

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS
IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE
LINEAR ASSETS MODERNIZATION PROJECT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY

I. CONSIDERATION OF THE 2006 LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN EIR AND THE LINEAR ASSETS MODERNIZATION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) Director has considered the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) (SCH# 2000102046, 2007); the Supplementation of the 2006 LRDP EIR with respect to Traffic Impacts at One Intersection (SCH# 2008122030, 2010); the Supplementation of the LBNL 2006 LRDP EIR with respect to Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Impacts (SCH# 2016062007, 2017); and the Linear Assets Modernization Project Environmental Analysis (the Environmental Analysis).

These documents contain the information necessary to support approval of the Linear Assets Modernization Project, as set forth below, and reflect the independent judgment of the University.

II. BACKGROUND: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

In July 2007, the Board of Regents of the University of California certified the Final EIR for the LBNL LRDP and adopted the 2006 LRDP. The 2006 LRDP and the Final EIR for the LRDP identified and analyzed the scope and nature of development, including demolition of existing facilities, proposed to meet LBNL goals through 2025. The Final EIR for the LRDP identified measures to mitigate, to the extent feasible, the significant adverse project and cumulative impacts associated with LBNL's LRDP development program. In addition to serving as the 2006 LRDP's environmental approval document, the Final EIR for the LRDP was intended by the University to be the basis for CEQA compliance for future discretionary actions to implement the 2006 LRDP per CEQA Section 21083 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15168 and 15162.

UC LBNL's Seismic Phase 2 Project EIR (certified July 2010) included a supplemental traffic analysis to the Final EIR for the LRDP to address the City of Berkeley's revised level-of-service thresholds. UC LBNL's Building 59 Upgrade & Installation and Operation of NERSC-9 Project EIR (certified February 2017) included a supplemental analysis to the Final EIR for the LRDP to

address changes in CEQA requirements pertaining to greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. These supplements, combined with the Final EIR to the LRDP, are hereafter referred to as the "2006 LRDP Final EIR."

In 2021, UC LBNL proposed to upgrade and modernize its campus-wide utility systems (Linear Assets Modernization Project, LAMP, or the proposed Project). In November 2021, UC LBNL documented its examination of the activities and potential impacts associated with the proposed Project in an Environmental Analysis. The Environmental Analysis was prepared in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(4) and includes a detailed description of the Project and an evaluation of the Project's potential environmental impacts with regard to the full range of CEQA Guidelines Appendix G environmental topic areas. The Environmental Analysis identifies 2006 LRDP Final EIR mitigation measures that are a part of and incorporated into the Project. All applicable 2006 LRDP Final EIR mitigation measures are included in and made conditions of the Project Approval.

III. FINDINGS REGARDING PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A. Project Description and Relationship to the LRDP

The proposed Linear Assets Modernization Project is a subsequent activity under the 2006 LRDP that would upgrade and modernize UC LBNL's campus-wide utility systems. This would replace outdated mechanical systems and provide more efficient and redundant utility infrastructure to meet current and projected future UC LBNL campus needs.

B. Project Impacts

As described below and in the Environmental Analysis, the Project, with the implementation of applicable 2006 LRDP Final EIR mitigation measures, would contribute to impacts (including cumulative impacts) previously identified in the 2006 LRDP Final EIR, but would not result in any new significant impacts or substantially increase the severity of significant impacts previously identified and analyzed in the 2006 LRDP Final EIR. The Project does not involve new information of substantial importance which would require mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the 2006 LRDP Final EIR. No additional mitigation measures are feasible to substantially lessen any significant and unavoidable impacts previously identified in the 2006 LRDP Final EIR. Impacts of the Project are discussed separately below by environmental topic.

Based on the Environmental Analysis, the UC LBNL Director finds that the Project's impacts on the following environmental resources would be less than significant and that no mitigation measures are required to reduce the Project's impacts to a less than significant level and none of the circumstances that would require preparation of a new environmental document under CEQA exists: **Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Biological Resources, Energy Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreational Resources, Tribal Resources, and Wildfire Risk.**

Based on the Environmental Analysis, the UC LBNL Director finds that the Project's impacts on the following environmental resources would be less than significant and that no mitigation measures are required, beyond those identified in the 2006 LRDP Final EIR and listed below and which are incorporated into the Project, to reduce the Project's impacts to a less than significant level; furthermore, none of the circumstances that would require preparation of a new environmental document under CEQA exists. All mitigation measures will continue to be monitored pursuant to the existing 2006 LRDP Final EIR mitigation monitoring program previously adopted by the University in connection with its approvals of the 2006 LRDP:

- **Air Quality**, with inclusion of 2006 LRDP Final EIR Mitigation Measures AQ-1a and AQ-1b
- **Biological Resources**, with inclusion of 2006 LRDP Final EIR Mitigation Measures BIO-3, BIO-4, and BIO-5
- **Cultural Resources**, with inclusion of 2006 LRDP Final EIR Mitigation Measures CUL-3 and CUL-4
- **Geology and Soils**, with inclusion of 2006 LRDP Final EIR Mitigation Measure GEO-3
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**, with inclusion of 2006 LRDP Final EIR Mitigation Measures GHG-1 and GHG-2
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**, with inclusion of 2006 LRDP Final EIR Mitigation Measures HAZ-3a through HAZ-3f
- **Noise**, with inclusion of 2006 LRDP Final EIR Mitigation Measures NOISE-1a and NOISE-1b
- **Transportation and Traffic**, with inclusion of 2006 LRDP Final EIR Mitigation Measures TRANS-1c and TRANS-8
- **Utilities and Service Systems**, with inclusion of 2006 LRDP Final EIR Mitigation Measure UTILS-4

Based on the 2006 LRDP Final EIR and the Environmental Analysis, the UC LBNL Director finds that cumulative impacts associated with implementation of the 2006 LRDP that are pertinent to the Project would remain as identified in the 2006 LRDP Final EIR, no new mitigation measures are required to mitigate the Project's cumulative impacts, and none of the circumstances that

would require preparation of a new environmental document under CEQA exist. The UC LBNL Director finds further that the Project's contributions to cumulative impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

IV. ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

In accordance with applicable provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, and in addition to the findings above, the UC LBNL Director finds as follows:

1. The proposed Linear Assets Modernization Project is consistent with and within the scope of the LBNL 2006 LRDP analyzed in the 2006 LRDP Final EIR.
2. The potential environmental impacts of the Linear Assets Modernization Project were fully considered in the 2006 LRDP Final EIR.
3. In accordance with Section 15168(c)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the UC LBNL Director hereby finds that none of the circumstances described in Section 15162(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines is present, and no further environmental review or documentation is required for the Project.

Incorporation by Reference. These Findings incorporate by reference in their entirety the text of the Project Environmental Analysis, the 2006 LRDP Final EIR, and the Findings and Statements of Overriding Consideration previously certified and/or adopted by the University.

Record of Proceedings. Various documents and other materials constitute the record of proceedings upon which the UC LBNL Director basis the findings and decision contained herein. The custodian for these documents and materials is the LBNL Environmental Planning Group office, located at One Cyclotron Road, Mail Stop 76-225, Berkeley, California 94720.

V. APPROVALS

The UC LBNL Director hereby takes the following actions:

- A. The UC LBNL Director has reviewed and considered the 2006 LRDP Final EIR and the Environmental Analysis for the Project as described in Section I, above.
- B. The UC LBNL Director reaffirms the Findings and Statements of Overriding Considerations adopted for the 2006 LRDP Final EIR.
- C. The UC LBNL Director hereby approves and makes a condition of the Project all 2006 LRDP Final EIR mitigation measures applicable to the Project. All applicable 2006 LRDP Final EIR best practices shall also be implemented as part of the Project.
- D. The UC LBNL Director hereby adopts the Findings in their entirety as set forth in Sections III and IV, above.
- E. Having independently reviewed and considered the 2006 LRDP Final EIR and the Environmental Analysis, conditioned the Project as described above, and adopted the Findings, the UC LBNL Director hereby approves the Linear Assets Modernization Project.

Dr. Mike Witherell, Director
UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Date

Attachments

Linear Assets Modernization Project Environmental Analysis
2006 LRDP Final EIR Links

- C: UCOP Physical & Environmental Planning, Harrington and Ly
UCOP Legal Counsel, Lounsbury
UC LBNL Senior Counsel, Ware
UC LBNL Project Managers, Scott and Hurd
UC LBNL PIM Division Director, Hancock
UC LBNL Facilities Director, Henderson
UC LBNL Campus Planning Head, Chen
UC LBNL Environmental Planners, Philliber and Sossikian