FINAL

INITIAL STUDY

&

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project

University of California, Irvine
Office of Environmental Planning and Sustainability

October 17, 2012

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EXHIBITS

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project title:**
   Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project

2. **Lead agency name and address:**
   University of California, Irvine
   Office of Campus & Environmental Planning
   750 University Tower
   Irvine, CA 92697-2325

3. **Contact person and phone number:**
   Alex Marks, AICP, Senior Planner
   949.824.8692

4. **Project location:**
   As shown on Exhibit 1 (page 2), the University of California's Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center is located at 401 Tilting T Drive in Borrego Springs, an unincorporated community in northeast San Diego County.

5. **Project sponsor's name and address:**
   University of California, Irvine
   Office of Environmental Planning and Sustainability
   750 University Tower
   Irvine, CA 92697-2325

Source: UCI GIS

Exhibit 1
Project Location

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Description of Project

The proposed project would construct approximately 4,500 gross square feet (gsf)/3,955 assignable square feet (asf) of enclosed building space, an approximately 1,000 square foot storage building, and approximately 2,425 square feet of covered patio, outdoor staging, and parking at the University of California's (UC) approximately 6,000 square foot Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center (DRC) building located in Borrego Springs, San Diego County, California. The DRC is a component of the Anza Borrego Natural Reserve (ABNR), within the auspices of the UC Natural Reserve System (NRS). The ABNR is managed by the University of California, Irvine (UCI) and encompasses approximately 80 acres of contiguous property, including the DRC building, which serves as the Reserve's activity and educational center. The proposed project would allow the ABNR to better meet its mission as a research and educational field station and enhance the goals and programs of the UCNRS as well as to facilitate increased stewardship, management, and conservation of the Anza Borrego State Park (ABSP). The project would also include renovation and/or conversion of the building's interior spaces to other types of space, HVAC improvements, and installation of a solar energy generation system. Following is a description of the project's proposed enclosed and covered spaces, including their approximate size:

- Covered Areas and patio (2,425 sf): To facilitate outdoor processing and washing of field samples and supplies, assembly and disassembly of field equipment, provide additional conference gathering and teaching space, and a sheltered parking area.

- Laboratories and workstations (1,725 asf): For processing, analysis, and storage of samples and artifacts. The laboratories would be separated by an open office space. The workstations would have sinks, countertop workspace, and cabinets for storage.

- Researcher lodging (835 asf): Private living space for use by researchers in residence, which would accommodate up to approximately eight persons total.

- Storage (1000 sf): For temporary, archival, and/or permanent storage of supplies, samples, and/or archival material by researchers.

- Student quarters (1,395 ASF): Men's and women's living spaces to accommodate approximately 24 students total.

Occupancy of the project would likely be episodic, with its highest use anticipated to be during the winter and spring. During this time, faculty and research staff would be in residence for periods of a month or longer and the students for a period of one week to one month at a time. A caretaker would be employed whom may reside on site during other times of the year. Vehicular access to the DRC, including construction access, would occur via Tilting T Drive off San Diego County Highway S-3. Exhibit 2 (page 7) depicts the site's existing condition. The project's conceptual space plan is provided in Exhibit 3 (page 8) and conceptual site plan in Exhibit 4 (page 9).

Project implementation would include building construction, site development, solar energy system installation, and interior renovations as described above. Site development would involve concrete paving for the covered parking area, decomposed granite to create a semi-pervious surface for the driveway and

additional surface parking areas, on-site and off-site utility improvements, landscaping, and exterior lighting. Utility infrastructure sufficient to serve the proposed project is available on-site. Wastewater generated by the project would be accommodated by the existing on-site septic system, which if deemed insufficient to handle wastewater flows generated by the project would be replaced by a larger unit during construction. The building site's existing stormwater drainage patterns would be maintained with runoff collected on site and conveyed to existing storm drain facilities.

The proposed project is designed to be architecturally compatible with the existing DRC building, which was built in 1949. Thus, the height, roof, exterior finish, and other physical attributes and features of the project's elements would complement the existing DRC building. The project's proposed enclosed building spaces as depicted in Exhibit 3 and 4 would be connected to the existing building by the new covered spaces. None of the existing DRC building's exterior walls are proposed to be demolished to construct the proposed project. The existing building's doorways would be utilized. Furthermore, the proposed project would not materially affect or remove characteristics of the existing building including its roof, floor-to-ceiling windows in the interior great room, or structural elements that allow for the great room's flexible space which define it as an example of the modern school of architecture.

The project would be consistent with the UC Policy on Sustainable Practices and would incorporate measures resulting in significant energy savings, construction waste reduction, recycled material use, and water conservation. Such features would include an overall energy efficiency that exceeds California Title 24 criteria by at least 20%. To achieve this goal, the project would include building features such as high-performance glazing, insulation and radiant barrier, high reflectance roofing materials, high efficiency electric water heaters, low flow hot-water faucets, energy efficient lighting, Energy Control Systems, efficient exhaust fans, and high efficiency air conditioning equipment where applicable. Individual building component features will contribute to overall building annual energy savings, allowing the project to exceed required minimum energy performance. Other possible green features include roof top solar hot water and photovoltaic panels. The project would be designed to achieve a minimum level of Silver certification under the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. The project would also be designed to comply with Anza-Borrego's designation as a Dark Sky community. The design/build project team selected by UCI to implement the project will develop a final project design generally consistent with the conceptual space plan provided in Exhibit 3. All conceptual plans contained herein are subject to refinement during the design/build process, no refinements are anticipated that would affect the environmental analysis set forth in this IS.

2. Project Objectives

- Create a world-class research facility which will serve the research needs of the University of California and be available to non-UC users.
- Provide new resources for teaching and research in the Anza Borrego Desert State Park vicinity to better inform management decisions and conservation planning.
- Promote cooperation and collaboration between the University of California, the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, and Anza Borrego Foundation.
- Provide additional resources and opportunity for University of California students beyond the general campus classroom.
- Provide additional opportunity for students to gain first-hand experience and training in the natural resource management field.

3. Project Phasing/Construction Schedule/Practices

Construction of the project is anticipated to commence in 2013 and be complete in 2014. The anticipated schedule would include approximately one week of site grading, 1 week of concrete paving, and 12 months of construction. The construction program would entail roughly 550 cubic yards of grading, with excavated material exported off-site. Sufficient space is available on the property for work crew parking and construction staging. Construction is not anticipated to require pile driving. The project's construction documents and specifications would require that the contractor implement an emissions reduction plan compliant with state regulations and best management practices (BMPs) to minimize fugitive dust, construction traffic, and particulate matter release. Construction of the project would be consistent with the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance, Sections 36.408, Hours of Operation of Construction Equipment and 36.409, Sound Level Limitations on Construction Equipment, and with CCR Title 24 noise standards. The UCI Fire Marshal would review the project plans to ensure that adequate emergency access is provided and appropriate fire safety design features are incorporated. BMPs for construction and operational related stormwater would be implemented for sediment and erosion control, pollutant treatment, outlet protection, and general site management in conformance with established water quality control standards. The project would comply with federal and state regulations pertaining to construction during the bird nesting season. The project would not require an encroachment permit from the California Department of Transportation.

4. Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting

The DRC is located in Borrego Springs, an unincorporated community in San Diego County's northeast corner (see Exhibit 1). As described above and depicted in Figure 2, the project site is in a developed condition. There are four single family homes, located approximately 200, 530, 550, and 800 feet from the DRC to the southeast and east respectively, bordering properties are either undeveloped or owned for conservation purposes. An aerial view of the project site boundaries and adjacent land uses is shown in Exhibit 5 (page 10). Ground level photographs of the project site and surroundings (taken in March 2011) are presented in Exhibits 7-9 (pages 12-14); a map showing photo locations is provided as Exhibit 6 (page 11).

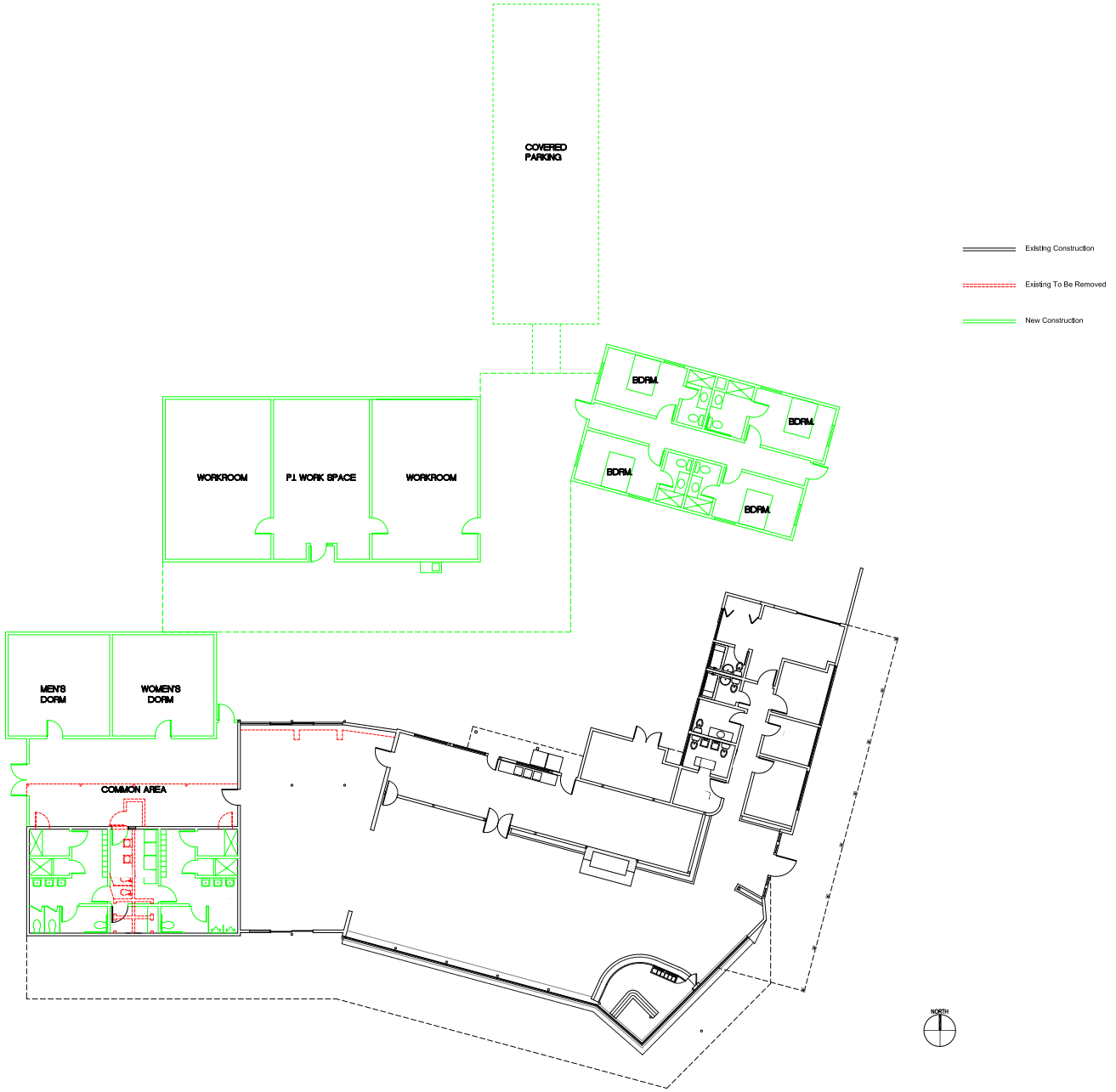
5. Discretionary Approval Authority And Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required (E.G., Permits, Financing Approval, Or Participation Agreement.)

University of California

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 and, if appropriate, adopting the negative declaration, and approving the proposed project. Pursuant to authority delegated from the Board of Regents of the University of California (The Regents), the UC Irvine Chancellor would consider approval of the proposed project in FY 2012-13.

Source: UCI GIS

Exhibit 2
Existing Conditions



Source: UCI

Desert Research Center
University of California, Irvine

Exhibit 3
Conceptual Space Plan

Source: UCI GIS

Legend

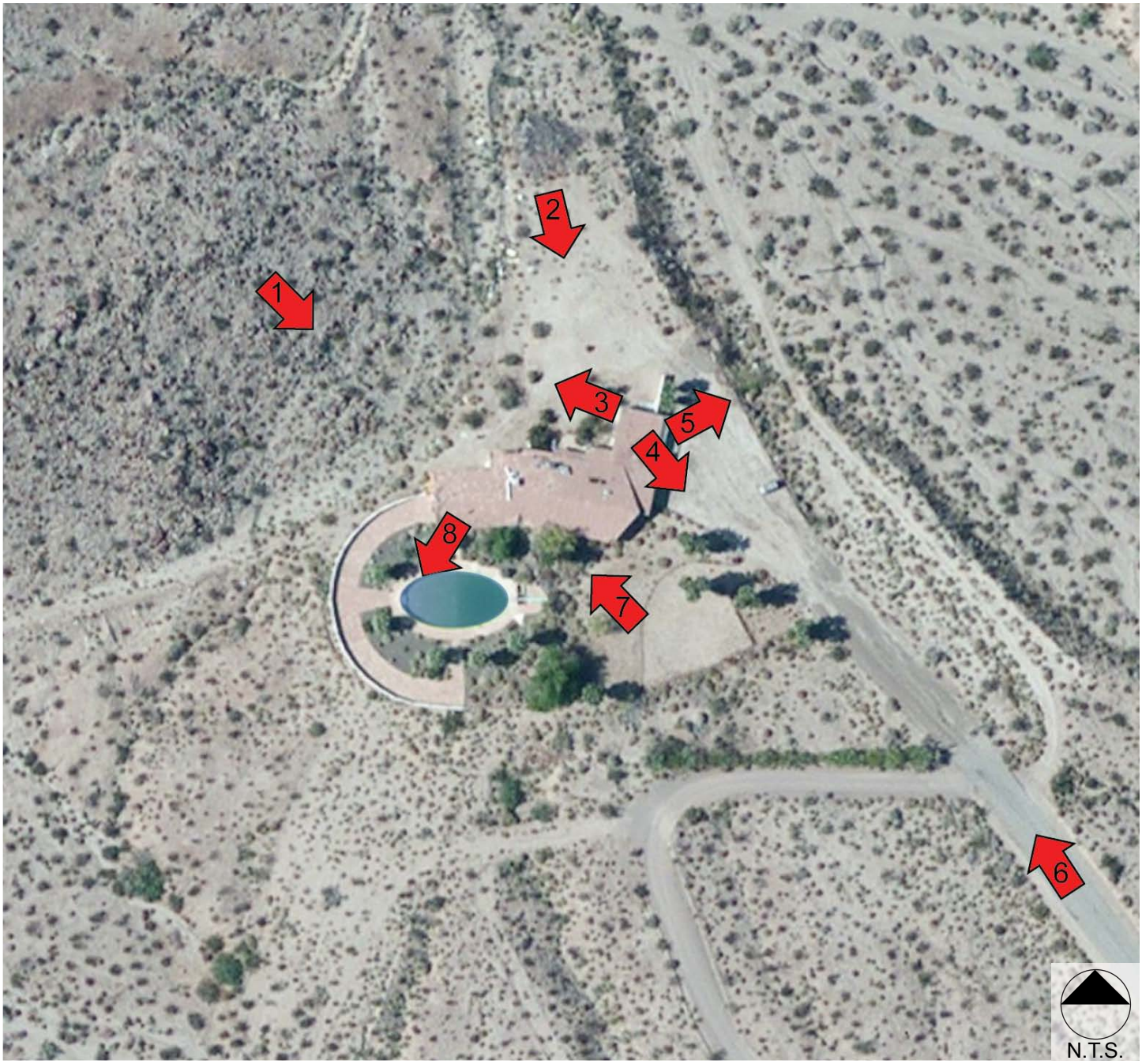
Construction Impact Zone Boundary

Development Footprint

Exhibit 4
Conceptual Development Plan

Source: UCI GIS

Exhibit 5
Adjacent Land Use



Source: UCI GIS

Exhibit 6
Site Photographs Location Key

View looking southeast from adjacent hillside towards the Desert Research Center

View looking south/southwest towards the Desert Research Center

View looking northwest of adjacent mountains

View looking southeast away from the Desert Research Center

View looking east towards Borrego Springs from Desert Research Center

View looking towards the Desert Research Center from Tilting T Drive

View of the Desert Research Center, surrounding landscape and hillside to the northeast

View of the Desert Research Center swimming pool and mountains to the southwest

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.

	Aesthetics		Agriculture/Forest Resources		Air Quality
	Biological Resources		Cultural Resources		Geology/Soils
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions		Hazards/Hazardous Materials		Hydrology/Water Quality
	Land Use/Planning		Mineral Resources		Noise
	Population/Housing		Public Services		Recreation
	Transportation/Traffic		Utilities/Service Systems		Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION:
On the basis of the initial evaluation that follows:

✓	I find that the proposed project WOULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, the project impacts were adequately addressed in an earlier document or there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made that will avoid or reduce any potential significant effects to a less than significant level. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT will be prepared.

8/17/2012

Signature Date

Printed Name For

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The University has defined the column headings in the Initial Study checklist as follows:

(A) "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that the project's effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impacts" a Project EIR will be prepared.

(B) "Less Than Significant With Project-level Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of project specific mitigation measures will reduce an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." All project-level mitigation measures must be described, including a brief explanation of how the measures reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

(C) "Less Than Significant Impact" applies where the project will not result in any significant effects. The effects may or may not have been discussed in the LRDP Program EIR. The project impact is less than significant without the incorporation of LRDP or Project-level mitigation.

(D) "No Impact" applies where a project would not result in any impact in the category or the category does not apply. Information is provided to show that the impact does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer may be based on project specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project specific screening analysis).

1. AESTHETICS

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				✓
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				✓
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			✓	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			✓	

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the existing DRC. The proposed project would be approximately the same height and its roof lines, physical attributes, exterior finishes, and other features would be architecturally compatible with the existing building, and would be designed to be consistent with Anza-Borrego's designation as a Dark Sky community. The proposed project, also noted in the Project Description, would not materially affect or remove characteristics of the existing DRC building including its roof or great room's floor-to-ceiling windows. No scenic vistas are identified in the San Diego County General Plan for Borrego Springs. No state designated scenic highways are in the vicinity. Once completed, the proposed project would not be substantially larger than other structures on Tilting T Drive or adjacent roads. The project site is in a developed condition and includes existing sources of light.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

1.a) Scenic Vistas: No Impact

As the San Diego County General Plan did not identify any scenic vistas in the vicinity, this project would have no impact on such resources. Additionally, as the proposed project would be approximately the same height of the existing DRC building, views of the surrounding landscape from off-site areas would be unaffected. Therefore, no impacts with respect to scenic vistas would occur.

1.b) Scenic Resources Within a State Scenic Highway: No Impact

As stated above, there are no state designated scenic highways in the vicinity of the project. The project would therefore have no impacts on such scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

1.c) Visual Character: Less Than Significant

As noted above, the design of the proposed project would be architecturally compatible with the existing

building and would not materially affect or remove its roof or great room's floor-to-ceiling windows. Because the proposed project would primarily be constructed at the rear of the existing building, views of the property from Tilting T Drive would largely be unaffected. Therefore the DRC project would have less than significant impacts with respect to the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings.

1.d) Light or Glare: Less Than Significant

As noted above, the DRC project would be designed to be consistent with Anza-Borrego's designation as a Dark Sky community, which would minimize off-site light spillage. As the proposed project would be architecturally compatible with the existing building, including its exterior surfaces, no significant increase in glare is anticipated. Thus, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact with respect to light or glare.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination After All Mitigation

Not applicable

2. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
b) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the CA Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				✓
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				✓
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				✓
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✔

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered outdoor areas, and a storage building at the existing DRC. The property is not used for agriculture and contains no forest resources.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

2.a) Convert Farmland to Non-Agricultural use: No Impact

As stated above the project site is not used for agriculture and the proposed project therefore would not convert the site from agricultural to non-agricultural use. It is not mapped as Farmland (Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance) by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The project would therefore have no impact related to the conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural use.

2.b) Conflict with Zoning for Agricultural Use or a Williamson Act contract: No Impact

There is no Williamson Act contract applicable to the project site. UC properties are not eligible for Williamson Act agreements, nor are they subject to local zoning controls. The project would therefore have no impact related to a conflict with zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract.

2.c) Conflict with Zoning for Forest Land, Timberland, Timberland Production: No Impact

As there are no forest resources on the project site there would be no impact. Additionally, as stated in response to 2.b, UC properties are not subject to local zoning controls. The project would therefore have no impact related to a conflict with zoning for forest land, timberland, or timberland production.

2.d) Loss of Forest Land or Conversion to Non-Forest Use: No Impact

As there is no forest land on the site, construction of the project would not result in the loss or conversion of such lands. Therefore no impact with respect to such lands would occur.

2.e) Other Changes Resulting in Conversion of Farmland/Forest Land: No Impact

As stated previously, the project site is already developed and includes no agricultural or forest lands. Therefore no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination After All Mitigation

Not applicable

3. AIR QUALITY

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				✓
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			✓	
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			✓	
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			✓	
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				✓

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the existing DRC; approximately 550 cubic yards of grading would be required to construct the project. Sufficient space is available on the property for work crew parking and construction staging. The project, located in San Diego County, is under the jurisdiction of the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (APCD), which enforces the rules and regulations protecting air quality. The APCD and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) are responsible for developing and implementing the clean air plan for attainment and maintenance of the National (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). The San Diego County Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS), initially adopted by the APCD in 1991, outlines the district's plans and emission control measures designed to attain the state air quality standards for O_3. Pollutants addressed in the RAQS include VOCs and NOx, which are the precursors to the photochemical formation of O_3. The APCD also has developed the air basin's input to the State Implementation Plan (SIP), which includes the district's plans and emission control measures for attaining the O_3 NAAQS. The RAQS and the SIP do not address impacts from sources of PM_{10} or $PM_{2.5}$, although control measures to regulate stationary source emissions of those pollutants are included in the SIP. Areas or air basins that do not meet the NAAQS for a particular pollutant are considered to be "nonattainment areas" for that pollutant. In 2004, the San Diego Air Basin was designated a basic nonattainment area for the O_3 NAAQS. The basin is in attainment for the NAAQS for all other criteria pollutants**.** Of the seven State "criteria" pollutants that have a Federal counterpart, only ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ occur in concentrations high enough to violate State standards in San Diego County. Since few sources (almost none) emit ozone directly, and ozone is

caused by complex chemical reactions, control of ozone is accomplished by the control of emissions of NO_x and VOCs.

The proposed project would generate air pollutant emissions, including O_3 precursors, during its construction and operational phases. During construction, air pollutant emissions generated would include fugitive dust (PM10 and PM2.5) and equipment exhaust emissions (NOx, SOx, CO, VOC, PM10, and PM2.5). Vehicle trips from worker commutes associated with project construction would also generate emissions. Operation of the project would result in area and stationary sources of emissions as well as emissions from vehicular sources. No sensitive receptors are presently on the site; however, as stated in the Project Description, several single family residences are located nearby. During construction, odors generated by the project would be anticipated to include emissions from vehicle and equipment tailpipes and operation of the DRC as essentially an institutional land use would not be considered a land use that would generate objectionable odors. As noted in the Projection Description, the project's construction documents and specifications would require that the contractor implement an emissions reduction plan as well as best management practices (BMPs) to minimize fugitive dust, construction traffic, and particulate matter release.

Although the only agency with local land use jurisdiction over the project is the Regents of the University of California (See Project Description Section 5), San Diego County's "Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements" for Air Quality provide a valid approach the analysis of the project's air quality effects. The County's identified screening level threshold criteria for significance for issue areas 2a through 2e are provided in "Figure 1 - County of San Diego Land Use Environmental Group Air Quality Significance Flow for Privately Initiated Projects" in the county's guidelines. As the project would not exceed the construction and operational air quality impact trigger criteria provided in the County's guidelines, an air quality study was not prepared for the project.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

3.a) AQMP Consistency: No Impacts

The APCD's RAQS outlines the district's plans and control measures designed to attain the State air quality standards for ozone (impacts from sources of PM_{10} or. PM_{25} are not yet addressed). As noted in the County's "Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements" projects which propose development that is consistent with anticipated growth within the County's general plan would be consistent with the RAQS. Per the Guidelines, projects which propose development that is greater than that anticipated in the general plan would be in conflict with the RAQS and SIP. Although, as stated above the project is not subject to the County's policies and regulations, the DRC would be consistent with the land use density provisions of the County's general plan. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

3.b) Air Quality Standards: Less Than Significant

As noted above, an air quality study was not prepared because the project would not exceed the County's construction and operational air quality trigger criteria. Because less than 3.5 acres of ground surface material disturbance total and less than 110 gallons of architectural coatings total would be required, the project would not be anticipated to exceed the construction activity screening level thresholds identified in the County's Figure 1 for volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxide, or particulate matter. The County's operational emissions criteria assesses a project's impact based upon the number of single-

family units would generate approximately the same emissions as a single unit of the land use being considered. As noted in the County's air quality guidelines, a project would not be anticipated to exceed the operational emissions screening thresholds if the project equivalent single family units are less than 300. Following the methodology in the County guidelines, the DRC project would have a project equivalent of approximately 25 single family homes and is not expected to result in operational emissions which exceed the thresholds in Figure 1. Therefore, as the project would not exceed the screening level thresholds for construction or operational related emissions, less than significant impacts with respect to air quality standards would occur. However, as noted above, the contractor would still be required by UCI to implement emissions reductions BMPs.

3.c) Criteria Pollutants: Less Than Significant

The County's air quality guidelines contain methodologies for determining a project's cumulatively considerable net increases of a criteria pollutant. With respect to construction, the guidelines state that a project which would have either a significant direct impact with regard to emissions of PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, NO_x and/or VOCs or if in combination with the emissions of concern from other proposed or reasonable foreseeable future projects would exceed the County's emissions thresholds. As discussed in the preceding two responses, construction of the proposed project would not result in a significant direct impact on air quality with regard to emissions of these air pollutants. With respect to a project's operational phase the guideless state that non-conformance with the RAQS and which cause road intersections to operate at or below a LOS E and create a CO "hotspot" would have a cumulatively considerable impact. As discussed in response to 3.b, the project would conform to the RAQS and none of the roadways included in the Desert Mobility Element Network of the County's general plan in the vicinity of the project are identified as having a level of service near capacity nor that the project, which would accommodate approximately 32 people, would be likely to cause peak-hour trips to exceed 2,000. Thus, the project would have a less than significant impact with respect to cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant. No impacts are required.

3.d) Sensitive Receptors: Less Than Significant

As noted previously, an air quality study was not prepared because project emissions would not exceed the County's screening level thresholds. Therefore, consistent with the County's Significance Flow Chart for Privately Initiated Projects, less than significant impacts with respect to sensitive receptors would occur.

3.e) Objectionable Odors: No Impact

As noted above, odors generated by the project would be anticipated to include emissions from vehicle and equipment tailpipes during its construction and operation of the DRC is not considered a land use that would generate objectionable odors. Any odors generated during operation would be temporary in nature and given the rural character of the surrounding area would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination After All Mitigation

Not applicable

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CA Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				✓
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				✓
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				✓
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				✓
e) Conflict with any applicable policies protecting biological resources?				✓
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other applicable habitat conservation plan?				✓

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the DRC; the project would comply with federal and state regulations pertaining to construction during bird nesting season. A Biological Resources Assessment was prepared in 2011 by the Environmental Scientist Colorado Desert District, California State Parks to identify plant and animal species within the project footprint and its immediate surroundings. As the assessment indicates, plant communities on the mostly flat to slightly sloping site consist of a mixed landscaping of native and non-native species, and native vegetation predominated by brittle bush scrub including Bougainvillea, cheat-grass, palo verde and Schott's dalea. The project would include removal of several trees planted as part of existing site landscaping. Wildlife identified on the site consisted of typical desert species such as desert cottontail, side blotched lizard, northern mockingbird, and mourning dove.

No sensitive, rare, state or federally listed plant or animal species were found during the on-site surveys conducted by the Environmental Scientist for the assessment. As indicated in the Assessment, adverse impacts to any sensitive species potentially occurring within suitable habitat on the hillside to the west of the DRC would be avoided by confining project construction and related site disturbance to already disturbed areas on the site. As described in the Project Description and Exhibit 4 all project construction will be restricted to previously disturbed areas of the site; demarcated and fenced prior to construction.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

4.a) Species Impacts: No Impact

As noted above, the biological assessment completed by the District Environmental Scientist indicated that no sensitive, rare, state or federally listed plant or animal species were found on site. Project construction activities would occur on disturbed and developed portions of the DRC parcel and eastward of the "Construction Impact Zone Boundary" identified on Exhibit 4 in the Project Description, which would avoid the adjacent hillside. Therefore, the project would have no impacts with respect to sensitive, rare, state or federally listed plant or animal species. No mitigation is required.

4.b) Riparian Habitat or Other Sensitive Natural Community: No Impact

As indicated above and in the Project Description, the project site is in a developed state and as shown in site photos provided in Exhibits 7-9 contains no riparian habitat. Additionally, as stated above the biological assessment completed for the project indicated that there are no sensitive species present. As there is no riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities on site, the project would have no impact with respect to this criterion.

4.c) Federally Protected Wetlands: No Impact

As indicated above and in the Project Description the project site is in a developed state and as shown in site photos provided in Exhibits 7-7 contains no wetlands. As there are no wetlands on site, the project would have no impact with respect to this criterion.

4.d) Wildlife Corridors: No Impact

As indicated above, the biological assessment completed for the project indicated that there are no sensitive species present within the construction impact zone. As stated in response to issues 3.b and c there are no riparian habitats, sensitive natural communities, or wetlands on site, which, could serve as native wildlife nursery sites. Additionally, this relatively small construction project on an existing developed site would not result in substantially more physical barriers than presently exist on the site. Once complete wildlife would be able to transverse the site similarly as they may under current baseline conditions. Thus, as the site does not include riparian habitat or wildland areas that are used as migratory corridors or provide native wildlife nursery sites, and the project would not create any substantial physical barrier to migratory corridors there would be no impacts related to this criterion.

4.e) Conflict with Applicable Policies: No Impact

There are no local, state, or federal policies, which apply to the already developed project site for protection of biological resources. There would be no conflict with any biological protection policies, because none applies to the project site, including none established by the UC. As stated above, the project would comply with federal and state regulations pertaining to construction during bird nesting season.

4.f) Conflict with an Applicable Habitat Plan: No Impact

As previously stated, the construction impact zone is already developed and the project will not affect biological resources, sensitive communities, or habitats. There are no UC policies which have been established to protect habitats on the project site. The project site is not identified within the proposed San Diego County, East County Multiple Species Conservation Program as being a pre-approved mitigation area. Thus, as there is no adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other applicable habitat conservation plan for the project site there would be no impact with respect to this criterion.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination After All Mitigation

Not applicable

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?				✓
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?				✓
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				✓
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				✓

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the DRC. The existing DRC building was constructed in 1949 by designer-builder William Kesling to serve as a clubhouse for a golf community being developed at the time in Borrego Springs by A. A Burnand. According to the internet site "Borrego Modern"

(http://borregomodern.com/the_design/william_kesling.php), devoted to the architects, designers, and builders of Borrego Springs, the golf course community was never completed and the clubhouse also known as the Borrego Springs Desert Club was operated as the "Galeria de Anza Borrego," an art studio and antique store, from 1968 to 2005. Prior to its acquisition by the UC, the building was used as a single family home.

The DRC building has been renovated, remodeled, and/or expanded several times since it was opened in 1950 as the Borrego Springs Desert Club to serve as the clubhouse for the aforementioned golf course community. As noted in the "Borrego Modern" website article, an initial renovation in 1951 designed by architect Richard Zerbe added a circular bar near the building's entrance and in order to enlarge the dining room, enclosed a breezeway between the clubhouse and locker room facilities. Additional alterations, as indicated in the article, included the conversion of some rooms to living quarters. Since its acquisition by the UC, several seismic and safety related renovations, including roof work and interior upgrades, were made to the building to meet safety code requirements and prepare the building for use as a university facility, none of which materially affected the building's inherent architectural features.

The DRC building is not included on the California Register of Historical Resources, the National Register of Historic Buildings, or local register of historic resources. As provided in the CEQA Guidelines, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets at least one of the following criteria provided in CEQA Section 15064.5(a)(3): (A) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage; (B) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past; (C) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or (D) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Research conducted by the Associate State Archaeologist indicates that the existing DRC building could be considered eligible for the California Register by meeting criteria 15064.5(a)(3)(A),(B), and (C) as follows: (A) its association with the post-World War II development of the community of Borrego Springs, particularly within the context of modernism thought, architecture, and development concepts, and with the community and the role it played as a social center; (B) as the original country club built by A. A. Burnand, emblematic of his innovative founding of the modern community of Borrego Springs; and (C) as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of modern architecture and the work of Kesling.

Research conducted by the Associate State Archaeologist, Colorado Desert District, California State Parks indicated that no archaeological sites are identified within the project site; however, a site identified as SDI-258 encompasses an area located to the west and south. According to the Colorado Desert District, the site was recorded in the early 1970s by archaeologist William Seidel whom described it as having a grinding feature aspect and pottery scatter. Seidel's site record, per the Colorado Desert District, indicated that a large ceramic collection and chippage were collected and noted that pot hunting was occurring. As recommended by the Colorado Desert District, to avoid disturbance cultural resources potentially associated with SDI-258 located on the hillside adjacent the project site, project construction would be restricted to the "Construction Impact Zone" identified on Figure 4 in the Project Description on already disturbed and developed portions of the DRC site. During an on-site archaeological survey in 2011, the Colorado Desert District identified trash scatter including various glass bottles, shells and exotic rock, building debris, and pottery vessel fragments on the graded pad at the rear of the existing building. According to the Colorado Desert District, the material's origins could not be determined and may have

been transported from elsewhere and been a part of a curiosity collection owned by a previous owner of the building; the Archaeologist indicated that the scatter's eligibility for the California Register would be unlikely. Upon UC investigation of baseline conditions at the project site for this Initial Study the trash scatter had substantially been removed, most likely by the previous owner of the property when they vacated the property. Trash scatter is currently not present at the project site.

Research conducted by the Paleontologist Emeritus, Colorado Desert District, indicated that no paleontological materials have been found in the site vicinity and none were encountered during an on-site survey conducted in relation to this Initial Study. According to the Paleontologist, the property is located on an alluvial surface of the probable late Pleistocene age, which has been subsequently down cut by modern washes on the east and west of the property, exposing a thick deposit of boulder to granule coarse-grained, and very poorly sorted sandstone. To the west, as reported by the District Paleontologist, these deposits lie on a pediment surface developed on Paleozoic meta-sediments, and are well cemented with secondary pedogenic calcite and in most exposures an approximately one meter thick calcic aridisol exists on the deposit. As indicated by the Paleontologist the sedimentary textures and very coarse-grained lithologies suggest high-energy depositional conditions.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

5.a) Historical Resources: No Impact

In preparation of this Initial Study, UCI reviewed the Associate State Archaeologist's research memorandum and other information gathered regarding the DRC building and concluded that the existing building, initially constructed as the Borrego Springs Desert Club does not meet the criteria for listing on the California Register provided in Section 15064.5(a)(3). Although the building has elements of modern mid-century architecture, the building lacks distinctive or ground breaking design elements that would make it an exemplar of period design. Although the Desert Club building was a component of developer A.A. Burnand's golf community, which was associated with the early development of Borrego Springs, as noted above the community did not materialize. According to the "Borrego Modern" website article, while the club was for a period the social center in the community, the golf course development was "eclipsed by the development of de Anza Country Club in the northern part of the Borrego Valley" and future home sites were sold off in 1964, followed by the Desert Club's sale in 1968. That the existing DRC building was associated with the early development of Borrego Springs and its innovative founding by Burnand do not singularly define the building as historically significant at the state or federal level. In addition, as described above the existing building has been modified or updated in the years since being constructed in 1949. Thus, although the building retains original features such as its low-pitched roof and great room's floor-to-ceiling windows, modification by past owners has already resulted in alterations to the original building. Therefore, the UC has determined that the existing building does not meet the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources provided in Section 15064.5(a)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines and is therefore not deemed by the lead agency to be "historically significant."

Although the UC has concluded that that the existing building is not a historic resource, due to local interest and as a member of the Borrego Springs community the UC will preserve the structure's general architectural character. Thus, the proposed project is designed to be architecturally compatible with the existing DRC building. Toward this goal, as outlined in the Project Description, the proposed project's enclosed spaces would essentially be freestanding structures (see Exhibits 3 and 4), which would be connected to the existing DRC building by the proposed covered areas and located at its rear. None of the

existing building's exterior walls or doorways would be demolished or materially affected to construct the proposed project. The height, roofs, exterior finishes, and other physical attributes and features of the project's elements would complement the existing ground level building and be sensitive to its architectural style. Furthermore, as stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would not materially affect or remove the existing building's roof, interior great room floor-to-ceiling windows or structural elements that allow for its flexible space.

In summary, the proposed project's design would successfully achieve what the Desert District Archaeologist referred to as "a challenge to develop innovative methods to preserve both the architectural and cultural character" of the existing building to "adaptively reuse the building as a U.C. Research Station facility." Therefore, as the existing DRC building has not been deemed by the UC to be an historic resource as defined in 15064.5(3) and because per 15064.5(b)(2) the structure's characteristic physical elements would not be materially impaired, the proposed project would not result in an impact.. No mitigation measures are required.

5.b) Archaeological Resources: No Impact

The proposed project would be constructed and staged entirely outside of the boundaries of SDI-258. As such, no impacts to archaeological site SDI-258 identified above would occur. Furthermore, the undefined "trash scatter" observed at the project site by the Desert District Archaeologist in 2011 is not present. Thus, no impacts with respect to archaeological resources would occur.

5.c) Paleontological Resources: No Impact

Based upon the project site's geological setting, which as described above are not conducive to the preservation of fossils, the Desert District Paleontologist indicated that its paleontological sensitivity is estimated to be low. Additionally, stated above, no paleontological materials were encountered during the site survey conducted by the Desert District Paleontologist and none have been found in the region. Thus, no impacts with respect to archaeological resources would occur.

5.d) Human Remains: No Impact

Although the project site is already developed, because human remains are often found buried beneath the ground surface there is a possibility that remains could occur somewhere on site and be uncovered during the project's earthmoving activities. If human remains were discovered during grading, the contractor would be required to notify the County Coroner, in accordance with section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, who must then determine whether the remains are of forensic interest. If the Coroner, with the aid of a supervising archeologist, determines that, the remains are or appear to be of a Native American, he/she would contact the Native American Heritage Commission for further investigations and proper recovery of such remains. Thus, as the project site is already developed and construction would comply with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) no impact with respect to human remains would occur.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination After All Mitigation

Not applicable

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			✓	
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			✓	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			✓	
iv) Landslides			✓	
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			✓	
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			✓	
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				✓
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				✓

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the DRC, and would involve approximately 550 cubic yards of grading. The project site is topographically flat and according to the geology report prepared for the project, located on the southeastern flank of granitic and metamorphic foothills extending into the Borrego Springs area from the southwest, which is within the Borrego Valley, the northwesterly extension of the Imperial Valley in northeastern San Diego County. The Borrego Valley is part of the

Salton Trough, the northerly extension of the Gulf of California. Like most of southern California, the area which is on the eastern boundary of the Southern California Continental Borderland, part of the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province, is seismically active. This plate boundary is characterized by a complex system of active, major, right-lateral strike-slip faults, trending northwest/southeast, which extend eastward to the San Andreas Fault and westward to the San Clemente Fault. According to the geology report, the closest faults to the site identified through the State Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act program are the Coyote Creek and Anza branches of the San Jacinto Fault (6.2 miles north, northeast, and east and 9.6 miles to the northeast respectively), the Earthquake Valley fault (10.9 miles to the southwest), and the Elsinore fault (15 to 20 miles to the west and southwest). Liquefaction is the transformation of soils from a solid to a quicksand state that can occur in loose soils and near surface ground water as a response to severe groundshaking. The process can cause structures on the soils to tilt or settle as the supporting capabilities of the soils diminish. The geologic report prepared for the project indicated that the site is underline with a differential thickness of undifferentiated alluvial and colluvial soils overlying dense crystalline granitic rocks as well as a gravelly fill soil. The geologic report indicates that no soil strength loss is anticipated due to a seismic event. Soil erosion or the loss of topsoil can occur as a result of, and can be accelerated by, site preparation activities associated with development, vegetation removal in landscaped (pervious) areas, and surface disturbance. Erosion effects would depend largely on the areas disturbed, the quantity of disturbance, and the length of time soils are subject to conditions that would be affected by erosion processes.

6.a) i-iv: Fault Rupture, Seismic Shaking, Liquefaction, Landslides: Less Than Significant Impact
i. As stated above, the project site is not located within close proximity to an active or potentially active earthquake fault identified through the State Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act program. Therefore impacts are considered less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

ii. The geologic report prepared for the project indicates that based on a 210 year search of seismic events within 100 miles of the site the highest peak and repeatable horizontal ground acceleration at the site are 0.216g and 0.157 g, respectively. The most serious site damage would be caused by a large earthquake associated with the San Jacinto or Elsinore faults noted above; however, because it is underlain by relatively stable materials with incorporation of the recommendations provided in the geologic report, the site is suitable for the project and conventional construction techniques and materials can be used. Additionally, the project would be designed to meet the California Building Code (CBC) seismic safety standards and be compliant with the UC “Seismic Safety Policy,” which would further ensure that hazards associated with seismically induced ground shaking are reduced to less than significant. Therefore impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

iii. According to the geologic report, the risk of liquefaction of foundation material is considered remote due to the medium dense to very dense nature of the natural ground material and the lack of a shallow water table. Therefore impacts are considered less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

iv. As noted above, the project site is topographically flat. The geologic report indicates that the existing slopes north of the project site are stable. Additionally, as noted in the report the site has been stable since its initial development in 1949. Therefore no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

6.b) Soil Erosion: Less Than Significant Impact

As previously stated, the site contains an approximately 5,995 gsf building and associated hardscapes; the remainder of the site, as depicted in Exhibits 7-9 where project construction would occur, contains scattered vegetation and bare topsoil. Earth-disturbing activities associated with construction would be temporary and as noted above require only a minimal amount of grading; however, conditions could occur in which soil is exposed to erosion by wind or water. Therefore, the construction contract would require that BMPs such as silt fences, watering for dust control, straw-bale check dams be implemented where and when applicable on the site to prevent soil erosion. In the long term, the improvements made to the DRC – new structures, pavement, landscaping, and site drainage improvements – would replace previously undisturbed earth material and not contribute to conditions which result in on site erosion. As a result, erosion potential would be significantly reduced and any impacts resulting from soil erosion associated with construction of the project would be less than significant.

6.c) Unstable Soil: Less Than Significant Impact

As stated above, in response to 6.a the project would have either no or less than significant impacts with respect to ground shaking, liquefaction, and landslides. Additionally, as previously stated the geologic report indicates that no soil strength loss is anticipated due to a seismic event and that the site is underlain by relatively stable materials. As indicated in 6.a(ii), the project would also incorporate the recommendations provided in the geologic report. Therefore impacts related to unstable soils or geologic units would be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

6.d) Expansive Soil: No Impact

The geologic report prepared for the project indicates that the site's soils are of very low expansion potential. Therefore no impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

6.e) Alternative Waste Disposal Systems: No Impact

As stated in the Project Description, wastewater generated by the project would be treated by the existing on-site septic system, which if deemed insufficient to handle wastewater flows generated by the project would be replaced in place by a larger unit during construction. This would not have any additional environmental impacts.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination after Mitigation

Not applicable

7. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(C) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(D) Less Than Significant Impact	(E) No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✔	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			✔	

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the DRC, and would provide accommodation for approximately 32 persons primarily during the winter and spring months. The project, would include installation of a solar energy generation system providing the DRC with a sustainable "off the grid" energy source. The majority of research conducted at the DRC would occur within the ABNR and approximately 76 acres, contiguous to the proposed project. As noted previously, construction of the project would include approximately one week of grading to excavate approximately 550 cubic yards of material, approximately 1 week of concrete paving, and approximately 12 months of construction.

Construction of the proposed project, like all other projects implemented in California would result in an increase of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the use of off-road construction vehicles and equipment, on-road haul trucks, and employee vehicles. The primary source of the project's operational related GHG emissions would be motor vehicles, and other emissions would be generated from fuel combustion for space and water heating, as well as off-site GHG emissions resulting from the generation of electricity consumed by the project. GHGs emitted from these sources would include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, ozone, and aerosols.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

7.a-b) Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Less Than Significant

Operational related GHG emissions would be anticipated to be minimal due to the DRC primarily being utilized during the winter and spring months and as research conducted at the center would primarily occur on-site and within its proximity, GHG emissions from motor vehicles would be anticipated to be minimal. Emissions related to the project's use of utilities would be minimized through energy generated by the on-site solar installation. As the project would require a minimal amount of grading, GHG emissions generated during earth moving phases of construction would be anticipated to be minimal and as the project would not be anticipated to require a large construction crew, emissions from vehicle trips associated with its construction would also be anticipated to be minimal. Therefore, the DRC's construction and operational related GHG emissions would be less than significant.

Similar to other projects completed recently in San Diego County, in addressing the potential for a project to generate GHG emissions that would have a potentially significant cumulative effect on the environment, a threshold of 900 metric tons of GHG emissions was selected to identify those projects that would be required to calculate emissions and implement mitigation measures to reduce a potentially significant impact. This screening threshold is based on the California Association of Air Pollution Control Officer's (CAPCOA) "CEQA & Climate Change: Evaluating and Addressing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Projects Subject to the California Environmental Quality Act" 2008 white paper, which covers methods for addressing greenhouse gas emissions under CEQA. The white paper references the 900 metric ton threshold as a conservative threshold for requiring further analysis and mitigation, and was based on a review of data from the cities of Los Angeles, Pleasanton, Dublin, and Livermore to identify the threshold that would capture a large percentage of residential units or office space. As indicated in the white paper, the 900 metric ton threshold would apply to GHG emissions associated with 50 single-family residential units and 30,000 square feet of office. Therefore, as the DRC upon completion of the project would be approximately 10,455 gsf (not including covered area square footage), it would be expected to generate substantially less than 900 metric tons of GHG emissions and have a less than significant impact.

Although the DRC would not result in significant direct GHG related impacts, as stated in the Project Description the project would be constructed consistent with applicable aspects of the University's Policy on Sustainable Practices (Policy), which would further reduce its emissions. Measures from the Policy incorporated into the project would result in significant energy savings, construction waste reductions, recycled material use, and water conservation. Such features, as described in the Project Description, would include an overall energy efficiency that would exceed the standards of California Title 24 criteria by at least 20%.

Construction and operation of the proposed project would incrementally contribute to global climate change; however, because of the project's minimal size it would not be likely to interfere with California's ability to achieve its GHG reduction goals and requirements. As such, the DRC project's contribution to the existing significant cumulative effects associated with global climate change would not be cumulatively considerable. Further, compliance with the Policy and existing and future emissions reduction strategies set by the State of California would substantially lessen the DRC's contribution to global climate change. In conclusion, the proposed DRC project would result in less than significant impacts with respect to generation of greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly and not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination after Mitigation

Not applicable

8. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			✓	
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			✓	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				✓
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				✓
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			✓	

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the DRC; demolition of the existing building is not proposed and a minimal amount of earthwork would be involved. A search of the California Department of Toxic

Substances Control's EnviroStor database (April 5, 2012) confirmed the absence of any hazardous waste sites in the project vicinity. A variety of hazardous materials would potentially be used during the project's construction and operation. Temporary and short-term hazards during construction would be limited to the transport, storage, use, and disposal of various chemicals, fuels, solvents, and coating materials used during the project's construction. Over its long-term operation, the proposed project would likely continue to involve the transport, use and disposal of minor quantities of hazardous materials associated with its laboratory uses, as well minor quantities of materials such as pesticides, fertilizers, and cleaning supplies related to landscaping, and general building and site maintenance. Storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials and waste on the site would comply with applicable regulations. No schools are located within a quarter mile of the proposed project. The proposed project is located more than three miles southwest from the Borrego Valley Airport and there are no private airstrips within the vicinity.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

8.a-b) Hazardous Materials Transport, Disposal, Release: Less Than Significant Impact

The UC's standard construction specifications would require that contractors working on the proposed construction project are responsible for ensuring that hazardous materials and waste are handled, stored and disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Routine construction control measures would be sufficient to avoid significant impacts. Any hazardous wastes generated by the project would be removed by licensed transporters for treatment or disposal at licensed waste facilities. As no building demolition is proposed the project would not create a hazard related to the release of hazardous materials from such activities and because a minimal amount of earthwork would be necessary to construct the project and as the previous use of the site was as a single family home, substantial amounts of soil or water contaminants are not anticipated to be encountered during earthwork. Significant hazards due to minor applications of typical hazardous materials noted above such as those related to building and site maintenance are considered unlikely. A Hazardous Materials Business Plan to address emergency and spill response procedures which includes, but is not limited to specific emergency response instructions, location of key personnel and equipment resources (i.e., telephone numbers, fire extinguishers, spill kits, safety showers/eyewashes, first aid kits, etc.), specialty hazard instructions, and appropriate training for the project's occupants would be incorporated in the project. Compliance with all applicable federal and State laws, as well as established UC programs, practices, and procedures related to the transport and release of hazardous materials would reduce the potential for impacts to a level that is less than significant.

8.c) Proximity to Schools: No Impact

As no schools are located within a quarter mile from the project site no impacts would occur with regard to this criterion.

8.d) Hazardous Materials Sites: No Impact

As the search of the EnviroStor database indicated that there are no reported hazardous waste or substances sites within or near the project limits, this project would have no impact involving such a site.

8.e-f) Airports: No Impact

As the proposed project is located more than three miles southwest from the Borrego Valley Airport and there are no private airstrips within the vicinity there would be no impact.

8.g) Emergency Response: No Impact

As stated in the Project Description, construction-related lane or road closures are not anticipated to be necessary to construct the project and the UCI Fire Marshall would review the project plans to ensure that physical barriers to site access or other areas are not created. Operational aspects of the proposed project would not interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Thus, the project would have no impact with respect to emergency response or evacuation.

8.h) Wildland Fires: Less Than Significant Impact

As noted above, the project site is already developed and, as depicted on Exhibit 5, is located in an area that contains residential and undeveloped parcels, and is categorized as primarily non-native vegetation, developed areas, or un-vegetated habitat, with portions also identified as scrub and chapparal. According to the San Diego County Wildfire Information and Mapping System, no fires have occurred in proximity to the project site. As stated in response to Issue 7.g, the project would not create barriers to site access, and in the event the project is threatened by a wildland fire, evacuation of the occupants would not be restricted. As noted in the Project Description, the project plans would be reviewed by the UCI Fire Marshal to ensure compliance with emergency access requirements. In the event of a wildland fire that could potentially expose the occupants of the project to loss, injury, or death, the small project site would be evacuated in an efficient and order manner. As a result, any impacts associated with wildland fire would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination After All Mitigation

Not applicable

9. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				✓
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				✓

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			✓	
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			✓	
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			✓	
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			✓	
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				✓
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				✓
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				✓
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			✓	

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the DRC; to create a semi-pervious surface decomposed granite would be used for driveway and non-covered parking areas, the site's existing drainage patterns would be maintained with runoff collected on site and conveyed to existing off-site storm drain facilities, and BMPs would manage and control construction and operation related stormwater as well as general site management practices in conformance with established water quality control standards. The project would not substantially increase the amount of impervious surface on the existing developed site. The project site is located in flood hazard zone X, which means it is not at high risk for flooding, The site neither contains nor is adjacent a stream, river, or other waterbody. The project would connect to a water main located along Tilting T Drive and would not obtain its water from groundwater supplies. Wastewater generated by the project would be directed to the on-site septic system.

Site runoff currently consists of overland flows during rainstorms, and the water quality is comprised of chemical elements present in rainwater and materials typically found in residential development related stormwater. The proposed project would potentially generate water quality impacts related to construction

and post-construction conditions. Construction of the project could result in additional sources of polluted runoff through site clearing and grading, stockpiling of soils and materials, and concrete pouring. Applicable water quality standards developed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) or Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) which would control pollutants contained in runoff generated from the property for stormwater are set forth in applicable permits, such as a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP), which would be implemented, as applicable in accordance with existing law.

Discussion of Potential Impacts

9.a) Water Quality Standards: No Impact

As stated above, the project would comply with applicable permits to manage and control pollutants in runoff from the property. Both the inclusion of semi-pervious surfaces and the BMPs noted above would manage and control stormwater runoff, and reduce flow volumes leaving the site. However, due to its small size, the project would not be anticipated to substantially increase the rate or volume of storm water runoff leaving the site during rainfall events versus existing conditions. Therefore, no impact would occur with respect to violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

9.b) Groundwater: No Impact

As the proposed project would connect to an existing water main located along Tilting T Drive and not draw water from groundwater sources, no impact would occur.

9.c) Erosion On or Off-Site: Less Than Significant

As stated above, the proposed project would not alter the site's drainage pattern of the existing developed site and its surroundings. Runoff from the completed project would flow into the existing drainage network. The project site does not contain nor is adjacent to a stream or river. Substantial erosion or siltation on-or off site would be minimized with implementation of the aforementioned construction and operational related BMPs and site management practices, including the use of semi-pervious materials for the driveway and non-covered parking areas. Given the small scale of this project and the already developed character of the DRC, any additional runoff volume would be anticipated to be minimal and would not result in substantial erosion or siltation. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact with respect to any erosion or siltation associated with alteration of the site's existing drainage pattern.

9.d) Flooding On or Off-Site: Less Than Significant

As described above, the proposed project would not substantially alter the drainage pattern of the existing developed site and its surroundings. The site is located in flood hazard zone X and not within the mapped 100 year flood zone. The project site does not contain nor is adjacent to a stream or river and would have no effect on such resources. Similar to response 9.c, given the small scale of this project, use of semi-pervious materials, and the already developed character of the DRC, any additional runoff would be minor and would not result in substantial flooding. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact with respect to any flooding associated with alteration of the site's existing drainage pattern.

9.e) Create or Contribute Runoff Water: Less Than Significant

The proposed project would potentially generate water quality impacts related to construction conditions from sources such as general site preparation, stockpiling of materials, and concrete pouring. Pollutants associated with these activities that could result in water quality impacts include soils, debris, other materials generated during site preparation, fuels and other fluids associated with the equipment used, paints, and concrete slurries. These pollutants could affect water quality if they are washed off site by storm water or non-storm water, or are blown or tracked off site to areas susceptible to wash off by storm water or non-storm water. However, as stated previously a SWPPP would be implemented, as applicable, and stormwater BMPs would be included to control and manage runoff. As stated above, the rate or amount of surface runoff, which would be generated by the expanded DRC, would not be anticipated to increase significantly the rate or volume of storm water runoff leaving the site during rainfall events and the inclusion of semi-pervious surfaces for the driveway and non-covered parking areas would further reduce flows of runoff from the project. The composition of runoff generated by the proposed project once operational would be anticipated to have the same constituents as that currently being generated under existing conditions on the site and prior owners of the property. Therefore, the proposed DRC project would have a less than significant impact with respect to creation or contribution of runoff or substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

9.f) Otherwise Substantially Degrade Water Quality: Less Than Significant

As stated above, the proposed project would potentially generate water quality impacts related to construction and post-construction conditions. However, such impacts are adequately addressed in response to questions 8(a),(c), and (e) above, which indicate that the proposed DRC project would comply with applicable permits, and BMPs and site management practices would be included to control and manage runoff. Therefore the proposed project would have a less than significant impact with respect to otherwise substantially degrading water quality.

9.g-h) Place Housing within a 100-Year Flood Hazard Area: No Impact

As the project site is within Flood Zone X outside the 100-year floodplain there would be no impacts with regard to this criterion.

9.i) Expose People or Structures to a Significant Risk Involving Flooding: No Impact

See response 8.g-h above. The project site is not within an area protected by levees and is not in an area that could be affected by dam failure. There would be no impacts with regard to this criterion.

9.j) Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow: Less Than Significant

As the site is located well inland from the Pacific Ocean it would not be impacted by tsunami. Since the project site is not located adjacent an enclosed water body there would be no threat of seiche conditions. Although, the project site is flat it is located at the base of a small hill side, which appears stable with groundcover consisting of rock and native vegetation, there is no history of a mudslide occurring on the site. Further, the aforementioned geotechnical report concludes that this existing slope is stable and the project would be constructed according to the CBC. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact with respect to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination after Mitigation

Not applicable

10. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				✓
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				✓
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				✓
d) Create other land use impacts?				✓

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the DRC, surrounding land uses, as shown on Exhibit 5, include several single family homes and undeveloped parcels. Access to the property is provided by Tilting T Drive, no changes to the adjacent circulation network are proposed. There is no Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or any other land conservation plan which regulates the project site.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

10.a) Divide an Established Community: No Impact

As the project would be constructed on UC property and no changes to the surrounding circulation network are proposed, no impact with respect to physically dividing an established community would occur. No mitigation is required.

10.b) Conflict with an Applicable Land Use Plan: No Impact

As previously stated, the DRC is to be operated by the UC to conduct work within the University's mission on land owned by the Regents of the UC. As such, the UC is the only agency with local land use jurisdiction over the project. No specific UC policies were adopted for the project and the land is not governed by any policies or regulations adopted to avoid or mitigate an environmental effect. As noted in the Project Description, construction of the project would comply with the UC Policy on Sustainable Practices and Anza-Borrego's designation as a Dark Sky community. The project would also be operated in collaboration with the Anza Borrego Desert State Park and Anza Borrego Foundation. Therefore, no impacts would occur with respect to a land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. No mitigation is required.

10.c) Conflict with an Applicable Conservation Plan: No Impact

As no Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or any other land conservation plan regulates the project site no impacts would occur with respect to this criterion.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination after Mitigation

Not applicable

11. MINERAL RESOURCES

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				✔
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				✔

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the existing DRC. The project site has not been used for mineral extraction and no known or potential mineral resource has been identified on the project site.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

11.a-b) Loss of availability of a known mineral resource of regional, state, or local value: No Impact
As noted above, the project would expand an existing facility, no known or potential mineral resource has been identified on the site. Therefore, construction of the project would not impede extraction or result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource of value to the region and residents of the state. Additionally, as the property is not subject to local land use regulations the proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated by a local land use plan. No impact to mineral resources would occur.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination after Mitigation

Not applicable

12. NOISE

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in any applicable plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			✓	
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				✓
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			✓	
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project (including construction)?			✓	

e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✔
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✔

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the DRC, which as depicted on Exhibit 4 are proposed to be constructed at the rear of the existing DRC building. There are no sensitive receptors on the site; although, as previously indicated there are several residences in proximity to the proposed project, the nearest being approximately 200 feet from the DRC property line. These nearby residences are the primary source of ambient noise in the project's vicinity. The project would include new sources of noise, including that generated by its construction and from general operation and occupancy. The project would comply with CCR Title 24 noise standards and although as previously noted the University is not required to be compliant with local land use plans the project will be consistent with the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance, Sections 36.408, Hours of Operation of Construction Equipment and 36.409, Sound Level Limitations on Construction Equipment.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

12.a) Noise Standards: Less Than Significant Impact

As noted above, there are no sensitive receptors presently on the site that would be affected by the project. As the proposed project would primarily be constructed behind the existing DRC the nearby residences described above should substantially be shielded by noise generated by the project. Further, as previously stated occupancy of the proposed project would primarily be seasonal and likely episodic, which would further reduce operations related noise. The types of equipment used on the site would not be expected to produce significant increase in ambient noise levels and would not be audible beyond the project site, with typical sound attenuation features to be included in the project design. As Tilting T Drive is essentially a rural neighborhood level street, the students and researchers whom would occupy the project's living spaces on a short-term basis would not be exposed to excessive vehicle noise. Impacts would be less than significant with respect to exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards

12.b) Groundborne Noise: No Impact

As construction of the proposed project would not require the use of jackhammers or involve demolition or large scale grading, no groundborne vibration or noise would be anticipated. Additionally, because the DRC would not be occupied during construction there would be no person onsite whom would be affected by such noise. Adjacent residences, as indicated on Exhibit 5, are located at a far enough distance from the project site that any such noise or vibration would not be noticeable. Construction, as previously noted, would primarily occur to the rear of the existing building, which would further shield these nearby

residents from potential groundborne noise or vibration. Therefore, no impacts with respect to groundborne noise or vibration would occur.

12.c) Permanent Ambient Noise: Less Than Significant Impact

As noted above, the primary existing sources of ambient noise in the project vicinity are nearby residential uses, which consist of noise commonly associated with typical residential use. The primary source of noise that would be generated by the project is related to vehicle trips to and from the site. As previously stated, vehicle access to the project would occur from Tilting T Drive. Due to the relatively small volume of traffic expected to be associated with the operation of the project, related traffic noise is not expected to result in substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity (See Section 6 Transportation/Traffic). Deliveries to and/or pickups from this facility and maintenance of this facility may result in a minimal increase in daily ambient noise levels but would be considered less than significant. Noise generated by rooftop mechanical equipment (air conditioning/heating) would not be audible beyond the project site, with typical sound attenuation features to be included in the project design. As such, the project would not affect adjacent receptors. Once completed the noise environment in the project vicinity would not be anticipated to represent a noticeable substantial permanent increase of ambient noise levels. Impacts are considered less than significant and no mitigation measures would be required.

12.d) Temporary Ambient Noise: Less Than Significant

Construction of this small scale project that as previously noted would be completed in a relatively short time-frame would result in a temporary and intermittent increase in noise levels on the site. However, since the project would involve minimal grading and earthwork, specialized construction equipment and activities which normally would result in loud and repetitive noise are not anticipated to be needed. Thus, although construction of the project would contribute a minor temporary increase of noise in the vicinity, which potentially might be audible to residents in the vicinity, such noise would be temporary. As noted above there are no sensitive receptors on site. Because a majority of construction would occur at the rear of the property, the existing building would provide additional shielding of noise generated by the project. As stated above, the project would comply with Title 24 noise standards and be consistent with the county's noise ordinance. Once operational, project operation as an education and research station would not be anticipated to create substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. Additionally, as previously noted the proposed project is not expected to be fully operational throughout the year. Therefore, impacts related to substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity would be less than significant. No mitigation would be required.

12.e-f) Public and Private Airport Noise: No Impact

As there are no public or private airports in the vicinity of the project (see also 7.e-f) there would be no impact with respect to noise generated by such facilities.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination after Mitigation

Not applicable

13. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			✓	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would expand the existing DRC; circulation and utility infrastructure systems are in place to serve the project and none would be extended beyond the project site. The project does not include home construction. As noted in the Project Description, occupancy of the field station would be seasonal and likely episodic; staff would be anticipated to be in residence for periods of approximately a month or only slightly longer, the students for a period of one week to one month at a time, and a caretaker would reside on site during other times of the year. The project would not involve the displacement of existing housing or people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

13.a) Induce Substantial Population Growth: Less Than Significant Impact

As stated above, the DRC would not result in a permanent increase in the population of Borrego Springs, and circulation and utility infrastructure systems are in place to serve the project, and no infrastructure would be extended beyond the project site. The project would therefore have a less than significant impact with respect to population inducement.

13.b-c) Replacement Housing: No Impact

As the project would displace neither existing housing nor people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination after Mitigation

Not applicable

14. PUBLIC SERVICES

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Fire protection?			✔	
b) Police protection?			✔	
c) Schools?			✔	
d) Parks?				✔
e) Other public facilities?				✔

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the DRC. The research facility would be occupied seasonally and episodically; staff working at the DRC would be anticipated to be in residence for periods of approximately a month or only slightly longer, the students for a period of one week to one month at a time, and a caretaker whom may reside on site during other times of the year.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

14.a) Fire Protection: Less Than Significant Impact

Fire protection service would be provided by the Anza Borrego Fire District. The District's station is located at 2324 Stirrup Road in Borrego Springs, approximately two and half miles from the project site, and provides services for an approximately 300 square mile area and responds to approximately 390 calls per year. The proposed project would not be anticipated to be occupied year round and the proposed activities at the DRC would not be expected to result in a noticeable increase for fire protection service demand, which would require the construction of new facilities by the District. Additionally, as previously mentioned the UCI Fire Marshal would review and approve the project plans, in accordance with California building and fire codes. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact with respect to the adverse physical impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

14.b) Police Protection: Less Than Significant Impact

Police protection services would be provided by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The Department's station is located at 571 Palm Canyon Drive in Borrego Springs, approximately two miles from the proposed project. The Borrego Springs office serves an unincorporated area encompassing

approximately 550 square miles, As stated above, the project would not be anticipated to be occupied year round and the proposed activities at the DRC would not be expected to represent a unique land use that would attract or stimulate criminal activities that would require the construction of new facilities by the Sherriff's department. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact with respect to the adverse physical impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

14.c) Schools: Less Than Significant Impact

As stated above, the proposed project would provide short-term housing for faculty and research staff and students conducting research at the DRC, and a caretaker whom may reside on site during other times of the year. Faculty and research would not be in residence at the DRC for periods long enough for those with school-age children to enroll them in the Borrego Unified School District's school. Additionally, the proposed project's residential quarters would not be designed to provide additional living spaces to accommodate school-age children who would need to enroll in local public schools. The project would therefore have a less than significant impact with respect to the adverse physical impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered schools, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

14.d) Parks: No Impact

As the proposed occupants of the proposed project would be on site for only a limited amount of time they would not represent the type of population to trigger demand for new parks in the vicinity. Additionally, the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, the largest state park in California, is within the project's proximity. Given the park's size, the proposed project would not be anticipated to affect service ratios such that a new or altered park would be required. The project would therefore have no impact with respect to the adverse physical impact associated with the provision of new or physically altered parks, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

14.e) Other Public Facilities: No Impact

There are no public facilities proposed within the project or the DRC as a whole. Although, the short term and predominately seasonal occupants of the project could make use of public facilities in the Borrego Springs area, it is considered unlikely that other facilities and service such as libraries would need to be expanded to serve this additional small population. The proposed project would not generate any unique demands for public services that could result in physical environmental impacts. Thus, the proposed project would have no impacts with respect to the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination after Mitigation

Not applicable

15. RECREATION

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				✔
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				✔

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the DRC. The proposed project would not include construction or expansion of a recreational facility. Recreational facilities in the vicinity include the Anza Borrego Desert State Park.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

15.a) Physically Deteriorate Existing Facilities: No Impact

The small number of faculty, research staff, and students whom would occupy the proposed project would not be likely to cause substantial physical deterioration to existing recreational facilities in the vicinity; especially, considering that the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, the primary recreational outlet in the area is the largest state park in California. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact with respect to substantial physical deterioration of parks and other recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

15.b) Construction of Recreational Facilities: No Impact

As stated above, the proposed project would not include construction of recreation facilities. During their short-term stays at the proposed project the Anza Borrego Desert State Park would be anticipated to adequately serve the recreational needs of the small number of faculty, research staff, and students whom would occupy the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact with respect to construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination after Mitigation

Not applicable

16. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?			✓	
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				✓
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				✓
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				✓
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				✓
f) Conflict with adopted policies plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				✓

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would expand the existing DRC by approximately 5,000 gsf of enclosed spaces (not including covered areas); vehicular access to the site

would be provided directly from Tilting T Drive and construction workers would be encouraged to car pool. The proposed project would provide accommodation, primarily during the winter and spring months, for up to approximately 32 persons. A majority of the research activities would be anticipated to occur on lands immediately adjacent to or within proximity to the DRC. No alterations would be made to the design of a nearby intersection or road segment and no pedestrian or bikeway improvements, or public transit stops are in place adjacent the project site along Tilting Drive. The UCI Fire Marshal would review the project plans prior to construction to ensure that adequate emergency access is provided. Although the Regents of the University of California are the only agency with local land use jurisdiction over the project, San Diego County's "Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements" for Transportation and Traffic provide a valid approach for the analysis of the project's traffic effects. Consistent with these guidelines, because the proposed project would be anticipated to generate fewer than 200 average daily trips or less than 20 peak hour trips neither a traffic impact study or congestion management analysis were completed; such a small volume of vehicular activity is considered to have a negligible or no effect on traffic patterns.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

16.a) Performance Of The Circulation System: Less Than Significant

As a majority of the research conducted at the DRC would be anticipated to occur either on site or within proximity to the project, vehicular traffic volumes generated by the project once operational would be relatively minor. Additionally, because the facility would primarily be utilized during the winter and spring, traffic generated by the project would not be anticipated to affect local roadways adjacent the property and within Borrego Springs year-round. As there are no pedestrian and bicycle paths, or mass transit stops serving Tilting T Drive the project would have no impact upon such facilities. Traffic generated during project construction would be temporary in nature and as stated above construction workers would be encouraged to carpool. As the project is expected to generate fewer than 200 average daily trips, consistent with the County's guidelines noted above, less than significant impacts related to the circulation system would occur.

16.b) Congestion Management: No Impact

As noted above, consistent with the County's transportation and traffic guidelines, because the project would be anticipated to generated fewer than 2,400 average daily or 200 peak hour trips a congestion management analysis was not prepared. Additionally, as stated in 14.a, project-generated traffic would have no adverse impacts. Consequently, the proposed project would have no impact with respect to travel demand measures or other standards related to congestion management.

16.c) Air Traffic Patterns: No Impact

As stated previously, the proposed project site is located greater than three miles from the nearest airport. The project would have no effect on this airport facility nor cause a change in air traffic patterns. Therefore no impacts with respect to air traffic patterns would occur.

16.d) Hazards Due to a Design Feature: No Impact
Upon project completion, Tilting T Drive would continue to provide vehicular access to and from the property. The project would not introduce incompatible uses, such as farm equipment to the roadway. Therefore no impacts would occur with respect to hazards due to a design feature.

16.e) Inadequate Emergency Access: No Impact
Ingress and egress to the DRC via Tilting T Drive would not be affected by the project, either during construction or its operation. Additionally, as stated above, the UCI Fire Marshal would review the proposed project to ensure that adequate emergency access is incorporated. Therefore no impacts related to emergency access would occur.

16.f) Public Transit, Bicycle, or Pedestrian Facilities: No Impact
As stated above, none of these facilities are located on Tilting T Drive. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact with respect to conflicts with alternative transportation.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination after Mitigation

Not applicable

17. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				✓
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				✓
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				✓

e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				✔
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				✔
g)	Comply with applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				✔

Relevant Elements of Project

As stated in the Project Description, the proposed project would construct additional enclosed spaces, covered areas, and a storage building at the DRC, sewage wastewater generated by the project would be provided by the existing on-site septic system, and potable water would be provided by connecting to the Borrego Water District's main line along Tilting T Drive. Solid waste generated by the project would be collected by Allied Waste Services, which provides trash collection services to Borrego Springs and also operates the landfill located at 2449 Palm Canyon Drive. The building site's existing stormwater drainage patterns would be maintained with runoff collected on site and conveyed to existing off-site storm drain facilities.

Discussion of Potential Project Impacts

17.a) RWQCB Wastewater Treatment Requirements: No Impact

As stated above, sewage wastewater generated by the proposed project would be treated by the existing septic system. Therefore the project would have no impact with respect to exceeding wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.

17.b) Construction of New Water or Wastewater Treatment Facilities: No Impact

As the proposed project would utilize an on-site septic system and not connect to a wastewater treatment provider, there would be no effect on existing wastewater treatment facilities. Additionally, as the project would be served by the existing water main located along Tilting T Drive, there would be no effect on existing water treatment facilities. Therefore, the proposed DRC project would not require construction of or expansion of existing water or wastewater treatment facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

17.c) Stormwater Drainage Facilities: No impact

As noted above, the existing stormwater drainage pattern would be maintained with stormwater collected on site and conveyed to an existing facility. Compared to the site's existing conditions, the DRC project would not be anticipated to change the imperviousness of the site such that substantially additional stormwater would be generated. As stated in Section 9, pervious surfaces would be used for the driveway and non-covered parking areas, which would reduce the amount of surface runoff from the project. As also described previously, project site improvements would include provision of BMPs to manage stormwater generated by the project; however, such improvements would occur concurrent with the

project's overall construction effort and within the boundaries of the conceptual development area depicted on Exhibit 4. Therefore, the proposed project would not necessitate the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.

17.d) Water Supplies: No Impact

As the proposed project would adequately be served by the existing Borrego Water District water main located along Tilting T Drive, there would be no impact.

17.e) Wastewater Capacity: No Impact

The project would be served by aseptic system; therefore no impact would occur with respect to wastewater treatment capacity.

17.f) Landfill Capacity: No Impact

As noted in the Borrego Springs Community Plan, adopted August 3, 2011, a component of the San Diego County General Plan, the local landfill owned and operated by Allied Waste Services currently uses 19 acres of a 40-acre site. The addition of solid waste generated by this small scale expansion project, which would not as previously mentioned be fully occupied year-round, would not be anticipated to substantially impact the capacity of the 2449 Palm Canyon Drive landfill. Additionally, the DRC would be consistent with the Policy on Sustainable Practices, described in the Project Description, which requires implementation of a comprehensive program of solid waste reduction and diversion measures, and also the US Green Building Council LEED certification program. Therefore, the project would have no impact with respect to being served by a landfill with sufficient capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs.

17.g) Solid Waste Regulations: No Impact

UC is not subject to Assembly Bill 939 or other local agency regulations pertaining to solid waste management; however, the previously described Policy on Sustainable Practices would require the project to reduce solid waste generation and disposal generally consistent with AB936 requirements. The project would not require any unique waste collection or disposal methods or facilities and would not conflict with or obstruct any federal, state or local programs to reduce solid waste generation and otherwise manage wastes; no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures

None required

Significance Determination after Mitigation

Not applicable

18. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Issues	(A) Potentially Significant Impact	(B) Less Than Significant with Project-level Mitigation Incorporated	(C) Less Than Significant Impact	(D) No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				✓
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of past, present and probable future projects)?			✓	
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			✓	

18.a) Degrade the Environment, Reduce Habitat or Wildlife Populations, Eliminate Examples of California History: No Impact

The project site is the existing DRC and as noted in Section 4 does not contain sensitive biological resources, habitat, or species, and would not restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. No significant environmental impacts of any kind have been identified in the responses to questions regarding project effects organized under the preceding 15 topics. As described in Section 5, the project would not eliminate an important example of a major period of California history or prehistory.

18.b) Cumulatively Considerable Impacts: Less Than Significant Impact

As determined by the analysis completed for this Initial Study this relatively small expansion project would not result in significant impacts with respect to the preceding 17 topics. All project level impacts have been determined to be less than significant and the project would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts.

18.d) Direct or Indirect Effects on Humans: Less Than Significant Impact

No significant impacts on human beings have been identified in this Initial Study. Short-term adverse impacts involving construction phase dust, exhaust emissions, and noise would be less than significant with the incorporation and implementation of the identified routine control measures set forth in the Project Description. There is no evidence of site contamination with hazardous wastes or substances and this development project would not emit hazardous air emissions or involve consumption, generation, transport or disposal of dangerous quantities of hazardous materials or wastes. Access by emergency vehicles would be maintained throughout the construction phases and the developed site would not constrain emergency access.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES

Biological Resources Assessment, 401 Tilting T Drive and Surrounding Area. Matthew McDonald, Environmental Scientist Colorado Desert District, California State Parks, March 2011.

"Borrego Modern," http://borregomodern.com/the_design/william_kesling.php. William Lawrence, 2011.

California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor: Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List. April, 5 2012.

CAPCOA White Paper: "CEQA & Climate Change: Evaluating and Addressing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Projects Subject to the California Environmental Quality Act," http://www.capcoa.org/rokdownloads/CEQA/CAPCOA%20White%20Paper.pdf, January 2008.

CERES: State Historical Landmarks for San Diego County, March 25, 2012.

Cultural Resources Research, Survey, and Preliminary California Register Assessment of the Desert Club Property. Sue Wade, Associate State Archaeologist, Colorado Desert District, California State Parks June 23, 2011.

Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Air Quality, County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use, March 19, 2007.

Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements Transportation and Traffic, County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use, February 19, 2010.

Interim Approach to Addressing Climate Change In CEQA Documents, County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use, May 7, 2010.

Paleontological Resources Assessment UCI Field Station Property. George T. Jefferson, Colorado Desert District, District Paleontologist Emeritus. May 19, 2011.

Report of Geotechnical Investigation and Geologic Reconnaissance. Geotechnical Exploration Inc., August 4, 2011.

Report Format and Content Requirements Transportation and Traffic, County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use, August 24, 2011.

San Diego County, East County Multiple Species Conservation Program, http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/mscp/.

San Diego County General Plan for Borrego Springs, August 3, 2011.

San Diego County General Plan, August 3, 2011.

INITIAL STUDY PREPARERS

University of California, Irvine, Office of Campus and Environmental Planning (Lead Agency)

Richard Demerjian, Director

Alex Marks, Senior Planner

Matt Deines, Associate Planner

APPENDIX A

PUBLIC REVIEW/RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Public Review/Response to Comments on Draft Initial Study
Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project

Public Review

The Draft Initial Study/ Negative Declaration (IS/ND), together with a Notice of Completion (NOC) and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration (NOI) were circulated for a public review and comment period, from August 20, 2012 through September 18, 2012. Copies of the document were sent to the State Clearinghouse, county and local government agencies, UCI faculty and staff, other members of the campus community, and additional interested groups and persons. A copy of the distribution list is provided in this section, along with copies of the notices mentioned above. Public notice of the availability of the Draft IS/ND for review and comment was posted on the property and published in the San Diego Union-Tribune on August 20, 2012.

Comments and Responses

Written comments were submitted by the public agencies identified below. These letters, followed by responses to comments in each, are presented on the pages following the Draft IS/ND distribution list.

Commenting Agency	Correspondence Date	Received at UCI
State of California Native American Heritage Commission	August 31, 2012	September 5, 2012
State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research	September 19, 2012	September 24, 2012

Notice Documentation

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

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Environmental Planning and Sustainability

750 University Tower
Irvine, CA 92697-2325
(949) 824-6316
(949) 824-1213 Fax

August 17, 2012

State of California
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
PO Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812- 3044

NOTICE OF COMPLETION –NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Title: Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project
Lead Agency: University of California, Irvine
Project Location: Borrego Springs
County: San Diego

In accordance with State CEQA guidelines and University of California Procedures for implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study for the above named project was prepared. Based on the Initial Study, it has been determined that a Negative Declaration is appropriate for this project. Transmitted herewith are 15 CD copies of the proposed Negative Declaration/Initial Study and 15 paper copies of the issue summary for this project at the University of California, Irvine.

Implementation of the proposed project would construct approximately 4,500 gross square feet of enclosed building space, an approximately 1,000 square foot storage building, and approximately 2,425 square feet of covered patio, outdoor staging, and parking at the University of California's Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center building located at 401 Tilting T Drive. Project implementation would include connection to utilities, driveway and surface parking area improvements, installation of a solar energy generation system, and HVAC, exterior lighting, and landscape improvements. The project would also include renovation and/or conversion of the building's interior spaces to other types of space.

It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment, and this letter is intended to serve as the Negative Declaration for the project. The enclosed Notice of Completion and Environmental Document Transmittal Form will serve as the Notice of Completion of the environmental document. The project's anticipated environmental effects are discussed in the enclosed Initial Study. Copies of the Initial Study and all documents referenced therein are available for review at the University of California, Irvine's Office of Environmental Planning and Sustainability.

We shall appreciate your prompt acknowledgment and processing of the Negative Declaration/Initial Study. We expect that the State review period will extend from approximately August 20, 2012 through September 19, 2012.

Sincerely,

Alex Marks, AICP
Associate Planner

Enclosures: 15 Neg. Decs/IS, 15 Issue Summaries, and one completed transmittal form

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project

Lead Agency: University of California, Irvine — Contact Person: Alex Marks

Mailing Address: 750 University Tower — Phone: 949.824.8692

City: Irvine — Zip: 92697-2325 — County: Orange

Project Location: County: San Diego — City/Nearest Community: Borrego Springs

Cross Streets: Tilting T Drive/Country Club Road — Zip Code: 92697-2325

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 33 ° 14 '26.58" N / 116 ° 23 '19.01" W Total Acres: 4

Assessor's Parcel No.: 198-141-10-00 — Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ Waterways: _____

Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: Borrego Sprgs Hgh Sch

Document Type:

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Draft EIR — NEPA: ☐ NOI — Other: ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR ☐ EA ☐ Final Document
☑ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ ☐ Draft EIS ☐ Other: _____
☐ Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ ☐ FONSI

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☑ Other: Design Approval

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☑ Educational: 7,925 square feet
☐ Recreational: _____
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☐ Power: Type _____ MW _____
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☑ Aesthetic/Visual ☐ Fiscal ☑ Recreation/Parks ☑ Vegetation
☑ Agricultural Land ☑ Flood Plain/Flooding ☑ Schools/Universities ☑ Water Quality
☑ Air Quality ☑ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☑ Septic Systems ☑ Water Supply/Groundwater
☑ Archeological/Historical ☑ Geologic/Seismic ☑ Sewer Capacity ☑ Wetland/Riparian
☑ Biological Resources ☑ Minerals ☑ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☑ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone ☑ Noise ☑ Solid Waste ☑ Land Use
☑ Drainage/Absorption ☑ Population/Housing Balance ☑ Toxic/Hazardous ☑ Cumulative Effects
☐ Economic/Jobs ☑ Public Services/Facilities ☑ Traffic/Circulation ☑ Other: Greenhouse Gas

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

Implementation of the proposed project would construct approximately 4,500 gross square feet of enclosed building space, an approximately 1,000 square foot storage building, and approximately 2,425 square feet of covered patio, outdoor staging, and parking at the University of California's Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center building located at 401 Tilting T Drive. Project implementation would include connection to utilities, driveway and surface parking area improvements, installation of a solar energy generation system, and HVAC, exterior lighting, and landscape improvements. The project would also include renovation and/or conversion of the building's interior spaces to other types of space.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

_____ Air Resources Board
_____ Boating & Waterways, Department of
_____ California Highway Patrol
_____ Caltrans District #_____
_____ Caltrans Division of Aeronautics
_____ Caltrans Planning
_____ Central Valley Flood Protection Board
_____ Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy
_____ Coastal Commission
_____ Colorado River Board
_____ Conservation, Department of
_____ Corrections, Department of
_____ Delta Protection Commission
_____ Education, Department of
_____ Energy Commission
_____ Fish & Game Region #_____
_____ Food & Agriculture, Department of
_____ Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of
_____ General Services, Department of
_____ Health Services, Department of
_____ Housing & Community Development
_____ Integrated Waste Management Board
_____ Native American Heritage Commission
_____ Office of Emergency Services
_____ Office of Historic Preservation
_____ Office of Public School Construction
_____ Parks & Recreation, Department of
_____ Pesticide Regulation, Department of
_____ Public Utilities Commission
_____ Regional WQCB # _____
_____ Resources Agency
_____ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
_____ San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
_____ San Joaquin River Conservancy
_____ Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
_____ State Lands Commission
_____ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
_____ SWRCB: Water Quality
_____ SWRCB: Water Rights
_____ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
_____ Toxic Substances Control, Department of
_____ Water Resources, Department of
_____ Other: _____
_____ Other: _____

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date August 20, 2012 Ending Date September 19, 2012

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____
Phone: _____

Applicant: University of California, Irvine
Address: 750 University Tower
City/State/Zip: Irvine, CA 92697-2325
Phone: 949.824.8692

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____ **Date:** 8/17/2012

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

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Environmental Planning and Sustainability

750 University Tower
Irvine, CA 92697-2325
(949) 824-6316
(949) 824-1213 Fax

August 17, 2012

State of California
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
PO Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Title: Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project
Lead Agency: University of California, Irvine
Project Location: Borrego Springs
County: San Diego

In accordance with State CEQA guidelines and University of California procedures for implementation of CEQA, an Initial Study for the above named project was prepared. Based on the Initial Study, it has been determined that a Negative Declaration is appropriate for this project.

Implementation of the proposed project would construct approximately 4,500 gross square feet of enclosed building space, an approximately 1,000 square foot storage building, and approximately 2,425 square feet of covered patio, outdoor staging, and parking at the University of California's Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center building located at 401 Tilting T Drive. Project implementation would include connection to utilities, driveway and surface parking area improvements, installation of a solar energy generation system, and HVAC, exterior lighting, and landscape improvements. The project would also include renovation and/or conversion of the building's interior spaces to other types of space.

A Negative Declaration has been deemed appropriate for this project and this letter is intended to serve as the Negative Declaration for this project. This proposed Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review and comment. The Initial Study and the proposed Negative Declaration may be reviewed at: *http://www.ceplanning.uci.edu/current_projects.html*, the address above, and the San Diego County Library, Borrego Springs Branch Library, 587 Palm Canyon Drive, Suite 125, Borrego Springs, CA 92004. Background material incorporated into the document is available for review at the University's Environmental Planning and Sustainability Office during normal business hours. We expect the State & public review period will extend from approximately August 20, 2012 through September 19, 2012.

The proposed Negative Declaration along with any comments will be considered by the University in conjunction with consideration of the project for approval. The Negative Declaration will become Final if adopted by the University.

Sincerely,

Alex Marks, AICP
Senior Planner

Subject: Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project
From: Richard Demerjian <rgdemerj@uci.edu>
Date: Mon, 20 Aug 2012 17:17:24 -0700
To: chancellor@uci.edu, jcmason@uci.edu, wcbrase@uci.edu, abarbour@uci.edu, dfgeocar@uci.edu, gkrekeme@uci.edu, jchemmin@uci.edu, m.michaels@uci.edu, magomez@uci.edu, mrarias@uci.edu, pabowler@uci.edu, ragrela@uci.edu, reorr@uci.edu, rgladson@uci.edu, taparham@uci.edu, djdooros@uci.edu, mark.warner@rgs.uci.edu, Violet.Nakayama@ucop.edu, svbryant@uci.edu, Alex Marks <asmarks@uci.edu>, crauser@uci.edu, president@ags.uci.edu, president@asuci.uci.edu, "Timothy J. BRADLEY" <tbradley@uci.edu>

Dear Colleagues,

This notice is to inform you that an Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) has been prepared for the Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The IS/ND analyzes the potential environmental effects of this project and is available for public review and comment through September 19, 2012.

Implementation of the proposed project would construct approximately 4,500 gross square feet of enclosed building space, an approximately 1,000 square foot storage building, and approximately 2,425
square feet of covered patio, outdoor staging, and parking at the University of California's Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center building located at 401 Tilting T Drive. Pr implementation would include connection to utilities, driveway and surface parking area improvements,
installation of a solar energy generation system, and HVAC, exterior lighting, and landscap improvements. The project would also include renovation and/or conversion of the building's interior spaces to other types of space.

Copies of the Initial Study/ Negative Declaration are available for review during normal business hours at the UC Irvine Office of Campus and Environmental Planning in Suite 750 University Tower; at Reserves in the UC Irvine Langson Library; San Diego County Library -
Borrego Springs Branch. and http://www.ceplanning.uci.edu/current_projects.html. Comments must be received by 5:00 pm on September 19, 2012 and can be e-mailed to ceplanning@uci.edu or sent to:

Alex Marks
Senior Planner
Office of Environmental Planning and Sustainability
University of California, Irvine
750 University Tower
Irvine, California 92697-2325.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (949) 824-7058.

Sincerely,

Richard Demerjian,

--
Richard Demerjian
Director
Office of Environmental Planning and Sustainability
University of California, Irvine
rgdemerj@uci.edu
Office (949) 824-7058
Mobile (949) 280-9619
Fax (949) 824-1213

Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project

Draft IS/ND 30-day Review Mailing List

State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning & Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95814

San Diego County Library
Borrego Springs Branch Library
587 Palm Canyon Dr., Suite 125
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Charles Stoll
SANDAG
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Ms. Alicia Jensen
UCOP
1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

County of San Diego
Department Of Planning And Land Use
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego, California 92123-1666

Gail Severns
District Superintendent
Anza Borrego State Park
200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Ms. Elisabeth Gunther
Office of General Counsel
UCOP
111 Franklin Street, 8th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Ecological Services
6010 Hidden Valley Rd. #101
Carlsbad, CA 92011

Conrad Kramer
Executive Director
Anza Borrego Foundation
P.O. Box 2001
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U-T San Diego

P.O. Box 120191, San Diego, CA 92112-0191

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

UC IRVINE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND
SUSTAINABILITY
750 UNIVERSITY TOWER
IRVINE, CA 92697

STATE OF CALIFORNIA } ss.
County of San Diego }

The Undersigned, declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California: That she is a resident of the County of San Diego. That she is and at all times herein mentioned was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, and that she is not a party to, nor interested in the above entitled matter; that she is Chief Clerk for the publisher of

The San Diego Union-Tribune

a newspaper of general circulation , printed and published daily in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, and which newspaper is published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character, and which newspaper at all the times herein mentioned had and still has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and which newspaper has been established, printed and published at regular intervals in the said City of San Diego, County of San Diego, for a period exceeding one year next preceding the date of publication of the notice hereinafter referred to, and which newspaper is not devoted to nor published for the interests, entertainment or instruction of a particular class, profession, trade, calling, race, or denomination, or any number of same; that the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in said newspaper in accordance with the instructions of the person(s) requesting publication, and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

Aug 20, 2012

Zach Manuel
Chief Clerk for the Publisher

8/21/12
Date

Affidavit of Publication of

Legal Advertisement
Ad # 0010659281#
ORDERED BY: ALEX MARKS

NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE STEELE BURNAND ANZA BORREGO DESERT RESEARCH CENTER PHASE II PROJECT

The University of California is considering the adoption of an Initial Study/Negative Declaration for the approval of the Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project. In accordance with the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and the University of California Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA, an Initial Study for the above-named project was prepared. Based on the Initial Study, it has been determined that a Negative Declaration is appropriate for this project. The site does not contain any known hazardous waste materials, as set forth in Government Code Section 65962.5.

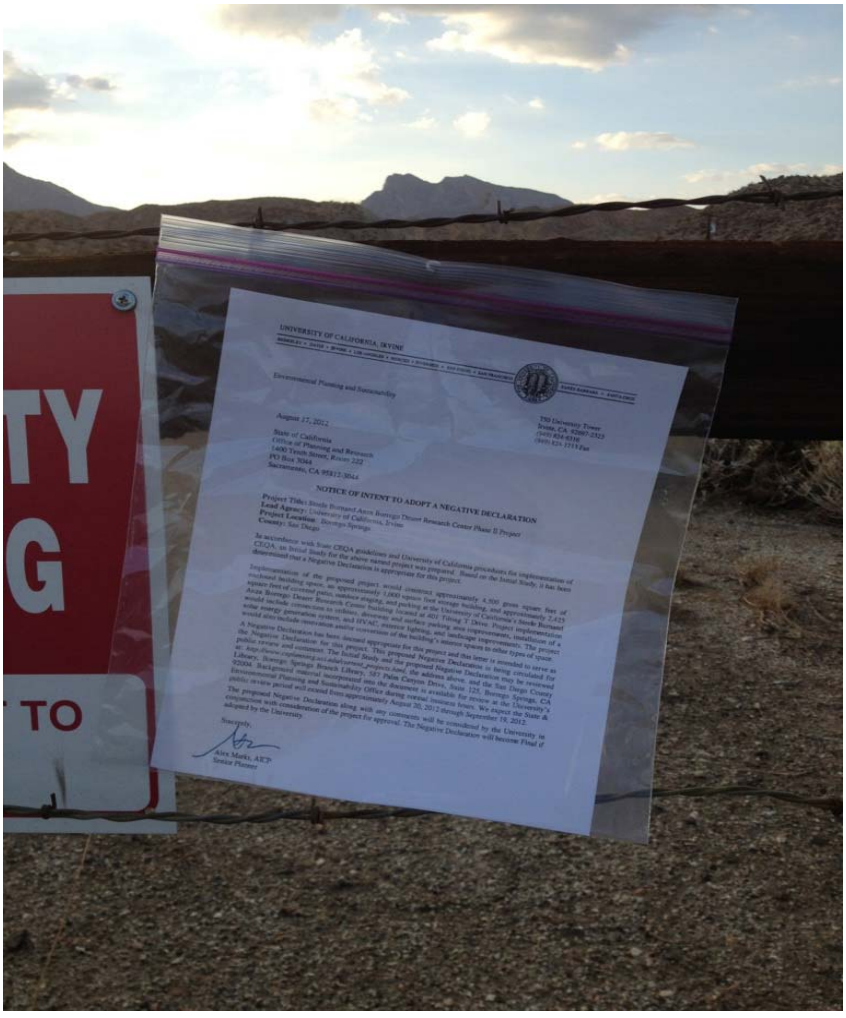
Implementation of the proposed project would construct approximately 4,500 gross square feet of enclosed building space, an approximately 1,000 square foot storage building, and approximately 2,425 square feet of covered patio, outdoor staging, and parking at the University of California's Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center building located at 301 Tilting T Drive. Project implementation would include connection to utilities, driveway and surface parking area improvements, installation of a solar energy generation system, and HVAC, exterior lighting, and landscape improvements. The project would also include renovation and/or conversion of the buildings interior spaces to other types of space. The Initial Study is available for review at: http://www.ceplanning.uci.edu/current projects.html and the following locations:

University of California, Irvine
Main Library,
Government Publications Desk
Irvine, California
92697

San Diego County Library
Borrego Springs Branch Library
587 Palm Canyon Dr., Suite 125
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Background material that has been incorporated into this document is available for review at the UCI Office of Environmental Planning and Sustainability by appointment (see address below) during regular business hours. A 30-day public review period will commence on August 20, 2012 and extend through September 19, 2012. Written comments may be submitted to: Alex Marks, AICP, Senior Planner, Office of Environmental Planning and Sustainability, University of California, Irvine, 750 University Tower, Irvine, California 92697-2325. Comments may also be submitted via email to ceplanning@uci.edu. Your response may be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 19, 2012. If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact (949) 824-8692.

On-site posting of Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration
Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project
20 August 2012



Comments and Responses

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
ds_nahc@pacbell.net

August 31Mr. Alex Marx, 2012

Mr. Alex Marks
University of California, Irvine
750 University Tower
Irvine, CA 92697-2325

Re: SCH#2012081051; CEQA Notice of Completion; Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the (University of California, Irvine) **"Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project;"** located in northeaster San Diego County, California.

Dear Mr. Marks:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) is the State of California 'Trustee Agency' for the protection and preservation of Native American cultural resources pursuant to California Public Resources Code §21070 and affirmed by the Third Appellate Court in the case of EPIC v. Johnson (1985: 170 Cal App. 3rd 604).

This letter includes state and federal statutes relating to Native American historic properties or resources of religious and cultural significance to American Indian tribes and interested Native American individuals as 'consulting parties' under both state and federal law. State law also addresses the freedom of Native American Religious Expression in Public Resources Code §5097.9.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – CA Public Resources Code 21000-21177, amendments effective 3/18/2010) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as 'a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of physical conditions within an area affected by the proposed project, including ...objects of historic or aesthetic significance." In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE), and if so, to mitigate that effect. The NAHC recommends that the lead agency request that the NAHC do a Sacred Lands File search as part of the careful planning for the proposed project.

The NAHC "Sacred Sites,' as defined by the Native American Heritage Commission and the California Legislature in California Public Resources Code §§5097.94(a) and 5097.96. Items in the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory are confidential and exempt from the Public Records Act pursuant to California Government Code §6254 (r).

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources or burial sites once a project is underway. Culturally affiliated tribes and individuals may have knowledge of the religious and cultural significance of the historic properties in the project area (e.g. APE). We strongly urge that you make contact with the list of Native American Contacts on the attached list of Native American contacts, to see if your proposed project might impact Native American cultural resources and to obtain their recommendations concerning the proposed project. Pursuant to CA Public Resources Code § 5097.95, the NAHC requests cooperation from other public agencies in order that the Native American consulting parties be provided pertinent project information. Consultation with Native American communities is also a matter of environmental justice as defined by California Government Code §65040.12(e). Pursuant to CA Public Resources Code §5097.95, the NAHC requests that pertinent project information be provided consulting tribal parties, including archaeological studies. The NAHC recommends *avoidance* as defined by CEQA Guidelines §15370(a) to pursuing a project that would damage or destroy Native American cultural resources and Section 2183.2 that requires documentation, data recovery of cultural resources.

Furthermore, the NAHC if the proposed project is under the jurisdiction of the statutes and regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (e.g. NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321-43351). Consultation with tribes and interested Native American consulting parties, on the NAHC list, should be conducted in compliance with the requirements of federal NEPA and Section 106 and 4(f) of federal NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq*), 36 CFR Part 800.3 (f) (2) & .5, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CSQ, 42 U.S.C 4371 *et seq.* and NAGPRA (25 U.S.C. 3001-3013) as appropriate. The 1992 *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* were revised so that they could be applied to all historic resource types included in the National Register of Historic Places and including cultural landscapes. Also, federal Executive Orders Nos. 11593 (preservation of cultural environment), 13175 (coordination & consultation) and 13007 (Sacred Sites) are helpful, supportive guides for Section 106 consultation. The aforementioned Secretary of the Interior's *Standards* include recommendations for all 'lead agencies' to consider the historic context of proposed projects and to "research" the cultural landscape that might include the 'area of potential effect.'

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Furthermore, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, California Government Code §27491 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for inadvertent discovery of human remains mandate the processes to be followed in the event of a discovery of human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery'.

To be effective, consultation on specific projects must be the result of an ongoing relationship between Native American tribes and lead agencies, project proponents and their contractors, in the opinion of the NAHC. Regarding tribal consultation, a relationship built around regular meetings and informal involvement with local tribes will lead to more qualitative consultation tribal input on specific projects.

Finally, when Native American cultural sites and/or Native American burial sites are prevalent within the project site, the NAHC recommends 'avoidance' of the site as referenced by CEQA Guidelines Section 15370(a).

If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Cc: State Clearinghouse

Attachment: Native American Contact List

Native American Contacts
San Diego County
August 31, 2012

Barona Group of the Capitan Grande
Edwin Romero, Chairperson
1095 Barona Road Diegueno
Lakeside , CA 92040
sue@barona-nsn.gov
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619-443-0681

Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
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(619) 445-3810
(619) 445-5337 Fax

La Posta Band of Mission Indians
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619-478-2125

Kumeyaay Cultural Historic Committee
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56 Viejas Grade Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay
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(619) 445-0385

San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
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(760) 749-3876 Fax

Campo Band of Mission Indians
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Jamul Indian Village
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(760) 782-9092 Fax

San Pasqual Band of Indians
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P.O. Box 365 Luiseno
Valley Center, CA 92082 Diegueno
(760) 749-3200
council@sanpasqualtribe.org
(760) 749-3876 Fax

Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians
Carmen Lucas
P.O. Box 775 Diegueno -
Pine Valley , CA 91962
(619) 709-4207

Ewiiaapaayp Tribal Office
Will Micklin, Executive Director
4054 Willows Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay
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wmicklin@leaningrock.net
(619) 445-6315 - voice
(619) 445-9126 - fax

Inaja Band of Mission Indians
Rebecca Osuna, Chairman
2005 S. Escondido Blvd. Diegueno
Escondido , CA 92025
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(760) 747-8568 Fax

Ewiiaapaayp Tribal Office
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(619) 443-0681 FAX

Ipai Nation of Santa Ysabel
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cjlinton73@aol.com

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ljbirdsinger@aol.com
(619) 766-4930
(619) 766-4957 - FAX

Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy
Mr. Kim Bactad, Executive Director
2 Kwaaypaay Court Diegueno/Kumeyaay
El Cajon , CA 91919
guassacl@onebox.com
(619) 445-0238 - FAX
(619) 659-1008 - Office
kimbactad@gmail.com

Inter-Tribal Cultural Resource Protection Council
Frank Brown, Coordinator
240 Brown Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay
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frankbrown6928@gmail.com
(619) 884-6437

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State of California Native American Heritage Commission

As noted in the Draft Initial Study (IS) (Pages 26-29), based upon research conducted by the Associate State Archaeologist, Colorado Desert District, California State Parks, no archaeological sites are identified within the project site and no impact would occur. As suggested in the comment letter (page 2), UCI provided each of the individuals included in the list of Native American Contacts on the Commission's list of Native American contacts with information about the project and directions for reviewing the IS and proposed Negative Declaration. As described in the IS (Page 29), if human remains are discovered during grading the contractor in accordance with section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code would be required to notify the County Coroner, and no impact would occur.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

KEN ALEX
DIRECTOR

September 19, 2012

RECEIVED

SEP 24 2012

UCI Campus & Environmental Planning

Alex Marks
University of California, Irvine
750 University Tower
Irvine, CA 92697-2325

Subject: Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project
SCH#: 2012081051

Dear Alex Marks:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on September 18, 2012, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

> "A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2012081051
Project Title Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project
Lead Agency University of California, Irvine

Type Neg Negative Declaration

Description Implementation of the proposed project would construct approximately 4,500 gsf of enclosed building space, an approximately 1,000 sf storage building, and approximately 2,425 sf of covered patio, outdoor staging, and parking at the University of CA's Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center building located at 401 Tilting T Drive. Project implementation would include connection to utilities, driveway and surface parking area improvements, installation of a solar energy generation system, and HVAC, exterior lighting, and landscape improvements. The project would also include renovation and/or conversion of the building's interior spaces to other types of space.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Alex Marks
Agency University of California, Irvine
Phone 949 824 8692 **Fax**
email
Address 750 University Tower
City Irvine **State** CA **Zip** 92697-2325

Project Location

County San Diego
City
Region
Lat / Long 33° 14' 26.58" N / 116° 23' 19.01" W
Cross Streets Tilting T Drive / Country Club Road
Parcel No. 198-141-10-00
Township **Range** **Section** **Base**

Proximity to:

Highways
Airports
Railways
Waterways
Schools Borrego Sprgs HS
Land Use

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Absorption; Flood Plain/Flooding; Forest Land/Fire Hazard; Geologic/Seismic; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Septic System; Sewer Capacity; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Cumulative Effects; Other Issues

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Caltrans, District 11; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 7; California Energy Commission; Native American Heritage Commission; Public Utilities Commission

Date Received 08/20/2012 **Start of Review** 08/20/2012 **End of Review** 09/18/2012

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
ds_nahc@pacbell.net

9.18.12 clear

August 31Mr. Alex Marx, 2012

Mr. Alex Marks
University of California, Irvine
750 University Tower
Irvine, CA 92697-2325

Re: SCH#2012081051; CEQA Notice of Completion; Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the (University of California, Irvine) **"Steele Burnand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center Phase II Project;"** located in northeaster San Diego County, California.

Dear Mr. Marks:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) is the State of California 'Trustee Agency' for the protection and preservation of Native American cultural resources pursuant to California Public Resources Code §21070 and affirmed by the Third Appellate Court in the case of EPIC v. Johnson (1985: 170 Cal App. 3rd 604).

This letter includes state and federal statutes relating to Native American historic properties or resources of religious and cultural significance to American Indian tribes and interested Native American individuals as 'consulting parties' under both state and federal law. State law also addresses the freedom of Native American Religious Expression in Public Resources Code §5097.9.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – CA Public Resources Code 21000-21177, amendments effective 3/18/2010) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as 'a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of physical conditions within an area affected by the proposed project, including ...objects of historic or aesthetic significance." In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE), and if so, to mitigate that effect. The NAHC recommends that the lead agency request that the NAHC do a Sacred Lands File search as part of the careful planning for the proposed project.

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Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Cc: State Clearinghouse

Attachment: Native American Contact List

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August 31, 2012

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Edwin Romero, Chairperson
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Lakeside , CA 92040
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Santa Ysabel, CA 92070
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State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

This correspondence confirms completion of the State Clearinghouse review process for the Draft IS/MND and provides an additional copy of the State of California Native American Heritage Commission correspondence, which the agency had already transmitted to UCI directly; therefore, no response beyond that provided above is necessary. No other state agencies submitted comments through the Clearinghouse.