

The first stage of the 2021 LRDP planning process involved conducting stakeholder interviews, gathering data, and setting goals. More specifically, this stage involved the establishment of the Community Advisory Group (composed of community members and local government representatives and staff), the 2021 LRDP Planning Committee (composed of staff, faculty, study, and community representatives), and expert work groups (composed of staff, faculty, and local government experts) and the participation of the community at open houses in Santa Cruz, Capitola, and Watsonville; at Santa Cruz neighborhood meetings; and in individual stakeholder interviews and focus groups. Individuals were encouraged to provide feedback online using the visioning tool available on the UC Santa Cruz 2021 LRDP website: <https://lrdp.ucsc.edu/2040/resources.html>. This process led to development of three land use scenarios of the 2021 LRDP. Additional technical analysis from the Community Advisory Group, the 2021 LRDP Planning Committee, and expert work groups and feedback from individuals who used the online feedback tool led to development of two land use map variations. Another round of technical analysis involving these groups and feedback obtained through community workshops led to the creation of the proposed land use map. Following these community workshops, the public draft 2021 LRDP was developed.

The following list provides approximate dates of these planning efforts:

- ▶ fall 2017: LRDP scenarios development
- ▶ spring 2018: LRDP community open forums
- ▶ winter 2018: LRDP online visioning activity initiated
- ▶ winter 2018: public survey test scenarios
- ▶ spring 2020: proposed land use map development

Land use planning workshops open to the public were held on October 21, 22, and 24, 2019. These workshops focused on obtaining feedback on land use map variations, housing, circulation, campus and community amenities, and sustainability. At three open houses—two on December 2 and one on December 3, 2019—the public was invited to see a presentation on the proposed land use map and provide feedback.

Many public comments during the planning efforts mentioned the potential level of growth on campus, including projected increases in student enrollment, and potential development locations as key concerns. Comments regarding housing location indicated a desire to avoid housing within the central portion of the main residential campus to maintain the existing level of open space. After consideration of these comments, UC Santa Cruz revised the proposed land use scenario and refocused potential development under the 2021 LRDP to areas adjacent to existing development. Additional comments during the planning process indicated a desire for more student services/amenities in the 2021 LRDP. UC Santa Cruz has continued to evaluate campus land options for additional services and amenities to serve the campus population.

After a 38-day NOP and scoping period from February through April 2020, UC Santa Cruz carefully reviewed all the agency and public comments to consider 2021 LRDP planning revisions and environmental issues for the 2021 LRDP EIR. Included in the scoping comments were requests for consideration of a lesser degree of development and student enrollment, analysis of potential impacts on the City of Santa Cruz (including city utilities and residents), increasing student housing on campus, an assessment of potential emissions (air quality and greenhouse gas) associated with 2021 LRDP development, and the need to evaluate potential impacts on visual resources (See Appendix B). These scoping comments are addressed in the impact analyses and the alternatives section of this EIR. In addition, after the scoping period, UC Santa Cruz continued to consult with commenting and other agencies, including the City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, Caltrans, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Ongoing consultation with these agencies assisted with refining the baseline conditions, developing the impact methodology, and projecting the cumulative conditions in this EIR.

1.3.1 Relationship with Other Campus Planning Efforts

The 2021 LRDP represents one of many planning efforts by UC Santa Cruz but serves as an overall umbrella of campus planning and development activities. It provides a guide to the land development patterns and associated physical infrastructure that could be built to support a forecasted level of enrollment and growth. Of the other campus planning efforts conducted by UC Santa Cruz, four types of campus planning efforts (strategic academic planning, capital financial planning, the physical design framework, and sustainability planning) are closely related to the 2021 LRDP, and the 2021 LRDP is generally consistent with these planning efforts. The four types of planning documents are described below.

STRATEGIC ACADEMIC PLAN

UC Santa Cruz's *Strategic Academic Plan and Implementation Playbook* identifies design principles and links each to a concrete goal tied to a menu of possible initiatives and outcomes to help ensure that the vision of UC Santa Cruz for its future can be made real. The strategic goals are direction-setting, outcome-based aspirations, whereas the initiatives are concrete steps taken in pursuit of a goal (UC Santa Cruz 2018).

The plan identifies the following five design principles to advance the institutional values of UC Santa Cruz and help facilitate a shared understanding of how particular initiatives have been prioritized:

- ▶ drive research and creative work that transform our world;
- ▶ create enriching experiential learning and research opportunities for students;
- ▶ engage and support a diverse faculty, staff, and student body;
- ▶ support generative interdisciplinary connections to research and teaching; and
- ▶ expand excellence in innovation in areas distinctive to UC Santa Cruz, such as social justice, diversity, and sustainability.

The plan describes the three academic priority areas identified by UC Santa Cruz: Earth Futures, Justice in a Changing World, and Digital Interventions. Identifying the three areas will help the UC Santa Cruz prioritize funding and development through 2023. Briefly stated, Earth Futures relates to taking a long view of the earth and humanity, Justice in a Changing World focuses on how UC Santa Cruz can serve justice in the world, and Digital Interventions relates to how the digital world interacts with and shapes our lives.

The plan also focuses on identifying and making recommendations for reducing or eliminating the most immediate barriers to research, teaching, and learning.

CAPITAL FINANCIAL PLAN

Capital planning is an ongoing and iterative process that evaluates the capital funding needs identified by academic plans (such as the strategic academic plan) and land use plans (such as LRDPs) and assesses alternatives to meet such needs in the context of anticipated capital resources. Such planning occurs at the UC level and at the individual campuses. The *University of California Capital Financial Plan*, updated annually, identifies all prospective projects, budget estimates, and anticipated fund sources for the 10 UC campuses and the medical centers associated with them. The current plan addresses the 2019–2025 timeframe (UC 2019).

UC Santa Cruz's *Capital Financial Plan* is also updated annually. It is a proposed 10-year budget and schedule for all projects over \$750,000 (UC Santa Cruz 2017).

Capital planning anticipates investments necessary to provide new facilities and infrastructure and to maintain the quality of campus assets. Specific types of improvements include:

- ▶ teaching, research, student services, and administrative facilities;
- ▶ student housing and other student life activity centers and programs;

- ▶ utility infrastructure, including water, sewer, building heating and cooling, telecommunications, and other systems;
- ▶ energy conservation projects; and
- ▶ roadways, bike paths, and public spaces.

PHYSICAL DESIGN FRAMEWORK

The *University of California, Santa Cruz Physical Design Framework* describes a vision for adding facilities in response to evolving teaching and research needs concurrent with UC Santa Cruz reviewing aging infrastructure; ensuring that new buildings are in harmony with the natural environment and with several generations of earlier buildings; providing a variety of attractive public spaces; and accomplishing all of this within the financial constraints of a public university, in an environment of increasingly stringent regulations, and with an evolving awareness of the need to minimize the institution's carbon footprint (UC Santa Cruz 2010).

The framework identifies five unifying concepts, including using different approaches to development in the different major landscape types, building in clusters, and using a "ladder" roadway system that conforms as closely as possible to existing topography and that reflects the distinctive physical structure of the campus and its historic pattern of development. It also presents planning and design guidelines related to land, buildings, roads and paths, and infrastructure.

The framework is used by UC Santa Cruz campus planners, architects, and others to guide the effective incorporation of these concepts into projects that modify the built environment of the campus. With respect to the 2021 LRDP, the framework provides more specific direction for site planning, landscape design, and architecture for future development identified by the 2021 LRDP.

SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS AND PLANS

Consistent with the UC's and UC Santa Cruz's focus on sustainability, including implementation of the UC Sustainable Practices Policy, UC Santa Cruz has implemented and is continuing to implement a number of energy conservation and sustainability initiatives throughout the campus. As part of this effort, UC Santa Cruz is currently implementing its 2017–2022 Campus Sustainability Plan (UC Santa Cruz 2019).

The UC Santa Cruz Sustainability Office strives to foster a culture of sustainability on campus by pursuing the following goals: institutionalize sustainability, improve environmental performance through the Campus Sustainability Plan, create centralized communication and promote successes, promote a culture of inclusive sustainability, and integrate sustainability into the classroom.

Campus programs encourage faculty, staff, and students to reduce water consumption and waste generation, among other environmental sustainability actions. The comprehensive Campus Sustainability Plan identifies goals, strategies, and actions to increase sustainability in the areas of learning and culture, materials management and food systems, natural environment and infrastructure, and climate and energy. A progress report presents updates on all the annual actions pursued during the first 2 years of the 5-year sustainability plan.

For further information regarding UC Santa Cruz sustainability planning efforts, refer to Section 3.6, "Energy"; Section 3.8, "Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change"; and Section 3.17, "Utilities and Service Systems."

2008 COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Although not a campus plan, a Comprehensive Settlement Agreement (CSA) was entered into in 2008 by UC Santa Cruz, the City of Santa Cruz, the County of Santa Cruz, and a variety of other parties to resolve several lawsuits challenging the 2005 LRDP EIR. (See *City of Santa Cruz et. al. v. Regents of the University of California et. al.* Santa Cruz County Superior Court Case No. CV155571, consolidated with Case No. CV155583.) Among other things, the CSA addressed enrollment, capping on-campus three-quarter average undergraduate enrollment at 17,500 FTE and projecting a total on-campus 3-quarter average enrollment (undergraduate and graduate) of 19,480 FTE by the 2020-

2021 academic year. The CSA required UC Santa Cruz to provide 7,125 beds for enrollment up to 15,000 FTE and beds for 67 percent of new student enrollment above 15,000 FTE. The CSA also required UC Santa Cruz to apply to the Santa Cruz County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) for a Sphere of Influence amendment for extraterritorial water and sewer services for the north campus subarea, which UC Santa Cruz did in 2008, but provided that UC Santa Cruz's application to LAFCO was not an admission that UC Santa Cruz is subject to LAFCO jurisdiction and did not change the underlying agreements between the City and UC Santa Cruz. To date, UC Santa Cruz has complied with its obligation under the CSA. Refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," for further information regarding existing on-campus housing and student enrollment. The CSA is in effect until the Regents approve a new LRDP.

This EIR discloses and analyzes the impacts of the 2021 LRDP as compared to baseline conditions with regard to physical development and enrollment, but does make reference to the CSA in some discussions.

1.4 EIR PROCESS

CEQA requires an early and open process for determining the scope of issues that should be addressed in the EIR. The NOP provides formal notification to all federal, state, regional, and local agencies involved with funding or approval of the project, and to other interested organizations and members of the public, that an EIR will be prepared for the project. The NOP is intended to encourage interagency communication concerning the proposed project and to provide sufficient background information about the proposed project so that agencies, organizations, and individuals can respond with specific comments and questions on the scope and content of the EIR.

In accordance with PRC Section 21092 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, a NOP was prepared and circulated on February 25, 2020, for a 30-day period of public and agency comment. The original public review period was scheduled to end on March 25, 2020, but was extended to March 30, 2020, to close during the first day of spring quarter at UC Santa Cruz. In light of concerns regarding COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions for public gatherings, this deadline was later extended to April 8, 2020. The NOP was submitted to the State Clearinghouse and the clerk-recorder for Santa Cruz County. A copy of the NOP is provided in Appendix A; the written comments received during the NOP comment period are provided in Appendix B. Comments received during public review of the NOP and at the public scoping meeting are summarized in a table at the beginning of Appendix B. A summary of the relevant NOP comments is provided at the beginning of each topical section in Chapter 3. The NOP is also available on the project website: <https://lrpd.ucsc.edu>.

During the public review period for the NOP, two public scoping sessions were held on March 12, 2020, from noon to 2:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A third scoping session was also held on April 1, 2020, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Because of concerns regarding COVID-19, the sessions were not held in person. Instead, they were held in a virtual format using a live video feed. Recorded sessions are available for viewing at <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/128318905>. This Draft EIR is being circulated for a 60-day period of review (15 days longer than required under the State CEQA Guidelines) and comment by the public, agencies, organizations, and other interested parties beginning on Thursday, January 7, 2021 and ending on Monday, March 8, 2021. As a result of the expanding outbreak of COVID-19 and resulting restrictions placed on in-person gatherings throughout California, in consultation with UC Office of the President, UC Santa Cruz will host an online public session to receive comments on the Draft EIR, rather than an in-person event. The online public session will be hosted on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 and Thursday, February 4, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and conducted online. To obtain information about how to attend the live public session, visit the participation section of project web site: <https://lrpd.ucsc.edu>.

The Draft EIR is available to review **online** at: <https://lrpd.ucsc.edu>.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hard copies will not be available to review in person at the library. Please contact Erika Carpenter at escarpen@ucsc.edu or at (831) 212-0187 if you would like to receive a USB/flash drive of the Draft EIR. The public review period will conclude at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021. All comments on the Draft EIR should be addressed to:

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After close of the public comment period, responses to written and oral comments on environmental issues will be prepared. Consistent with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(b), commenting agencies will be provided a minimum of 10 days to review the proposed responses to their comments before any action is taken on the Final EIR or project. The Final EIR (consisting of this Draft EIR and the response to comments document) will then be considered for certification (in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15090) and approval by the Regents. If the Regents find that the Final EIR is "adequate and complete," they may certify the Final EIR in accordance with CEQA.

CEQA requires that when a public agency approves a project covered by an EIR, the public agency must adopt a reporting or monitoring program for the measures it has adopted or made a condition of the project approval to mitigate significant adverse effects on the environment. The reporting or monitoring program must be designed to ensure compliance during project implementation. The mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the project will be prepared and considered by the Regents in conjunction with the Final EIR review.

1.5 SCOPE OF THIS DRAFT EIR

This EIR is a program EIR, which is defined in Section 15168 of the State CEQA Guidelines as an EIR that addresses "a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related:

- (1) Geographically,
- (2) As logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions,
- (3) In connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program, or
- (4) As individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar ways.

A program EIR can be used as the basic, general environmental assessment for an overall program of projects developed over a multiyear planning horizon; therefore, it is an appropriate review document for the 2021 LRDP. A program EIR has several advantages. For example, it provides a basic reference document to avoid unnecessary repetition of facts or analysis in subsequent project-specific assessments. It also allows the lead agency to consider the broad, regional impacts of a program of actions before its adoption and eliminates redundant or contradictory approaches to the consideration of regional and cumulative impacts.

A Program EIR is the first tier of environmental analysis. Consistent with CEQA, specifically Section 15168(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines, subsequent projects that are proposed consistent with the 2021 LRDP will be reviewed using an environmental checklist to determine whether they are within the scope of the Program EIR. If no new significant effects would occur, the subsequent project is considered to be within the scope of the Program EIR, and additional environmental analysis is not required. If significant environmental impacts would occur that were not considered in the Program EIR, an additional CEQA document (subsequent or supplemental EIR or a mitigated negative declaration) would be prepared by UC Santa Cruz, tiering from the Program EIR and focusing on addressing those additional significant effects.

1.6 ORGANIZATION OF THIS DRAFT EIR

This Draft EIR is organized into the following chapters:

- ▶ The **Executive Summary** provides an overview of the environmental evaluation, including impact conclusions and recommended mitigation measures.
- ▶ **Chapter 1, "Introduction,"** describes the purpose and intended uses of this EIR; identifies responsible and trustee agencies; presents background on the 2021 LRDP and on the planning, EIR, and NOP processes; and describes the scope and organization of this EIR.
- ▶ **Chapter 2, "Project Description,"** describes the location of the project, the project background, existing conditions on the project site, and the nature and location of specific elements of the proposed project.
- ▶ **Chapter 3, "Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures,"** includes a topic-by-topic analysis of environmental impacts that would or could result from project implementation. The analysis is organized in 18 topical sections. Each section includes a discussion of the environmental and regulatory setting, an impact analysis, and a discussion of mitigation measures.
- ▶ **Chapter 4, "Cumulative Impacts,"** provides information regarding the potential cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the project together with other past, present, and probable future projects.
- ▶ **Chapter 5, "Other CEQA Considerations,"** includes a discussion of growth inducement and unavoidable adverse impacts.
- ▶ **Chapter 6, "Alternatives,"** describes feasible alternatives to the proposed project, including the No-Project Alternative, and describes the consequences of implementing these alternatives.
- ▶ **Chapter 7, "List of Preparers,"** identifies the preparers of this Draft EIR.
- ▶ **Chapter 8, "References,"** lists all the resources cited in this Draft EIR.
- ▶ **Chapter 9, "List of Abbreviations,"** defines terms used throughout this Draft EIR.

The **appendices** contain a number of reference items providing support and documentation of the analyses performed for this report.

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