

**ATTACHMENT 2**



**CLASSROOM AND ACADEMIC OFFICE BUILDING PROJECT**

Addendum No. 5 to the 2009 UC Merced Long Range Development Plan  
Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report

The following Addendum has been prepared in compliance with CEQA.

**Prepared By:**

**OFFICE OF PHYSICAL PLANNING DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION**

**University of California  
5200 N. Lake Road,  
Merced, California 95343**

**January 2013**

Contact: Phillip Woods, Director of Physical and Environmental Planning  
209-349-2561

**I. PROJECT INFORMATION**

1. Project title:

Classroom and Academic Office Building Project

2. Lead agency name and address:

Office of Physical Planning Design & Construction  
University of California  
5200 N. Lake Road,  
Merced, California 95343

3. Contact person and phone number:

Phillip Woods  
Director of Physical & Environmental Planning  
209-349-2561

4. Project location:

University of California, Merced  
Merced County

5. Project sponsor's name and address: (See #2 & #3)

See Lead Agency

6. Custodian of the administrative record for this project (if different from response to item 3 above.):

See Lead Agency

7. Identification of previous EIRs relied upon for tiering purposes (including all applicable LRDP and project EIRs and address where a copy is available for inspection.)

The 2009 UC Merced Long Range Development Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (2009 EIS/EIR). Copies of the document can be found at:

Office of Physical Planning Design & Construction  
University of California  
5200 N. Lake Road,  
Merced, California 95343

## II. INTRODUCTION

The University of California (“University”), as the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), prepared the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (“Final EIS/EIR”) for the 2009 Long Range Development Plan (“LRDP”) for the University of California, Merced (“UC Merced”) and the UC Merced 2020 Project (the “UCM 2020 Project”) (State Clearinghouse No. 2008041009). In March 2009, The Board of Regents of the University of California (“The Regents”) certified that the Final EIS/EIR was completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and adopted Findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations in connection with its approval of the LRDP.

The Final EIS/EIR consists of the November 2008 Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (“Draft EIS/EIR”) and the March 2009 Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (“Final EIS/EIR”) (collectively the “2009 EIS/EIR”). Volumes 1 and 2 of the Draft EIS/EIR assess the potential environmental effects of implementation of the LRDP, identify means to eliminate or reduce potential adverse impacts, and evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to the LRDP as proposed. Volume 3 builds upon the broader programmatic analysis of campus development in Draft EIS/EIR Volumes 1 and 2, and focuses on evaluating and disclosing environmental impacts that could potentially result if the development proposed as part of the UCM 2020 Project is implemented.

The 2009 LRDP is the guiding land use planning document that will be used in developing a new University of California campus to eventually support a student body of 25,000 full time equivalent students on 815 acres of land in Merced County. The UCM 2020 Project comprises the second phase of the UC Merced Campus with facilities needed to support an enrollment level of approximately 10,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) students. These facilities would include academic, administrative, research, and recreational buildings, student residences and student services buildings, utilities and infrastructure, outdoor recreation areas, and associated roadways, parking, and landscaping.

The proposed Classroom and Academic Office Building (CAOB) Project (the “Project”) is a three-story building with approximately 77,500 gross square feet of academic uses. The CAOB is programmed for the long-term occupancy of UC Merced academic programs located in the North Campus subarea of the campus. The programs include classrooms, tutorial space, research, scholarly activity, and academic and administrative offices for instruction and research programs and activities. Roof top solar generation is also contemplated as part of the project. The academic facility is consistent with the described land uses in the 2009 EIS/EIR.

The 2009 EIS/EIR analyzed as part of the UCM 2020 Project a facility with over 61,500 gross square feet of academic space within the Central Campus West subarea of the UC Merced Campus. With the proposed CAOB project, this component of the 2020 Project would instead be located in the North Campus, and its size would increase by approximately 16,000 square feet to a total of approximately 77,500 gsf.

Section 15164(a) of the CEQA Guidelines states “The lead agency or responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR or declaration have occurred.” The proposed re-siting of the CAOB to the North Campus subarea as well as an increase in the size of the building square footage does not trigger any of the conditions necessitating preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration; therefore, no additional environmental document beyond this Addendum is necessary to evaluate the relocation of the Project or an increase of its size. The CAOB Project will be implemented pursuant to the 2009 LRDP and its impacts will be fully mitigated by the

2009 EIS/EIR mitigation measures (2009 EIS/EIR Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program located online at: [http://lrpd.ucmerced.edu/Final\\_EIS\\_EIR/MMRP022509.pdf](http://lrpd.ucmerced.edu/Final_EIS_EIR/MMRP022509.pdf)).

### III. PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

**1. Description of project:** The Project consists of construction of a 3-story building on an approximately 1.5 acre site in the UC Merced North Campus subarea. The proposed 77,500 gross square foot building would provide space to support the growing academic space needs for the UC Merced Campus. The Project also includes utility improvements beneath Shaver Lake Road which will be needed to connect campus services to the project site. Landscaping will also be installed as part of the proposed project.

**2. Project objectives:** The objective of the Project is to optimize the use of existing UC Merced campus infrastructure to support the instructional and research mission of the University of California by providing essential academic space for undergraduate and graduate education.

The Project maximizes the efficient utilization of space within the existing campus by repurposing the site's existing use as a temporary transit stop and parking lot to academic space serving the campus' student population. By its design and site reuse, the Project responds and adapts to a continuously evolving campus.

The project will play a major role in fulfilling the University's efforts to accommodate expanding enrollments. The Project also furthers the overall goal of UC Merced to create an environment that is welcoming to students, reflects new technologies in building design, and sets the standard for environmental stewardship and sustainability, while providing a model for growth in the San Joaquin Valley.

**3. Surrounding land uses and environmental setting:** The Project site has been previously graded and developed for its current use as a temporary transit stop and gravel parking lot and currently serves as a drop off point for large passenger buses. The temporary transit stop and gravel parking lot are considered an interim use of the land until a permanent academic facility is built in their place. The transit stop has been in operation since 2005 and the gravel parking lot since the first part of 2012. The site currently does not contain any permanent structural improvements. The temporary transit stop will be relocated to a centralized location on the UC Merced Campus.

The project site is bound to the east by modular office trailers, the Kolligian Library to the west and south and Ranchers Road to the north. Surrounding lands immediately to the south, east and west of the project site contain existing academic structures. Land to the north, across Ranchers Road, and outside the campus project boundaries is undeveloped grasslands used for cattle grazing and will not be affected by the proposed project.

The Project site is considered urbanized and differs substantially from the relatively undisturbed Central Campus West site originally described for the project. As such, the differing land uses between the original and proposed site could result in fewer impacts or impacts of lesser magnitude than what were originally described on the 2009 EIS/EIR.

**4. Discretionary approval authority:** As a public agency principally responsible for approving or carrying out the proposed Project, the University of California is the Lead Agency under CEQA and is responsible for reviewing the adequacy of the existing environmental document, determining whether further environmental review is required as a result of the minor changes to the Project, and approving the proposed Project. Approval of the design for the proposed Project has been delegated by The Board of

Regents of the University of California (The Regents) to the Chancellor of the UC Merced Campus. Approval of the proposed Project is expected to be considered by the Chancellor in March 2013.

**5. Consistency with the LRDP:** The following discussion describes the proposed Project's relationship to and consistency with the development projections, population projections, land use designations, and objectives contained in the LRDP and its relationship to the analysis contained in the 2009 EIS/EIR.

### **5.1 LRDP Scope of Development**

The existing UC Merced campus space inventory totals approximately 1,400,000 gross square feet. The LRDP assumes an incremental approach to campus growth where each new project reinforces the character and activity of previous campus development. This compact footprint approach emphasizes sustainable design. The Project site's location within the North Campus subarea not only maximizes the use of existing utility infrastructure such as roads, water and sewer connections, but also replaces the existing temporary transit stop and gravel parking lot with additional permanent academic space. The inclusion of the CAOB to the North Campus subarea reinforces this district's character as a center of academic activity and works toward the maturity of this area of the campus. Therefore, the Project is within the LRDP's scope of ensuring the campus functions as a whole throughout its development.

### **5.2 LRDP Land Use Designation**

The LRDP identifies the long-term land uses of the Project site as an area intended for *Academic/Laboratory* land uses. This land use designation allows for the development of classrooms; instructional and research laboratories; undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools and programs; ancillary support facilities such as administrative facilities, libraries, performance and cultural facilities, clinical facilities, research institutes, conference facilities, and services supporting academic operations. The Project would provide classrooms, tutorial space, research, scholarly activity, and academic and administrative offices for instruction and research programs and activities which are consistent with the *Academic/Laboratory* land use designation noted in the LRDP.

### **5.3 LRDP Population Projections**

The LRDP projects that, through 2020-21, the on-campus population will increase to include approximately 11,094 students and 3,093 faculty and staff. In 2008-09, the student population was approximately 2,736. In 2009-2010 the student population grew to approximately 3,400. More than 4,300 FTE students were enrolled at UC Merced during 2010-11. UC Merced began its eighth academic year this August with a total enrollment of 5,760 students. The Project will not directly increase the student, faculty and staff populations, but rather responds to this population growth and associated increase demand for additional academic space. Thus the Project would not increase the campus population to a level approaching the projected figures for 2020-21, but it would support the growing student population. The Project is within the scope of the LRDP's campus population projections.

### **5.4 LRDP Objectives**

The primary objective of the LRDP is to plan for the Merced campus' share of the University of California's short- and long- term enrollment demands. In addition, the LRDP aims to model environmental stewardship and to provide a high-quality campus setting. The Project would support these main LRDP objectives by providing approximately 77,500 gross square feet of space for academic use. In addition, the LRDP includes specific objectives that are relevant to the Project, including the following:

**Zero Net Energy Commitment:** Achieve zero net energy by 2020 through aggressive conservation efforts and development of renewable power. Zero net energy means producing the same amount of renewable energy that is consumed.

- The Project would support the LRDP’s “Zero Net Energy Commitment” objectives by incorporating energy conservation measures in its design that would assist in the campus’ sustainability efforts leading toward energy independence.

**Communities/Land Use:** Develop the campus in a compact, grid-based format to minimize impacts on the land, and the cost of infrastructure.

- The Project site is located in the North Campus subarea and will add to the rich texture of this compact academic environment. The project site will employ the use of adjacent utility infrastructure located on the adjacent Shaver Lake roadway, offering the project an efficient and cost saving approach from which to connect to the campus’ existing utility network.

**Architecture:** Design campus facilities to achieve U.S. Green Building Council LEED Gold certification at a minimum, when employing all campus base credits.

- The Project would employ U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED for New Construction Rating System to work toward ensuring the building’s design achieves LEED Gold certification at a minimum.

**5.5 Relationship to the 2009 EIS/EIR:** Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR is a project-level analysis assessing the potentially significant environmental effects of the UCM 2020 Project. The UCM 2020 Project, of which the proposed Classroom and Academic Office Building Project is a part, would develop the UC Merced Campus with facilities needed to support an enrollment level of approximately 10,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) students.

Academic space to support the UCM 2020 Project, including a Classroom and Instructional Technology Building, were evaluated in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR. This Addendum No. 5 takes into consideration a minor modification to the academic facility improvements evaluated in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR. The Project changes evaluated in this Addendum consist of the following:

- *Re-siting and re-sizing academic functions to an area within the North Campus subarea:* Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR described and evaluated as part of the UMC 2020 project an approximately 61,500 gross square foot Classroom and Instructional Technology facility in the undeveloped Central Campus West subarea of the UC Merced Campus. The proposed Project would modify this aspect of the UCM 2020 Project by increasing the size of the academic facility to 77,500 gross square feet and siting it in the North Campus subarea.

The proposed Project’s location characteristics differ from the location noted in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR for the Classroom and Instructional Technology facility. The site evaluated in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR contains different physical characteristics than the proposed site in terms of agricultural and biological resources, hydrology, soil type, topography, existing use and the potential for cultural resources. The Central Campus West site evaluated for the facility in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR is considered undeveloped and is currently used as grazing land whereas the proposed North Campus subarea site is considered urbanized.

**IV. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality             | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing              | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic              | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions      | <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals                            |  |

**V. DETERMINATION:**

On the basis of the initial evaluation that follows:

- I find that the proposed project could have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, and that these effects have not been adequately analyzed by an earlier EIR. A TIERED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (1) have been addressed adequately in an earlier environmental document pursuant to applicable standards, and (2) either no changes or no substantial changes to the project are proposed, and no new information of substantial importance has been identified. An ADDENDUM and FINDINGS will be prepared.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name For

## **VI. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Upon initial review of the Project's scope, it has been determined that impacts relating to Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Minerals, Population and Housing, Public Services and Recreation and Utilities require no further analysis beyond that contained in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR, as the change in the project's location from an undeveloped area of land within the Central Campus West subarea to a developed area within the North Campus subarea will not change the analysis and conclusions regarding these resources given that the site has been in operation as a temporary transit stop and a gravel parking lot since 2005 and is considered urbanized. The following analysis addresses the remaining environmental resource areas to assess whether any further environmental analysis is needed.

### **1. AESTHETICS**

The Project would develop approximately 77,500 gross square feet of academic space within a 3-story structure on a 1.5-acre site within the North Campus subarea. The current site conditions include a temporary transit stop and gravel parking lot containing nighttime lighting. The project area includes the academic modular trailers to the east, the 3-story Kolligian Library to the west and south and grazing land to the north. The Project's 3-story structure is substantially in scale with the surrounding buildings within the North Campus subarea. Lighting within and around the building would be shielded in a manner that would avoid light spillage into surrounding areas. The proposed Project site is in a location considered urbanized which differs from the location evaluated in the 2009 EIS/EIR in terms of topography and current land use, and therefore reduces the potential impacts of the Project to those identified in the 2009 EIS/EIR as described below.

- With the construction of the Project, it is likely that scenic vistas in the area would be interrupted in some, although not all, locations. The loss of the views of the Sierra Nevada range from certain Project site vantage points is, however, not considered a significant adverse impact because views would still be available from other campus vantage points. However, with the development of the Project in the middle ground between Lake Yosemite and views to the southeast, the scenic vistas as currently available from the regional park would be further impaired with the addition of this 3-story structure in the North Campus subarea. While this impact is not substantially different than the impact resulting from building structures identified and analyzed in the 2009 EIS/EIR, this impact remains potentially significant. Therefore, the mitigation measures noted in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR would be implemented to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. The changes to the Project would not change the nature or magnitude of the potential impacts to scenic vistas or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.
- The potential aesthetic impacts of the 2020 Project, including campus buildings, were evaluated in detail in the Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR, along with program and project level mitigation. Volume 3 concluded that build out of the UCM 2020 Project would result in a significant and unavoidable aesthetic impact as a result of permanently and substantially altering the visual quality and character of the UCM 2020 Project site and its surroundings. The Project would contribute to this significant unavoidable impact because the Project site, which is currently used as a temporary transit stop and gravel parking lot, would be developed as a 3-story building, resulting in a substantial alteration in the quality and character of the site and its surroundings; however, this impact is not substantially different than the impact to aesthetics resulting from construction of the building structures identified in the 2009 EIS/EIR. The changes to the Project would not change the nature or magnitude of the potential aesthetic impacts or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

- Potential impacts associated with creating a new source of light and glare as part of the UCM 2020 Project, including campus buildings, were evaluated in detail in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR, along with program and project level mitigation. Volume 3 concluded that build out of the UCM 2020 Project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact associated with creating a new source of light and glare as a result of developing buildings with surfaces and windows that may reflect and cause glare. The Project would contribute to this significant unavoidable impact because, although UC Merced has developed and adopted Campus standards for site lighting that would be incorporated into the Project, implementation of these Campus standards would not totally avoid the increase in nighttime lighting from the Project. However, the changes to the Project would not change the nature or magnitude of the potential impacts resulting from light and glare or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

**Conclusion:** The changes to the Project from what was analyzed in the Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR would not result in substantial differences in the way that the 2020 Project will alter the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings, substantially affect the amount of light and glare generated, adversely affect scenic resource or scenic vistas as compared with what was already fully analyzed in the project level analysis found in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR. The changes to the Project would not change the nature or magnitude of potential impacts to aesthetic resources or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

## **2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES**

The Project would occupy approximately 1.5 acres of land on the UC Merced campus and is located in an area currently identified by the Department of Conservation's 2008 Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) as Urban and Built-Up land. Since certification of the 2009 EIS/EIR, the CEQA Guidelines have been amended to include impacts to forestry resources on the Appendix G checklist.

The FMMP designates the Project site as Urban and Built-Up land. A field analysis of the Project site indicates that there are no forest lands (as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 12220[g]) on the site. Therefore, the project would not result in conflicts with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land. There is no timberland (as defined by PRC Section 4526) or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104[g]) on any portion of the Project site. The Project site does not contain trees managed for public benefit. Therefore, implementing the Project would not result in conflicts with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land or timberland.

**Conclusion:** Changes in the Project site location from what was analyzed in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR would not introduce any new or more severe agricultural or forestry resource impacts as compared with what was already fully analyzed in the Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR. The changes to the project would not change the nature or magnitude of potential impacts to agricultural or forestry resources or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

## **3. AIR QUALITY**

The Project will construct a 77,500 gross square foot 3-story structure. The Project will require grading, trenching and general construction activities. Construction-related emissions from the Project include both on-site and off-site emissions. On-site emissions generated during construction principally consist of exhaust emissions from the operation of heavy-duty construction equipment and fugitive dust from disturbed soil. Off-site emissions during the construction phase normally consist of exhaust emissions and entrained paved road dust from construction worker commute trips and material delivery trips to and from the construction site. The operation-related emissions from the Project include exhaust emissions and

entrained paved road dust from commute trips. Combustion-related operational emissions will occur as a result of the Project such as landscaping equipment generating exhaust emission.

- The Project would contribute to the annual emissions resulting from the operation of the UCM 2020 Project that are projected to exceed the SJVAPCD significance thresholds for ROG and NOX. The 2009 EIS/EIR Volume 3 mitigation measures will be imposed to reduce the UCM 2020 Project's operational air quality impact; however, the impacts remain significant and unavoidable for ROG and NOX. The Project would contribute to this significant unavoidable impact, as it will result in a contribution to the increase in automobile emissions over what is currently being experienced on campus. However, the changes to the Project would not change the nature or magnitude of the potential impacts resulting from operational emissions or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.
- Due to the nature of the project, ongoing service and maintenance related vehicle trips to and from the Project site as well as vehicle trips to and from the campus by students and faculty who occupy space within the proposed building will occur once the project is operational; therefore the Project would contribute to UCM 2020 Project's mobile source emissions. Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR concluded that implementation of the UCM 2020 Project, of which this Project is a part, would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District air quality standards. While the 2009 EIS/EIR Volume 3 mitigation measures will be imposed to reduce motor vehicle emissions, the Project would contribute to this significant and unavoidable impact. However, the changes to the Project would not change the nature or magnitude of the potential impacts resulting from mobile source emissions or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

**Conclusion:** Changes to the Project's location from the site analyzed in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR would not introduce any new or more severe air quality impacts associated with its development as compared with what was already fully analyzed in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR. The changes to the Project would not change the nature or magnitude of potential impacts to air quality or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

#### **4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The original location of the project site in the Central Campus West subarea is considered undeveloped and currently utilized as grazing land. Portions of the Central Campus West subarea lands include habitat suitable for special status plant and wildlife species. The 2009 EIS/EIR addressed and analyzed potential biological impacts to these species and provided mitigation measures to reduce or lessen the impacts associated with the UC Merced Project.

- The proposed Project includes the construction of a 77,500 gross square foot 3-story structure within the Campus North Subarea, an area that is considered urbanized and is devoid of any vegetation that would be considered suitable wildlife habitat for nesting special-status bird species and nonspecial-status migratory birds and raptors. The Project site will require grading, trenching and general construction activities on a site that has previously been developed as a transit stop and a temporary parking lot. While no nesting special-status bird species and non-special-status migratory birds and raptors are known to occur on the site, development of the Classroom and Academic Office Building Project could potentially contribute to significant adverse impacts on nesting special-status bird species and nonspecial-status migratory birds and raptors if they are present in the areas at the time of construction. However, 2009 EIS/EIR mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to a level that is less than significant. The

changes to the Project would not change the nature or magnitude of the potential impacts to avian species or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

**Conclusion:** The changes to the Project's site from the area analyzed in the In Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR would not cause any new or more severe impacts relating to biological resources compared with what was already fully analyzed in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR. The changes to the project would not change the nature or magnitude of potential impacts to biological resources or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

## 5. NOISE

The Project is located in eastern Merced County, east of Lake Yosemite and Lake Road, approximately 2 miles northeast of the corporate limits of the City of Merced, California. The Project includes construction of a 3-story structure designed to accommodate approximately 77,500 square feet of space on a 1.5-acre site. The project site is currently developed as a temporary transit stop and gravel parking lot and there are no major fixed noise sources on the site. Noise sources in the area include traffic on local roadways and noise from agricultural equipment. Noise-sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the site include a few residences located along Lake Road to the east and Yosemite Avenue to the south of the Project site. In addition, Lake Yosemite Regional Park is located to the north.

- The operational aspects of the Project would not increase traffic volumes on the local roadway network that would result in increased traffic noise levels at noise sensitive receptors locations along these roadways. In general, while the UCM 2020 Project would contribute approximately 20,800 trips to regional and local roadways, the changes to the Project will not result in an increase in the number of trips associated with the overall UCM 2020 Project enrollment projections. The 2009 EIS/EIR concluded that the UCM 2020 project would result in less than significant noise impacts. The changes to the Project would not change the nature or magnitude of the potential impacts resulting from increased traffic noise levels or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

**Conclusion:** Changes to the Project's location from the area analyzed in the In Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR would not cause any new or more severe impacts relating to noise compared with what was already fully analyzed in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR. The changes to the Project would not change the nature or magnitude of potential impacts from noise or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

## 6. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Vehicular access (of construction trips) to the UC Merced Campus and the Project site will be off Lake Road. Lake Road is a County maintained two-lane north-south road extending from Yosemite Avenue to its northern terminus at Lake Yosemite. Several other major roadways are located in the Project vicinity. Bellevue Road is a two-lane east-west road extending from Fox Road to its eastern terminus at Lake Road adjacent to the Project site. Yosemite Avenue is a two-lane east-west road extending from Highway 59 to its eastern terminus at Arboleda Drive. Campus Parkway is a planned north-south, divided four-lane roadway that is planned for development between Highway 99 and Bellevue Road. The nearest intersection to the project site is at Lake Road and Bellevue Road, approximately .75 miles southwest of the project site.

Construction staging will occur in the vicinity of the Project site. During construction of the Project, equipment trucks, tractor trailers and personal vehicles will be accessing the site. During the operation of the Project, maintenance and service vehicles will access the site on a regular basis with maximum usage occurring during the academic year. This will include vehicles being used by campus maintenance

workers and off campus service vendors. Additionally, vehicle trips by students and faculty who occupy space within the proposed building will also occur. These trips will occur to and from nearby campus parking lots but not to the building itself.

- Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR concluded that the traffic resulting from the development of the UCM 2020 Project, of which the Project is a part, would contribute to an increase of the LOS threshold along local roadway segments under 2020 Plus UCM 2020 Project conditions, resulting in a significant and unavoidable impact. The Project, would contribute to this significant and avoidable impact because the operational traffic associated with the Project would contribute to additional traffic on local roadways. This impact remains significant and unavoidable; however, the changes to the Project as originally proposed will not result in an increase in this previously identified impact. The changes to the Project would not change the nature or magnitude of the potential traffic related operational impacts or the conclusions in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

**Conclusion:** The changes to the Project’s site from the area analyzed in the In Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR would not cause any new or more severe impacts relating to transportation/traffic compared with what was already fully analyzed in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR. The changes to the project would not change the nature or magnitude of potential impacts to transportation/traffic or the conclusions of the in Volume 3 of the 2009 EIS/EIR.

## **VII. SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES**

UC Merced. 2009. *Long Range Development Plan*, Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report. Prepared by Impact Sciences, Inc., ICF Jones & Stokes, Fehr & Peers.

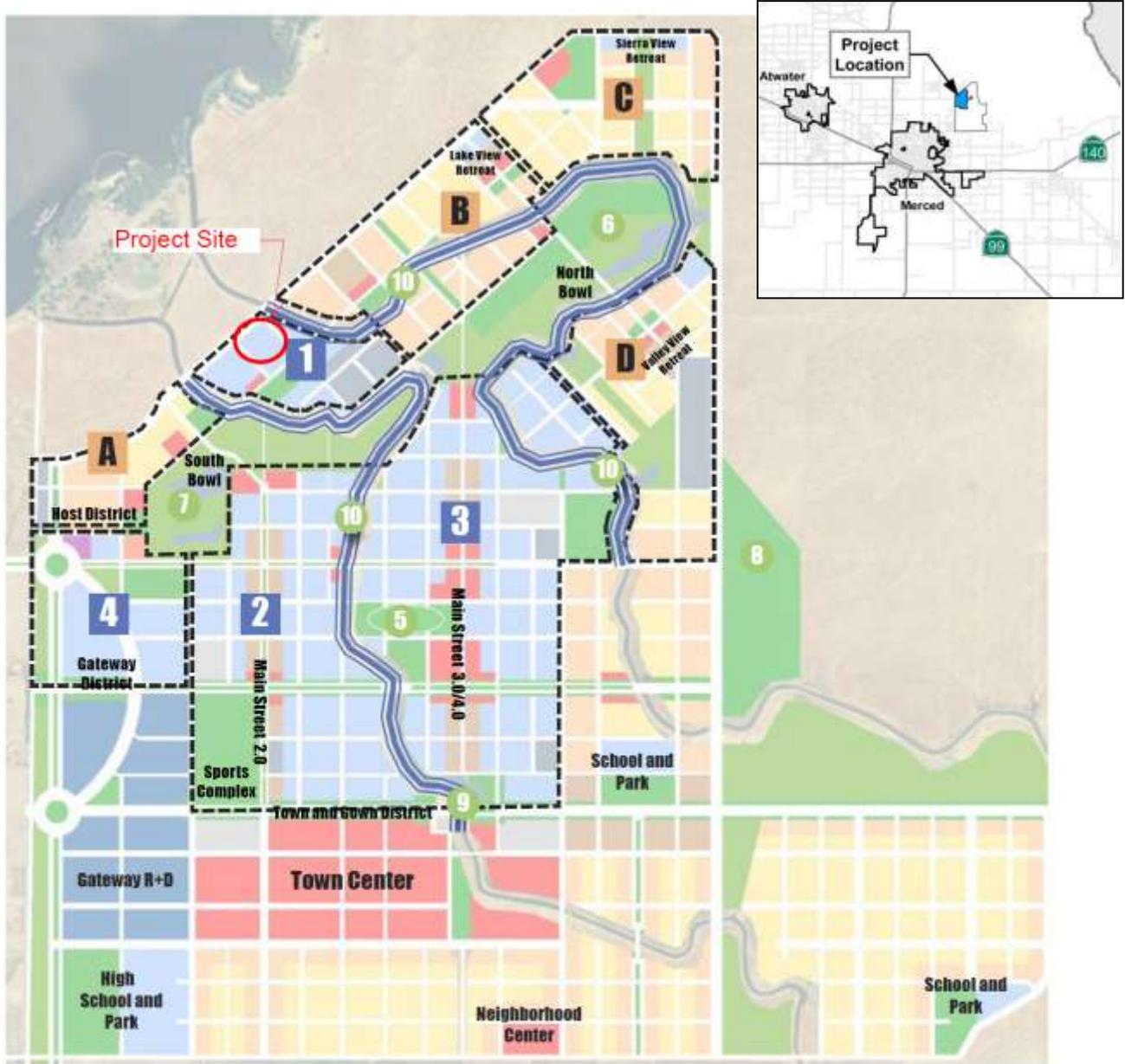
UC Merced. 2009. *Long Range Development Plan*. Prepared by the University of California, Merced.

## **VIII. ADDENDUM PREPARER**

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## **IX. APPENDIX (See Following Pages)**

Figure 1: Location of the Proposed Action



UC Merced LRDP

## Communities: Neighborhoods and Districts

### Academic Campus

1. North Campus
2. Central Campus West
3. Central Campus East
4. Gateway District

### Neighborhoods

- A. Lake View
- B. North Neighborhood
- C. Sierra View
- D. Valley View

### Commons

5. Grand Ellipse
6. North Bowl
7. South Bowl
8. East Field
9. Main Street Pond
10. Canals