

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The University of California system (UC system) consists of 10 campuses. Each campus in the UC system is required to periodically examine its academic goals, and to support those goals, formulate a land use plan in a Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). An LRDP is defined by statute (Public Resources Code [PRC] 21080.09) as a “physical development and land use plan to meet the academic and institutional objectives for a particular campus or medical center of public higher education.” As discussed in **Section 1.0, Introduction**, the Regents of the University of California (The Regents) adopted the 2009 LRDP for the UC Merced campus as a guide for physical development to accommodate enrollment growth projected through 2030 and beyond. For reasons set forth in **Section 1.0**, the University determined that an updated LRDP must be prepared to better reflect the revised campus site and changed conditions in the area. The University has prepared an updated LRDP (2020 LRDP or proposed project) to guide the physical development necessary to accommodate the projected growth of the campus through 2030. The proposed 2020 LRDP is the subject of this Subsequent EIR (SEIR), i.e., the “project” that is described in detail below and evaluated in this SEIR for its environmental impacts.

3.2 PROJECT LOCATION

As illustrated in **Figure 3.0-1, Regional Location**, the project site is the Merced campus of the University of California. The campus is located in eastern Merced County, within the sphere of influence (SOI) of the City of Merced, approximately 2 miles northeast of the City limits. The campus occupies portions of Sections 26, 27, 34, and 35, Township 6 South, Range 14 East; and Sections 3 and 2, Township 7 South, Range 14 East. State Route 99 provides regional access to the project site (see **Figure 3.0-2, Project Site and Vicinity**).

3.3 PROJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING LAND USES

The campus, located on Lake Road near its intersection with Bellevue Road, when first established consisted of approximately 815 acres. In 2017, additional land was added to the campus site such that now, the campus encompasses approximately 1,026 acres. The University also owns the adjoining approximately 6,428-acre Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve.

The campus is situated south-southeast of Lake Yosemite, which is a regulating reservoir owned and operated by the Merced Irrigation District (MID). Two irrigation canals also owned by MID, Le Grand Canal and the Fairfield Canal, convey water from the lake to agricultural areas to the south. Both canals meander through the campus, generally following the contours of the land.

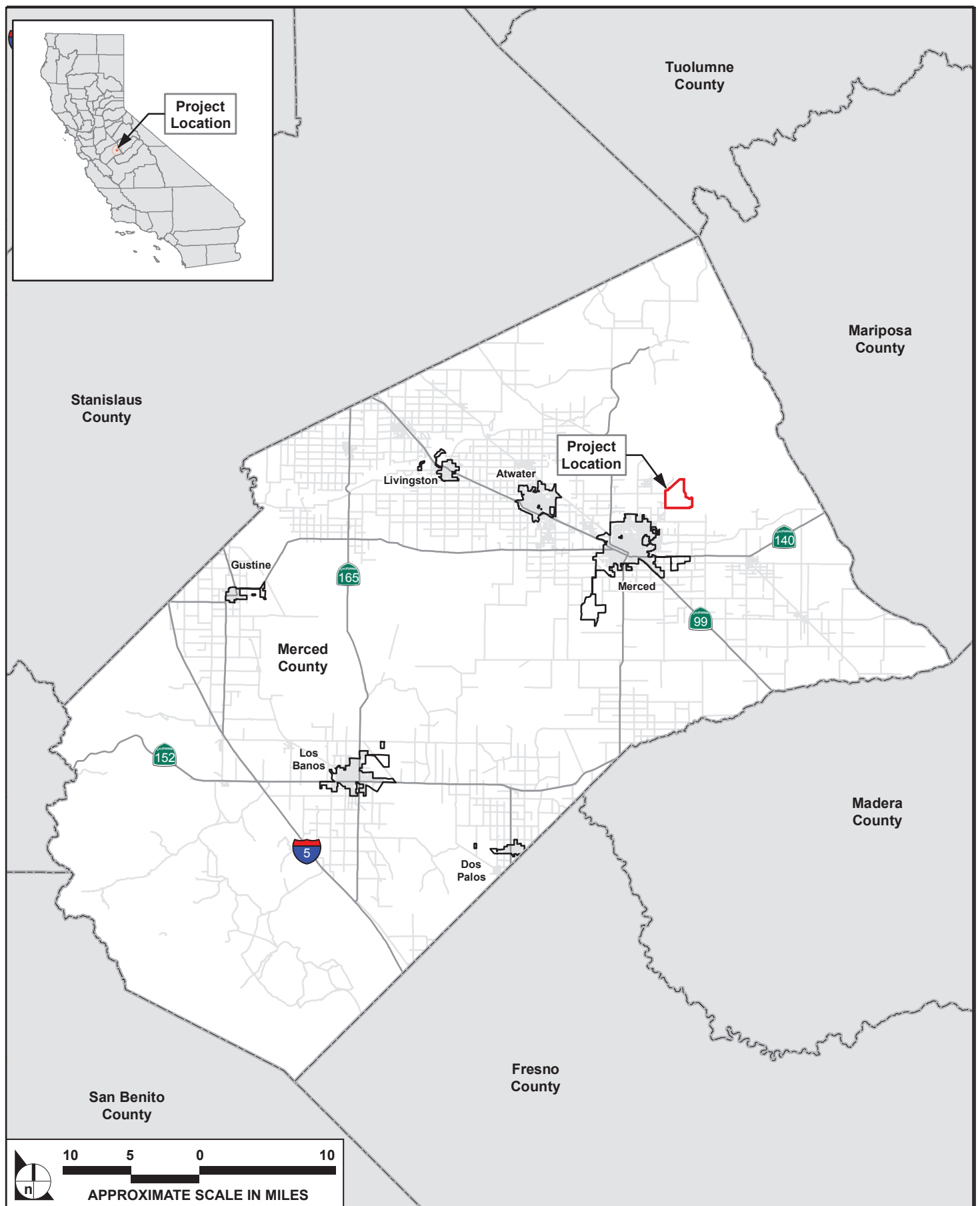
Lake Yosemite Regional Park, owned by MID and managed by Merced County under an easement, is located along the south side of the lake to the north of the campus.

The land between the regional park and the northern boundary of the campus is owned by Merced County and comprises grazing pastures located on gently rolling grasslands. County-owned lands between the campus and the regional park east of Le Grand Canal are a wetlands mitigation site for the campus and are under a conservation easement.

Grasslands used for seasonal grazing also occupy lands to the northeast and east of the campus. All of these lands are also either under a conservation easement or planned for conservation. Most of these lands are part of the Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve.

Agricultural lands lie to the south of the campus. Lands immediately south of the campus boundary that are owned by UCLC until it is dissolved and the Regents assume direct land ownership, are in agricultural use under grazing licenses. The Regents no longer has any ownership and land use authority over or the responsibility for the VST property south of the campus boundary. The majority of the land owned by VST just south of the UCLC land is currently planted in almond trees. This land has been planned for development since Merced County's adoption of the University Community Plan (UCP). The UCP is a mixed-use development with commercial and residential uses, in addition to substantial open space. The VST is currently preparing a Specific Plan in accordance with the UCP for development of UCP North, the first phase of the UCP. The first and second phases of the Specific Plan for UCP North consist of the development of 200 acres closest to Lake Road. Most of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas are not planted in trees. VST is in the process of submitting this plan and its development application to Merced County. When VST obtains land use permits and approvals, it will comply with the mitigation measures that are imposed on the development by the authorizing land use jurisdiction. Land south of the VST property is owned by Hunt Farms and is also in agricultural use, under recently planted almond orchards.

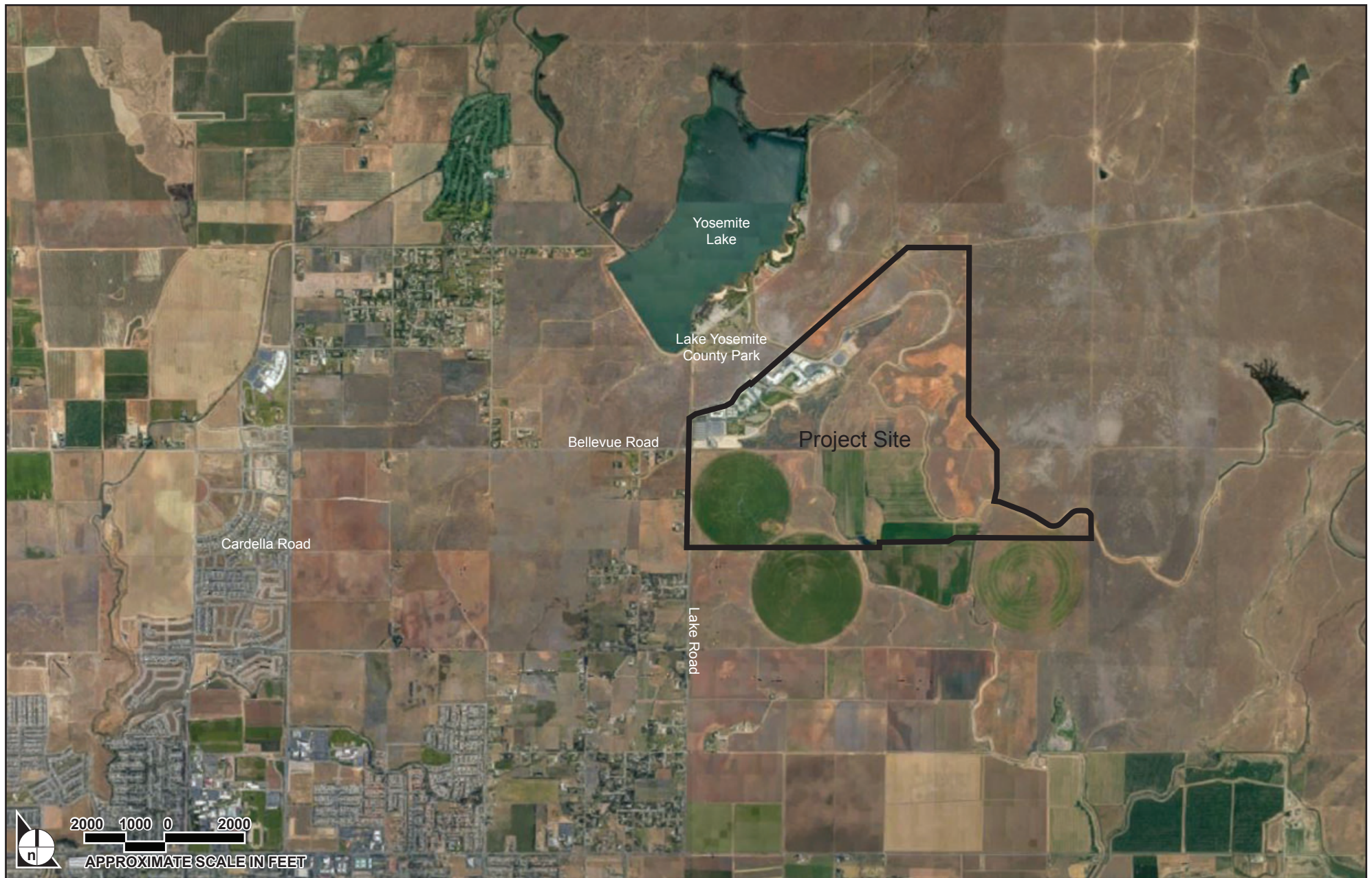
The campus was sited in its current location to take advantage of the significant nearby amenity of Lake Yosemite and to utilize the strong visual identity and environmental amenity provided by the lake. It is also sited to maximize vistas within the valley and to the Sierra Nevada Range.



SOURCE: UC Merced, 2019

FIGURE 3.0-1

Regional Location



SOURCE: Google Maps, 2018

FIGURE 3.0-2

Project Site and Vicinity

3.4 EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

3.4.1 Existing Campus Facilities

Phase 1 Development

The development of the campus commenced from the north with the first phase of the campus built on approximately 100 acres in the northern portion of the campus site. The first phase of the campus was developed with a classroom and office building, a library, an academic social sciences and management building, two science and engineering buildings, student housing consisting of residence halls and multiple unit housing clusters, a dining facility, a recreation and wellness center, two recreation fields, a logistical support/service building, and an early childhood education center. Parking is provided in permanent and temporary parking lots near the entrance to the campus and in the North Bowl area at the north end of the campus. The facilities at the campus at this time support an enrollment level of approximately 8,000 students. Existing conditions on the campus are shown on **Figure 3.0-3, Existing Conditions**.

Merced 2020 Project

The UC Merced 2020 Project, also referred to as Phase 2, comprises the second major phase of campus development, with facilities needed to support an enrollment level of approximately 10,000 students.

The 2020 Project is the largest expansion in the 14-year history of the campus. It is a phased, four-year undertaking that will ultimately result in 1.2 million gross square feet of teaching, residential, research, and student-support facilities. This project is necessary to accommodate increasing enrollment demands at the campus. The 2020 Project is scheduled to be completed in June 2020. The first 2020 Project facilities, consisting of two housing and classroom buildings, a new dining center, and a competition playing field, opened in August 2018. The first phase of the 2020 Project also included an extension of Bellevue Road east of Lake and new parking lots south of Bellevue Road that are accessible from both Bellevue and Lake Roads. The second phase of the project includes two new state-of-the-art buildings with labs, classrooms and additional study areas. The buildings are planned to open in Fall 2019. The third phase, which will open in Fall 2020, includes expanded student wellness and counseling facilities, additional student housing, a dedicated transit hub for buses, a student enrollment center, and a swimming pool.

The 2020 Project is being designed and constructed by a joint public-private partnership between the University and a single private developer. This joint venture will be responsible for the construction, operation, maintenance, and partial financing of all new facilities associated with the project over a 39-

year contract.¹ The environmental effects of the 2020 Project were evaluated in Volume 3 of the 2009 LRDP EIS/EIR, as amended.

3.4.2 Existing LRDP Land Uses Designations

Figure 3.0-4, Existing LRDP Land Use Designations shows the land use designations that currently apply to the lands that make up the original 815-acre campus. Brief descriptions of the existing land use designations under the 2009 LRDP are presented in **Table 3.0-1**.

3.4.3 Existing Road Network and Parking

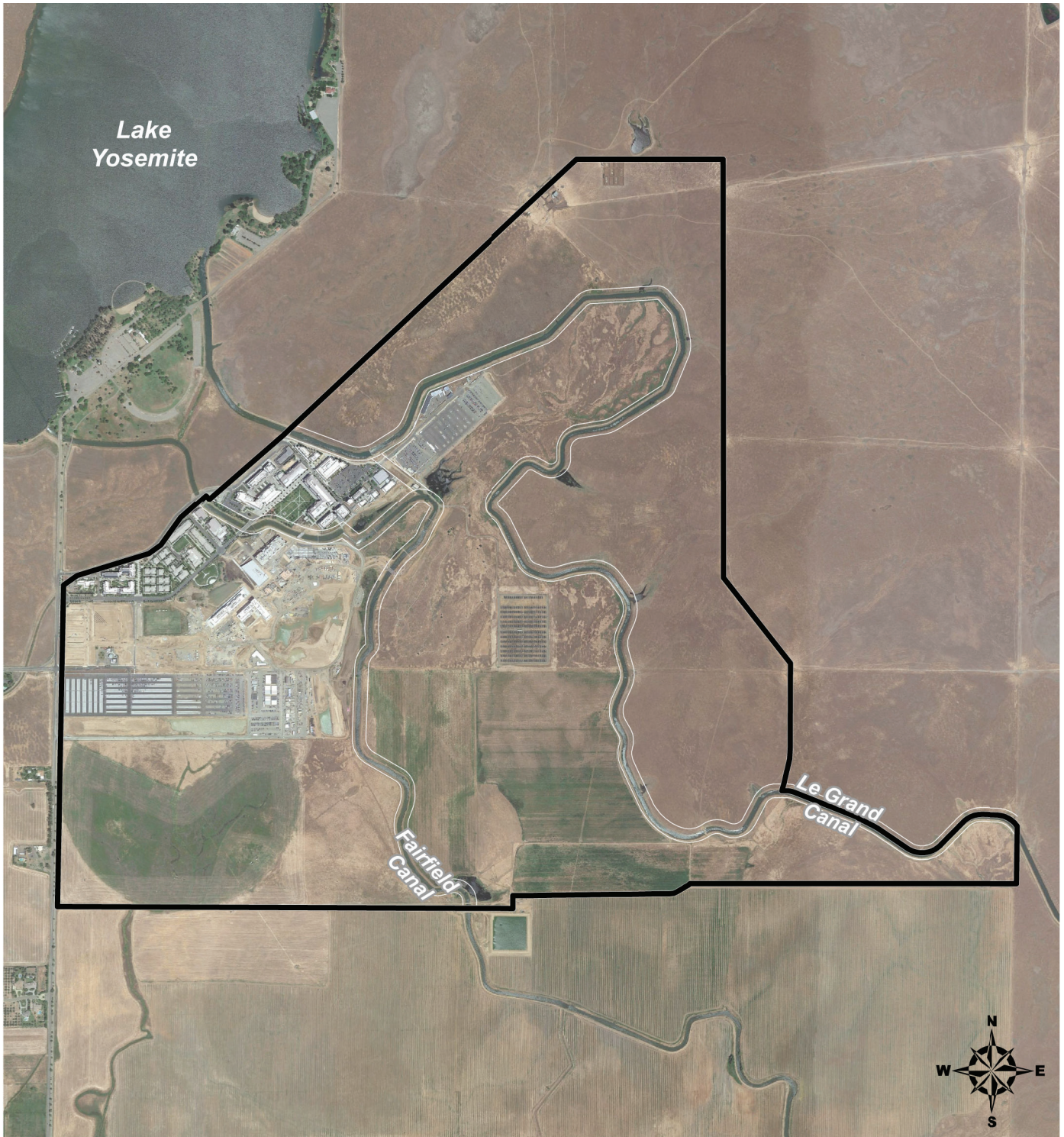
The primary access to the campus from the area's primary population center, the City of Merced, is via Lake and Bellevue Roads. The current core of the campus lies between Scholars Lane and Rancher's Road, both of which are accessed by turning east off of Lake Road. Both Scholars Lane and Rancher's Road run east a short distance before turning northeast and continuing to parallel each other, providing access to Carol Tomlinson-Keasey Quad and the campus facilities that surround it.

Campus expansion associated with the Merced 2020 Project is currently underway immediately south and southeast of the developed portions of the campus, west of the Fairfield Canal. The southwestern portion of this newly developed area will be served by three parallel east-west roads, with two north-south roads forming a grid pattern. The western most of the new north-south roads will connect with Scholars Lane providing access to the western portions of the existing campus. The easternmost north-south road will continue in a northeasterly direction, crossing Fairfield Canal, serving as part of the campus loop and providing access to the North Bowl area.

3.4.4 Existing Utilities and Infrastructure

The campus is currently served by the full range of utilities and a well-developed utility infrastructure, augmented by water, wastewater, natural gas, electricity, and some telecommunications services from outside providers.

¹ University of California, Merced. <http://www.ucmerced.edu/news/2016/uc-merced-kicks-historic-13-billion-expansion>. Accessed on December 15, 2017.

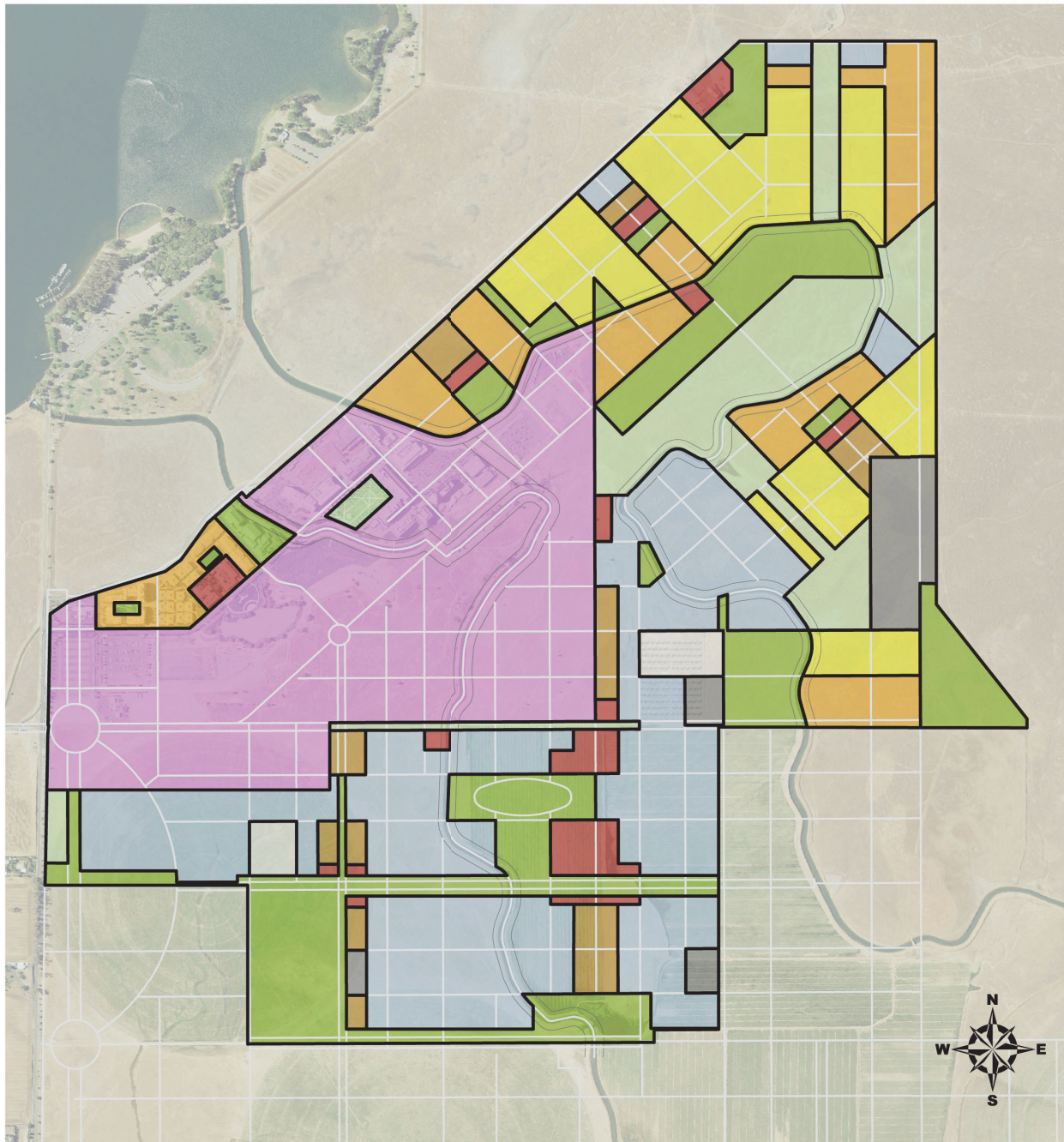


 UC Merced Campus











SOURCE: University of California Merced, 2019

FIGURE 3.0-3

Existing Conditions



LEGEND

	Campus Mixed Use	200 ac.		Low Density Residential	84 ac.
	Academic/Laboratory	179 ac.		Medium Density Residential	67 ac.
	Student Services	24 ac.		High Density Residential	26 ac.
	Campus Services	23 ac.		Athletics/Recreation	132 ac.
	Parking	10 ac.		Passive Open Space	70 ac.

SOURCE: UC Merced, 2019

FIGURE 3.0-4

Existing LRDP Land Use Designations

**Table 3.0-1
Existing Land Use Designations under the 2009 LRDP**

Land Use Category	Description
Campus Mixed Use	The Campus Mixed Use designation includes academic, research, student housing, student and support services, athletic and recreational facilities, administrative offices, service facilities, and parking. This land use designation allows residential density up to 320 beds/gross acre.
Academic Use/Laboratory	This land use designation includes all academic uses include classrooms; instructional and research laboratories; undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools and programs; ancillary support facilities such as administrative facilities, libraries, performance and cultural facilities, clinical facilities, research institutes, conference facilities, and services supporting academic operations.
Alumni/Conference Center	This land use designation includes alumni and conference centers, office space, and meeting rooms.
Student Services	This land use designation includes student unions, admissions, registrar, dining halls, bookstores, financial aid, career, health and counseling services, academic assistance and recreation/fitness centers.
Low Density Residential (36-60 beds/gross acre)	This land use designation includes residential facilities for undergraduate and graduate students, students with families, student groups, international students with families, and other university affiliates.
Medium Density Residential (48-80 beds/gross acre)	This land use designation includes residential facilities for undergraduate and graduate students, students with families, student groups, international students with families, and other university affiliates.
High Density Residential (63-320 beds/gross acre)	This land use designation includes residential facilities for undergraduate and graduate students, students with families, student groups, international students with families, and other university affiliates.
High Density Residential/Mixed Use Main Street (180-320 beds/acre)	This land use designation provides for mixed use and allows for the development of academic space, student services plus residential facilities for undergraduate and graduate students, students with families, student groups, international students with families, and other university affiliates.
Campus Services	This land use designation provides for the development of facilities required to service the campus on a daily basis. This includes facilities for personnel and equipment related to the operations, security and safety, and maintenance of University facilities; e.g., general maintenance activities, materials handling, police offices and facilities, utility plants, service yards, recycling areas, storage, etc.
Parking	The parking land use designation includes parking lots and parking structures, and also on-street and interim parking. It also includes setbacks, landscaping, paths, onsite utility services, sidewalks, and all roads associated with service facilities. Parking would be supplied at a rate of 0.62 per enrolled student. However, it was expected that a higher rate would be necessary until the campus and local transit systems mature.
Athletics/Recreation	This land use designation encompasses indoor and outdoor athletic facilities and fields. It also includes setbacks, landscaping, paths, on-site utility services, sidewalks and roads associated with facilities.
Passive Open Space	The Passive Open Space category designates larger, landscaped spaces within the campus boundaries. It also incorporates the campus storm water management systems, including lakes and detention areas, as well as the irrigation canals, which will be integrated into the campus pathway and open space systems.

Potable and Irrigation Water

Potable water is provided to the campus by the City of Merced via its distribution system. The water is primarily supplied by a 16-inch water line that was constructed within the roadway alignment of Bellevue Road. A water supply well was constructed on the campus as a secondary source of water

because the 16-inch line is not sufficient to meet fire flow requirements. This design also assures that water supply to the campus would be uninterrupted in the event that the campus well is taken off-line for any reason. An on-campus distribution system has been developed to deliver potable water to each building. To accommodate fire flow requirements, a 250,000-gallon water storage tank was constructed on the campus near the campus well.

Wastewater Collection and Conveyance

The campus currently connects to the City of Merced wastewater collection and treatment system. To serve the campus, a 27-inch sanitary sewer line was installed by the City in Bellevue Road that connects to an existing 27-inch trunk line on G Street near Merced College. The City and UC Merced have an existing Urban Services Agreement to serve up to 10,000 students. The sewer pipeline in Bellevue Road was constructed to serve a campus with 25,000 students. Therefore, capacity is anticipated to be available for expansion of the campus to 15,000 students under the 2020 LRDP. A revision to the existing Urban Service Agreement with the City will be required to serve the campus population above 10,000 students.

Stormwater

A stormwater collection and conveyance system has been installed on the campus. The stormwater conveyance system is designed to convey runoff from a 10-year, 24-hour storm and consists of a network of grassy swales, detention basins, storm drain inlets, and underground pipes.

MID has jurisdiction and control over the Fairfield and Le Grand Canals, which traverse the campus site. Discharge of stormwater to Le Grand Canal is not permitted because of the possibility that the canal may serve domestic water needs of the town of Le Grand. In 2005, MID and UC Merced executed an agreement that allows the campus to discharge stormwater into Fairfield Canal, provided stormwater is appropriately detained before discharge into the canal and that the discharge into the canal does not exceed 225 gallons per minute.

Solid Waste

Municipal solid waste generated on the campus is disposed of at the Merced County Highway 59 Landfill. The University has established target to reduce per capita municipal solid waste generation as follows:

- Reduce waste generation per capita to FY2015/16 levels by 2020
- Reduce waste generation by 25% per capita from FY2015/16 levels by 2025
- Reduce waste generation by 50% per capita from FY2015/16 levels by 2030

The University plans to achieve zero waste by 2020. Minimum compliance for zero waste is 90% diversion of municipal solid waste from landfills (UCOP 2018; UC Merced 2017).

Fire Services

The campus currently receives fire protection services jointly from the Merced County Fire Department and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). The Merced County Fire Department provides the fire stations, equipment, and tools while Cal Fire provides administrative staff, firefighting personnel, and training. The City of Merced Fire Department provides mutual aid support, upon request, to Merced County Fire Department/Cal Fire under a signed Mutual Aid Agreement. There is no automatic response contractual agreement in place between the two Fire Departments.

Police Services

The University of California has its own police force, which has been serving the campus since it opened in 2005. The campus site is also within the jurisdiction of the Merced County Sheriff's Department. The University, County, and City police forces have established cooperative working relationships and the Campus Police frequently assists in local law enforcement activities, particularly related to traffic in the vicinity of the campus.

3.5 PROJECT NEED AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project is to continue the growth of UC Merced as a premier research university, consistent with the University of California's mission of teaching, research, and service excellence. The overarching objective of the 2020 LRDP is to provide an up-to-date land use plan to guide the physical planning and development of the next phase of projected campus growth from about 10,000 to 15,000 students, as well as to establish a paradigm for the campus' character.

The following are the specific project objectives that will facilitate accomplishment of the overarching project objective:

- Provide the physical planning framework to guide development that would be needed to accommodate anticipated increases in enrollment demand for the University of California system, both short-term and long-term.
- Reduce the costs of the next phase of campus development.
- Plan for a compact, pedestrian-oriented campus that reduces the need for new infrastructure.
- Plan and develop the campus to facilitate faculty-student interaction, ease and enjoyment of use of academic facilities, and an environment conducive to learning.

- Offer attractive and centrally located on-campus housing, consistent with UC-wide student housing policies.
- Provide opportunities for on-campus academic field research.
- Provide sufficient athletic facilities to offer high-quality NCAA, recreational, and club athletic programs commensurate with other premier universities.
- To the extent practicable, plan and develop the campus with sustainable design by incorporating energy efficiency, water conservation, protection of biological resources, waste reduction and minimization, on-site stormwater management and reduced dependence on automobiles.
- Promote community integration and reflect the landscape, history, resources, and diverse cultures of the San Joaquin Valley in terms of physical development.

3.6 PROPOSED 2020 LRDP

The proposed 2020 LRDP substantially revises the 2009 LRDP with the objective of accommodating projected increases in programs and providing appropriate space and infrastructure for existing and new initiatives on the campus, while allowing for more flexibility in the manner in which facilities are added to the campus to serve the projected enrollment growth. The salient features of the 2020 LRDP are described below.

3.6.1 Campus Population Projections

UC Merced opened in 2005 with 865 students, 67 faculty, and about 450 staff. As of Fall 2017, the campus's student population was about 7,967 students (headcount)² and the campus had approximately 390 faculty and 1,142 staff.

Although the 2020 Project would provide adequate facilities for about 10,000 students, the campus is projected to average approximately 600 additional students (headcount) per year between 2017 and 2020, and by Fall 2020–21, the campus is expected to reach approximately 9,700 students.³ **Table 3.0-2** presents the projected increase in enrollment (headcount) and employment at the campus through 2030. All

² Enrollment at UC campuses is calculated using two metrics. The first metric is headcount which is the actual number of students enrolled at the campus in a given semester or quarter and includes all students that are enrolled whether they are a full-time or a part-time student. The second metric is full-time equivalent (FTE). For this metric, all part-time students are converted into full-time equivalent students using a formula and that number is added to the number of full-time students enrolled at the campus, to get a total FTE count. For most UC campuses including UC Merced, because the majority of the students are full-time students, the headcount is only slightly higher than the FTE number. All analysis in this SEIR is based on headcount.

³ At the time that the analysis in this SEIR was commenced, UC Merced was projecting an enrollment level of 9,700 students by 2020. However, based on Fall 2019 enrollment, the Campus is now expected to have an enrollment of 9,400 students in 2020. This does not affect the 2030 enrollment projection which UC Merced still projects will be 15,000 students. That number is used in the SEIR for all impact analysis.

numbers reported in the table are in headcount and are current projections. Actual enrollment levels could differ from these numbers depending on demographics and the state of the economy, among other factors. However, these are reasonable estimates and show the manner in which campus population is expected to grow. As noted in **Section 1.0, Introduction**, the 2020 LRDP is a plan to guide campus development and not an implementation plan. Therefore, its approval does not constitute a commitment by the University to enrollment growth or a certain amount of development.

Table 3.0-2
Existing and Projected On-Campus Daily Population

	2017	2018	2020	2030	Projected Increase 2020-2030
Commuting Students	5,152	4,997	4,900	7,800	2,900
Resident Students	2,815	3,503	4,800	7,200	2,400
Subtotal	7,967	8,500	9,700	15,000	5,300
Faculty	384	415	440	786	346
Staff (on-campus)	756	800	840	1,625	785
Subtotal	1,140	1,215	1,280	2,411	1,131
Total Population	9,107	9,715	10,980	17,411	6,431

Source: UC Merced Space Planning and Analysis 2019

UC Merced also owns and leases space in the City of Merced to house several administrative functions. Although the three off-campus facilities are not included in the 2020 LRDP, the employees located in these facilities are included in the analysis of cumulative impacts in this SEIR. UC Merced projects that there will be approximately 300 employees at the Downtown Center in 2030. UC Merced also owns an undeveloped property in Bellevue Ranch West that is designated for multi-family residential development. At this time, UC Merced has no plans to develop that site with housing; as such that site is not included in the cumulative impact analysis.

3.6.2 Projected Building Space and Parking

Table 3.0-3, LRDP Building Space and Parking Projections, summarizes the existing and projected building space on the campus under full 2020 LRDP buildout conditions. UC Merced has developed an estimate of the amount of new building spaces by space type that would be required to accommodate the projected growth on the campus under the 2020 LRDP. As the table shows, approximately 1.83 million gross square feet (gsf) of building space would be required. Total building space on the campus, excluding parking structures, would increase from approximately 2.5 million gsf in 2020 when the UC Merced 2020 Project would be completed to approximately 4.3 million gsf upon full implementation of the 2020 LRDP, anticipated in 2030.

Table 3.0-3
2020 LRDP Building Space and Parking Projections (gsf)

Category	Existing	Building Space added by 2020 Project	Total 2020 ^a	Building Space under the 2020 LRDP ^b	Total Building Space 2030
Academic Space	695,143	574,445	1,269,600	639,100	1,908,700
Housing	434,515	413,683	848,200	379,500	1,227,700
Student Life and Athletics	82,455	164,571	247,000	357,500	604,500
Campus Operations	61,325	32,911	94,200	453,800	548,000
Total	1,273,438	1,185,610	2,459,000	1,829,900	4,288,900
Parking					
Parking Spaces	2,776	1,753 ^c	4,529	1,680	6,209

Source: UC Merced Space Planning and Analysis 2019

Notes:

^a All 2020 space numbers have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 square feet.

^b All building space estimates for the 2020 LRDP include a 10 percent contingency.

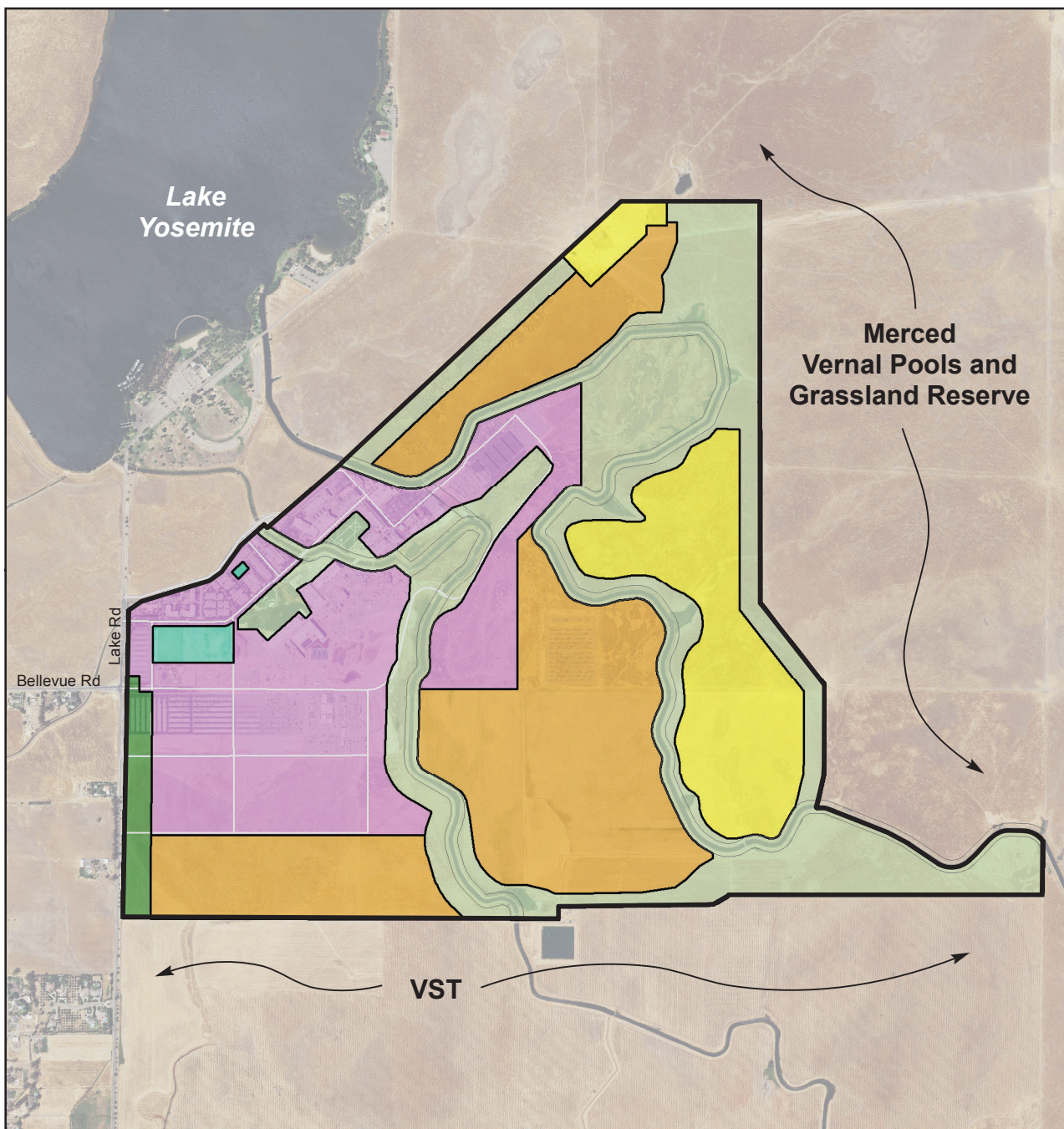
^c The number of parking spaces reported under the 2020 Project represent the net increase in parking; the project displaced existing parking which it will replace as well as additional spaces for a net increase of 1,753 spaces, such that by 2020, there will be a total of 4,529 parking spaces on the campus.

3.6.3 2020 Land Use Map and Designations







The proposed 2020 LRDP sets forth a revised land use map to inform the pattern of development on the campus. **Figure 3.0-5, Proposed 2020 LRDP Land Use Designations**, shows the proposed land use designations under the 2020 LRDP. This land use map replaces the prior 2009 LRDP land use map in full and establishes new land use designations. **Table 3.0-4, Proposed Land Use Designations and Acreages** below presents a summary of campus land use designations and acres of land under each designation per the proposed 2020 LRDP land use map.

Table 3.0-4
Proposed Land Use Designations and Acreages

Land Use Category	Acres
Campus Mixed Use (CMU)	274
Campus Building Reserve and Support Land (CBRSL)	306
Research Open Space (ROS)	135
Active Open Space (AOS)	9
Passive Open Space (POS)	283
Campus Parkway Open Space (CPOS)	19
Total	1,026



Land Use

	Campus Mixed Use (CMU)	274 ac
	Campus Building Reserve & Support Land (CBRSL)	306 ac
	Research Open Space (ROS)	135 ac
	Active Open Space (AOS)	9 ac
	Passive Open Space (POS)	283 ac
	Campus Parkway Open Space (CPOS)	19 ac
<hr/>		
Total Area		1,026 ac

SOURCE: UC Merced, 2019

FIGURE 3.0-5

Proposed 2020 LRDP Land Use Designations

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Campus Mixed Use (CMU)

The Campus Mixed Use (CMU) designation includes areas of the campus that are either currently developed with campus land uses or would be developed under the 2020 Project and in the future under the proposed 2020 LRDP. The allowed uses include academic, instructional and research laboratories, library and learning facilities, research archive facilities, student housing including both undergraduate and graduate students, student support services, university affiliated dining and retail, athletic and recreational facilities, administrative, childcare, service facilities, warehouse/storage facilities, and parking facilities. Ancillary support facilities include administrative facilities, performance and cultural facilities, clinical facilities, research institutes, conference facilities, services supporting academic operations, and alumni and conference centers.

Campus Building Reserve and Support Land (CBRSL)

The Campus Building Reserve and Support Land (CBRSL) designation includes areas of the campus that will likely be developed at some point in the future but have not at this time been designated for specific uses. Potential future uses could include academic, research, student housing, student and support services, athletic and recreation, parking, and similar uses as identified for the areas designated CMU.

The CBRSL land use designation allows for the development of support services, small solar and other alternate energy projects, and small structures less than 10,000 square feet. This includes facilities for personnel and equipment related to the operation, safety, and maintenance of campus facilities, general maintenance activities, materials handling, utility plants, service yards, recycling areas, and storage. Cattle grazing would continue to be allowed on lands designated CBRSL.

Research Open Space (ROS)

The Research Open Space (ROS) designation includes areas of the campus that would be used for field research and experimentation. This land use designation is assigned to lands that are not planned for development at any point in the future. It is envisioned that these lands would be maintained in their existing state except as needed for maintenance, teaching, and research. Development in this area will be limited to education or research projects that include the development of small-scale facilities less than 10,000 square feet of building space, such as a field station facility, including overnight lodging to support critical research, education, and outreach programs. The land use designation also allows the construction of utilities, parking, paths and trails, and roads. Cattle grazing would also be allowed on lands designated ROS.

Active Open Space (AOS)

The Active Open Space (AOS) designation encompasses indoor and outdoor athletic facilities and fields. The designation also includes setbacks, landscaping, paths, on-site utility services, sidewalks and roads associated with the facilities.

Passive Open Space (POS)

The Passive Open Space (POS) designation applies to larger, landscaped or natural spaces within the campus boundaries. It also includes the campus storm water management systems, including lakes and detention areas, as well as the irrigation canals, which may be integrated into the campus pathway and open space systems. **Figure 3.0-6, Campus Open Space**, shows the extensive open space areas on the campus. Cattle grazing would also be allowed on lands designated POS.

Campus Parkway Open Space (CPOS)

The Campus Parkway Open Space (CPOS) designation applies to areas that are on or adjacent to Lake Road, one of the primary existing thoroughfares into the campus from the City of Merced. The Circulation Plan details future roads that could be built to serve the area as the campus expands. This designation would allow the placement of landscaping, utilities, parking, sidewalks, paths, and roads.

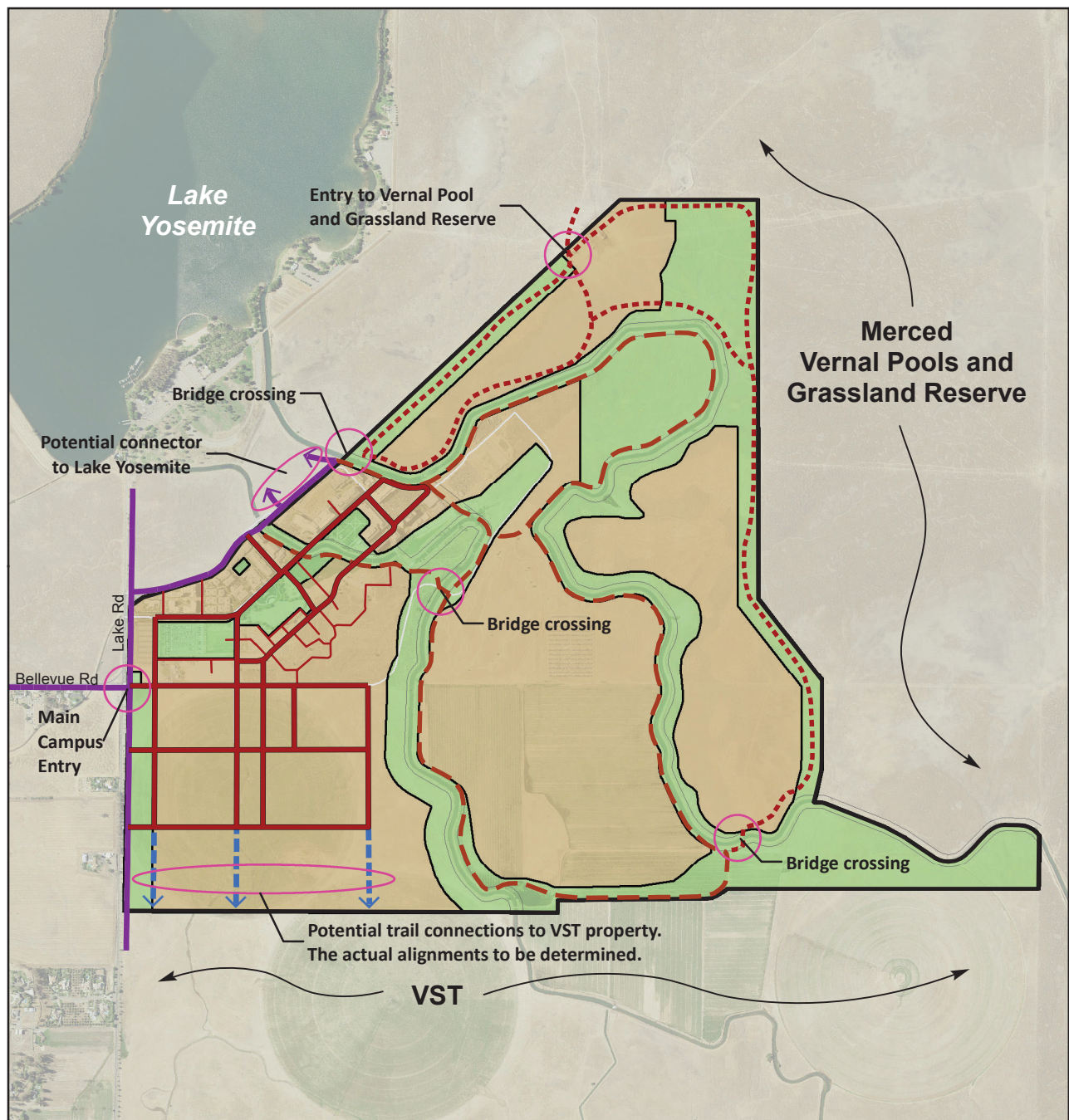
3.6.4 Access and Circulation

The Horizon Year 2030 Circulation Plan is shown in **Figure 3.0-7, Horizon Year 2030 Circulation Plan**. In addition to the main entrance to the campus via the Bellevue extension, two additional roadways off of Lake Road, south of the Bellevue/Lake Road intersection, will need to be established as part of the 2030 circulation network. The existing Scholar's Lane and Rancher's Road entrances would also be maintained.

3.7 SUSTAINABILITY

The University adopted an updated UC Policy on Sustainable Practices⁴ in 2018, which set ambitious goals to advance environmental practices. The University is also committed to developing a long-term strategy for meeting the state's goal of a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and requires UC campuses to achieve carbon neutrality for Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 2025.

⁴ <https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/3100155/SustainablePractices>



Trails

- Campus Pathway
- Secondary Path
- - - Canal Loop Trail
- . . . Nature Trail
- Community Collector Corridor
- - -> Potential Trail Connection to the VST.
The Actual Alignment to be Determined.

Land Use

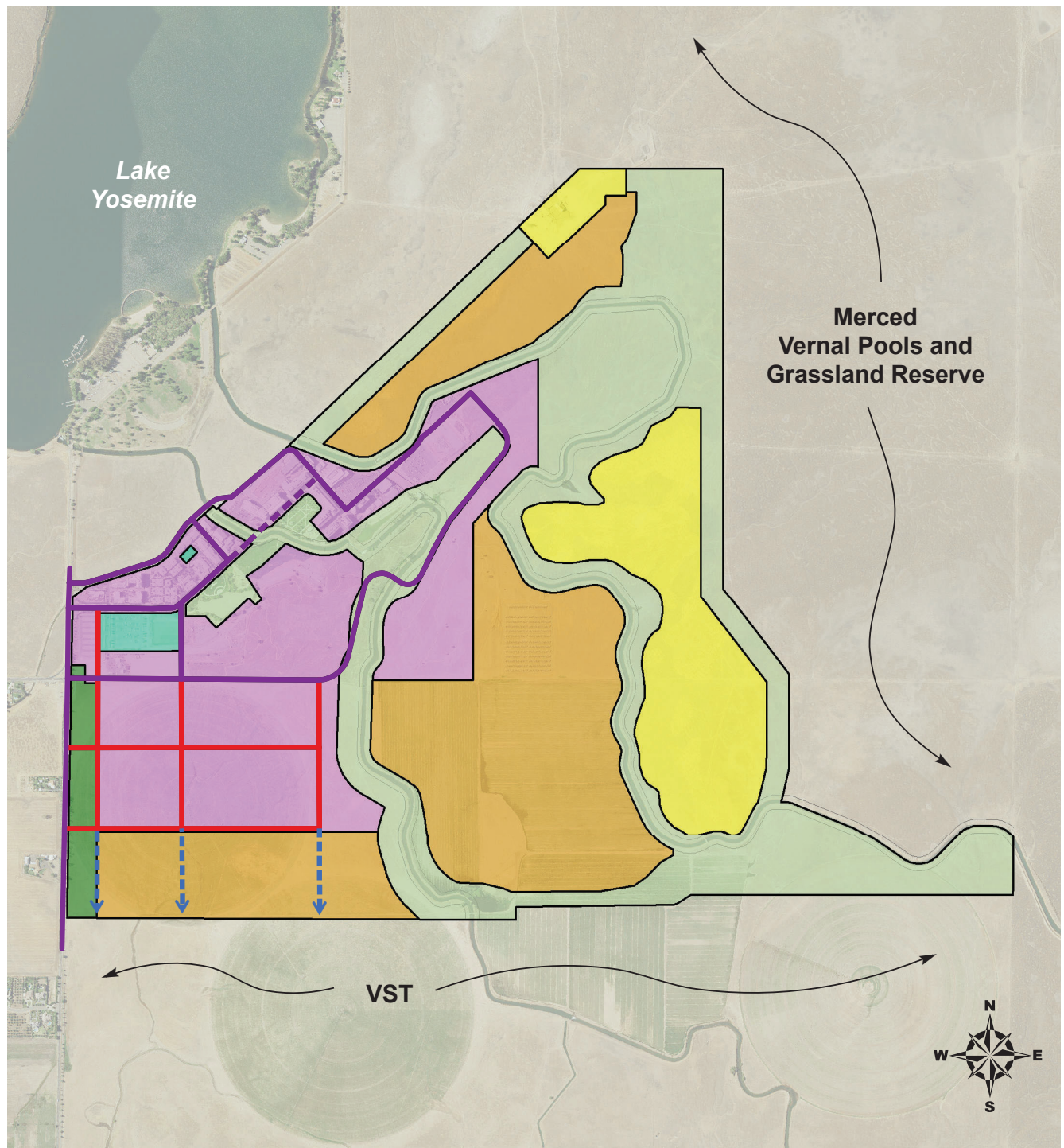
■	Open Space	311 ac.
■	Other Land Uses	715 ac.
	Total Area	1,026 ac.

UC Merced Campus

SOURCE: University of California Merced, 2019

FIGURE 3.0-6

Campus Open Space



SOURCE: University of California Merced, 2019

FIGURE 3.0-7

Horizon Year 2030 Circulation Plan

The proposed 2020 LRDP describes sustainability practices that would be employed at the campus to achieve the University's goals, which include reduction of waste, use of sustainable building materials for new construction projects, energy efficiency principles, minimization of water use, and incorporation of programs for alternate transportation to and from the campus.

3.7.1 Land Use and Site Planning

One of the primary objectives of the 2020 LRDP is to ensure a cost-effective and sustainable expansion of the UC Merced campus in order to serve the University of California's mission, particularly as it relates to the Central Valley. Land use and site planning decisions to this end have been taken to ensure that the physical footprint of the campus expands in a sustainable way, primarily by limiting the amount of land developed and focusing on vertical growth where possible. This not only allows for efficiency in land use and design, but also serves to reduce the cost of infrastructure to an expanded campus.

3.7.2 Energy

UC Merced will incorporate principles of energy efficiency and sustainability in all capital projects, renovation projects, operations, and maintenance within budgetary constraints and programmatic requirements.

3.7.3 Water

In order to minimize its use of water to the extent practicable, UC Merced will implement measures such as water-efficient landscaping and drip or other efficient irrigation systems; use of water-efficient fixtures in new construction and retrofitting of existing buildings; capture rainwater and stormwater for use in irrigation; and exploring opportunities for the use of recycled water in appropriate applications on campus. Sustainable water systems would be designed to promote surface water usage to minimize groundwater use and depletion.

3.7.4 Waste

UC Merced will continue to implement its Integrated Waste Management Plan, including waste reduction and recycling elements. Additionally, the design, development, and technologies used for campus infrastructure place a premium on simple, elegant solutions that minimize waste.

3.7.5 Open Space and Landscape

UC Merced will support bio-diversity and habitat conservation through the use of native plant materials wherever possible. In addition, UC Merced will utilize drought-tolerant and low-water-use plant materials suited to the particular climate and water regime of the Central Valley region.

3.7.6 Materials

Building materials will be selected to reduce embodied energy, maximize building lifespan, and be recyclable or reusable. Material use overall will be minimized, whether in buildings or in other site operations (e.g., paper) and recycled. Materials will be locally sourced and from renewable sources to the degree feasible, including re-use of materials from structures proposed for demolition.

3.7.7 Transportation and Circulation

UC Merced will continue to incorporate alternate means of transportation to and from the campus with a particular focus on the commute habits of faculty, staff, and students. UC Merced will:

- support improved transportation options such as working with local transportation agencies/providers to improve bus service to and near the campus;
- identify potential improvements to the campus-operated transit service;
- implement appropriate alternate mode use incentives such as discounted transit passes, carpool matching services, preferential parking for carpools, vanpools and low emissions vehicles, and flexible car share programs for the campus;
- implement parking management policies, such as not issuing parking permits to freshmen students living on campus to discourage use of automobiles, and pricing parking to encourage use of alternate modes; and
- encourage students in particular to live in close proximity of the campus to reduce commuting by automobile.

3.8 REQUIRED APPROVALS

As a public agency principally responsible for approving or carrying out the proposed 2020 LRDP, the University is the Lead Agency under CEQA and is responsible for reviewing the adequacy of the environmental document and certifying it and approving the proposed 2020 LRDP. Necessary project actions and approvals are anticipated to include, but are not limited to, consideration of the following by the Regents (anticipated in January 2020):

- Certification of the 2020 LRDP SEIR; and
- Approval of the UC Merced 2020 LRDP.

The revised area of the campus, which would be developed in the future under the proposed 2020 LRDP, is covered by the permits and approvals that the University obtained for the Campus and University Community North from federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). Furthermore, the proposed 2020 LRDP is a plan to guide future development and growth on the campus and is not a specific development project. As such, no other permits and approvals are required for the adoption of the 2020 LRDP. Projects implemented under the 2020 LRDP will be subject to future environmental review and approval, including permits as needed.

3.9 REFERENCES

University of California (UC) Regents, *Sustainable Practices Policy*, Effective September 6, 2016. Available online at <http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/3100155/>, accessed October 18, 2018.

University of California, Merced. 2017. Zero Waste Business Plan.

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