

Notice of Determination

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

From: University of California, Berkeley
Physical & Environmental Planning
200 A&E Building
Berkeley, CA 94720

**Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination
in Compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.**

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019110389 and 2020040078
Project Title: Gauss Way Evacuation Support Project
Project Applicant: University of California, Berkeley
Project Location: University of California, Berkeley, Hill Campus
County: Alameda

Project Description: UC Berkeley proposes to commence the Gauss Way Evacuation Support Project (Project) in late fall/winter 2023-2024, as part of on-going fuel management activities UC Berkeley implements in the Hill Campus, consistent with the fuel management activities evaluated in the Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan Environmental Impact Report (SCH # 2019110389) and the 2021 Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report (SCH # 2020040078). The Project comprises three acres in the Hill Campus and would involve fuel management activities within 100 feet of the edge of pavement depending on slope and other conditions along both sides of Gauss Way, which provides access to UC Berkeley's Space Sciences Laboratory and Mathematical Sciences Research Institute from Centennial Drive. Over a three-week period, UC Berkeley would remove all trees, regardless of species type or maturity, located along and within 100 feet adjacent to either side of portions of Gauss Way that are either unhealthy and determined by an arborist to be dead or in poor or fair condition or that are located so that in a fire they could fall across the road blocking vehicle access becoming a safety hazard. The Project will also remove understory that would burn with great intensity.

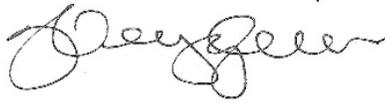
The proposed Project is a preventative measure that serves to: 1) support emergency evacuation along Gauss Way and Centennial Drive in the event of a landslide, wildfire, earthquake, or other need for evacuation; and 2) allow for safe access/egress from buildings in the event that torched trees, understory shrubs or small trees should fall blocking access.

This Notice of Determination is to advise that the University of California Lead Agency has approved the above-described project on February 13, 2023, and has made the following determinations:

1. The project would not cause any significant environmental impacts nor an increase in the severity of significant impacts previously analyzed in the Wildland Vegetative Fuel Management Plan Environmental Impact Report (WVFMP EIR) and the UC Berkeley 2021 Long Range Development Plan (2021 LRDP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
2. The WVFMP EIR (SCH #2019110389) and the 2021 LRDP EIR (SCH #2020040078) were prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Relevant mitigation measures, environmental protection measures and continuing best practices from the WVFMP EIR and the 2021 LRDP EIR were made a condition of the approval of the project; no new project-specific mitigation measures are required.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted for this project.
5. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Final WVFMP EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval is available at: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/hill-campus>. The 2021 LRDP EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval is available at: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/environmental-review>.

Dated Received for filing at OPR:



Signature:

Wendy Hillis

Title: Associate Vice Chancellor, Campus Architect

Date: February 13, 2023