April 22, 2015

State of California
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Title: UC Merced Downtown Center Project

Project Location: 651-655 West 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

County: Merced County

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 2100 et seq.), the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 Code of Regulations Section 1500 et seq.), and the University of California Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA, a Draft Initial Study for the above-named project was prepared (please see enclosure). The document identifies and evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. The UC Merced campus proposes to prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.

Project Description

UC Merced proposes the construction of an office building in downtown Merced. The proposed project would house the administrative offices of existing academic and administrative programs that presently occupy leased office space at number of off-campus locations and office space within the Kolligan Library on the UC Merced campus.

The project consists of the proposed building, site improvements, and underground utility connections. The proposed structure would be three stories in height (45 feet) and provide approximately 75,000 gross square feet (gsf) and 62,000 assignable square feet (asf) of building space. The two upper stories would consist of administrative office space while the ground floor would consist of ancillary support space (employee amenities, conference rooms and other flexible meeting spaces.)
Environmental Review and Comment

Based on the analysis presented in the Draft Initial Study, the Campus proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project. Copies of the Draft Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are available during normal operating hours at the front desk of the Kolligian Library on the UC Merced Campus, 5200 North Lake Road, Merced California 95343; and online at, http://lrdp.ucmerced.edu/

We appreciate your prompt acknowledgement and review of this Draft Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, the document's 30-day review period will extend from April 27, 2015 to May 26, 2015. Comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2015. They may be e-mailed to pwoods3@ucmerced.edu or sent to:

Phillip Woods, Director of Physical & Environmental Planning  
University of California, Merced  
Physical and Environmental Planning  
5200 North Lake Road  
Merced, California 95343

If you have any questions about the project, please contact Phillip Woods, Director of Physical & Environmental Planning at (209) 349-2561.

Sincerely,

Phillip Woods  
Director Physical & Environmental Planning

Enclosures: 15 copies of the Draft Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration  
1 Notice of Completion and Environmental Document Transmittal Form

cc: Notice of Intent, Notice of Completion and Environmental Document Transmittal Form and Draft Initial Study sent to addresses on attached list