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PHYSICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
A & E BUILDING, # 1382

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-1382

April 7, 2020

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

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Project Title: University of California, Berkeley Long Range Development Plan Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2

Lead Agency: The Regents of the University of California (University of California)

Project Location: University of California, Berkeley Campus and Planning Area (see Attachment A, Figure 1)

Counties: Alameda County and Contra Costa County

Notice is hereby given that the University of California, Berkeley will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Update ("LRDP Update" or "proposed project"). The University of California, acting as the Lead Agency, has determined that the proposed project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts and that an EIR is required.

Each University of California campus periodically prepares an LRDP, which provides a high-level planning framework to guide land use and capital investment in line with the campus's mission, priorities, strategic goals, and enrollment projections. The most recent LRDP for UC Berkeley forecasted development through the year 2020. The LRDP Update would replace the current LRDP and include projections of student, faculty and staff populations, bed spaces, building square footage, and potential development areas.

UC Berkeley is the Lead Agency for the proposed project and will prepare an EIR as required by Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080.09. The LRDP Update EIR will function as a Program EIR (pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15168) that can be used in the environmental review of subsequent campus development projects during implementation of the LRDP Update. In addition to analyzing the environmental effects of campus growth under the LRDP Update at a programmatic level, the EIR will also provide a project-specific analysis of the environmental effects associated with the development of two off-campus housing projects (i.e., Housing Projects #1 and #2) with up to 2,050 beds for UC Berkeley students. These two projects would likely be some of the first projects developed under the LRDP Update.

Project Description

The UC Regents adopted the previous LRDP and associated EIR on January 20, 2005. The previous LRDP

requires updating to reflect new growth projections and plans. LRDPs do not expire, but remain in effect until updated or replaced. The planning area for the LRDP Update and associated EIR is shown in Attachment A, Figure 1 and includes properties owned by the UC Regents located within the City of Berkeley, as well as areas of the Hill Campus located within the City of Oakland and a portion of land located in unincorporated Contra Costa County. Specifically, the LRDP Update Planning Area includes the Campus Park, which is bounded by the hills to the east, Hearst Avenue to the north, Oxford Street to the west, and Bancroft Way to the south; the Hill Campus, which extends east from the Campus Park; campus environs north of the Campus Park to Ridge Road, west of the Campus Park to Shattuck Avenue, and south of the Campus Park to Dwight Way; the Clark Kerr Campus southeast of the Campus Park; and several satellite properties located within the City of Berkeley.

For the LRDP Update, the university has conducted a robust engagement process with the campus community and the public, including a combination of in-person and online outreach. In-person outreach has included individual meetings with stakeholder groups, regular meetings with project governance groups including an LRDP Community Advisory Group, public town halls, briefings to City officials, and informal drop-in sessions. Online outreach has included an LRDP Update website providing relevant news, project documents, and forms to provide feedback; and an online survey to provide feedback about the campus, which ran from April through October 2019. An engagement process document has also been posted to the LRDP Update website, comprising engagement principles, potential engagement tools, project governance structure, and contact information. To date, the engagement process comprises more than 200 actual events/meetings, and the university will continue to engage stakeholders and the public at key LRDP Update milestones.

The purpose of an LRDP is to provide adequate planning capacity for potential campus population growth and physical infrastructure that may be needed to support future population levels. The LRDP does not mandate on-going growth or the provision of new facilities. Varying factors affect whether campus population levels may increase, decrease, or remain unchanged and the provision of new facilities may or may not occur with the increased population. In the event that population growth does occur, the LRDP provides a guide to the land development patterns and associated physical infrastructure that could be built to support a forecasted level of enrollment and growth. The LRDP Update does not set a future population capacity for the campus and does not indicate whether a future LRDP or LRDP update will be undertaken prior to or after the forecast horizon year in the EIR. The LRDP Update EIR will use the 2018-19 academic year as a key baseline year to reflect existing environmental conditions and will use the 2036-37 academic year to forecast the potential environmental impacts of the LRDP Update.

The LRDP will enhance the physical development of the campus, and strengthen supporting systems to improve connectivity and efficiency. Preliminary objectives of the LRDP Update are included below, and will be further developed for the LRDP document:

- Provide additional campus life spaces and services to create a memorable, robust experience for campus constituents.
- Build on the Chancellor's Housing Initiative to better serve current and projected student, faculty, and staff housing needs.
- Provide modern academic and research space that accommodates the campus community and supports the university's mission.
- Upgrade and modernize infrastructure to address changing environmental trends, carbon neutrality goals, growth, and deferred maintenance.
- Plan for a more diverse, resilient campus relative to both natural systems and infrastructure, in order to mitigate power outages, climate change, and severe weather.
- Enhance the wayfinding system to make navigation more intuitive and accessible, and promote multi-modal transportation to campus.
- Plan every new project to represent the optimal investment of land and capital to meet space needs, address deferred maintenance, reduce seismic risks, and incorporate flexibility and multi-purpose spaces.

- Maintain and enhance the image and experience of the campus, and preserve the campus's historic legacy of landscape and architecture.

The LRDP Update planning assumption for the campus population is 48,200 students and 19,000 faculty and staff in the 2036-37 academic year compared to 39,300 students and 15,400 faculty and staff in the 2018-19 academic year. Population assumptions included in the LRDP Update provide a foundation for understanding the campus's long-term space needs. The LRDP Update proposes to add up to 11,700 student housing beds, 385 employee housing units, and approximately 4,000,000 gross square feet (GSF) of academic and administrative facilities. The university anticipates that approximately 3,000,000 GSF of academic, research, and support space will be needed, including a significant increase in instructional space. To enhance the campus experience, the university projects that approximately 1,000,000 GSF of campus life space will be needed, comprising social spaces, recreation and wellness space, dining, and assembly spaces. A substantial proportion of the overall development program is needed to meet the needs of the current campus population.

The draft LRDP Update land use plan supports potential growth on the Campus Park and adjacent university property, Hill Campus, Clark Kerr Campus, and satellite properties within the City of Berkeley. The draft LRDP Update land use plan, shown in Attachment A, Figure 4, identifies the following land use categories to support potential growth:

- Academic, Research, and Support (Approximately 180-200 acres)
  The LRDP Update continues to prioritize academic, research, and support uses for Campus Park locations, particularly programs that directly engage students and promote student-faculty interaction. The majority of the identified program needs in this category will be accommodated on the Campus Park. The intention of the LRDP Update is to preserve the existing proportion of open space within the Campus Park.
- Mixed Use – Other Programs (Approximately 150-175 acres)
  It is not possible to accommodate all projected future space demand on Campus Park sites. Other program needs, including housing, will need to be accommodated outside Campus Park sites. Some academic, research, and support uses that do not require proximity to the Campus Park will also be accommodated in this category. Specific program locations will be prioritized based on the need for proximity to the Campus Park.
    - Potential Housing Redevelopment (Approximately 35-55 acres)
      The draft land use plan identifies potential housing sites under consideration to achieve the university's substantial housing goals, within the mixed use category. Some of the identified potential housing sites involve redevelopment and renewal of existing housing facilities. Student housing would be prioritized for sites in closer proximity to the Campus Park. Additional student and faculty housing is under consideration for the Clark Kerr Campus in order to meet the university's housing goals, along with student life facilities to support both existing and new housing facilities. The LRDP Update does not include existing or future housing located at University Village or Richmond Field Station, which are outside of the planning area.
- Hill Campus (Approximately 800 acres)
  Limited development, focusing primarily on expansion and renewal of existing academic, research, and public-facing uses, is expected in the Hill Campus. The remaining Hill Campus area, comprising the majority of its acreage, will continue to be used for purposes of recreation and managed to reduce wildfire risks and enhance biodiversity.

Specific Projects

UC Berkeley has the lowest percentage of undergraduate and graduate student beds out of any campus in the

University of California system, and the high cost of housing in the San Francisco Bay Area limits the availability of housing options near campus. When the UC Berkeley chancellor established the goals of the university's Housing Initiative in 2017, only 23 percent of undergraduate students and 8 percent of graduate students lived in university housing.

Since there is significant need to provide more student housing at UC Berkeley, the LRDP Update EIR evaluates the physical environmental effects of the LRDP Update proposed development program that includes two specific student housing projects located off of the Campus Park. Housing Project #1 would include up to 850 beds for UC Berkeley students, with ground floor retail, and commercial office, events, and student-serving space. The site for Housing Project #1 is located west across Oxford Street from the UC Berkeley Campus Park, and is bounded by Oxford Street, University Avenue, Walnut Street, and Berkeley Way, as illustrated in Attachment A, Figure 2.

Housing Project #2 would consist of three components to be constructed on the roughly 2.8-acre site known as People's Park. It would include up to 1,200 beds for UC Berkeley students with associated amenities; permanent supportive housing with on-site services and up to 125 apartments for lower-income (non-university affiliated) individuals; and open space. The supportive housing would be included on-site in a building separate from the student housing and would be developed and managed by one or more non-profit organizations partnering with the University of California. The site for Housing Project #2 is located at the southwestern corner of the intersection of Bowditch Street and Haste Street, roughly 0.2 miles south of the UC Berkeley Campus Park, as shown in Attachment A, Figure 3.

Environmental Review

UC Berkeley has determined that PRC Section 21080.09 requires that an EIR be prepared for the proposed project. Therefore, as allowed under Section 15060 of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 Cal. Code Regs.), UC Berkeley has not prepared an Initial Study and will instead begin work directly on the EIR process. Attachment B of this Notice, *Environmental Factors Not Affected*, describes the environmental topic areas that the proposed project would have no impact on, pursuant to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, and therefore, these issues will not be addressed in the EIR.

As required, the EIR for the LRDP Update will focus on the significant effects of the proposed project and will document the reasons for concluding that other effects will be less-than-significant. Where significant or potentially significant environmental impacts are identified, the EIR will also discuss feasible mitigation measures to avoid or reduce these impacts, and a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives. The EIR for the LRDP Update will evaluate the probable environmental effects, including cumulative effects, of the proposed project, in the following environmental issue areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

Project Comment and Scoping Session

UC Berkeley requests comments and guidance on the scope and content of the EIR from interested public agencies, organizations, and individuals. With respect to the views of Responsible and Trustee Agencies as to significant environmental issues, UC Berkeley needs to know the significant environmental issues and reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures that are germane to each agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

Due to time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than the close of the 39-day Notice of Preparation (NOP) review period at 5:00 p.m. on May 15, 2020. If you submit comments on the scope of the EIR, you will automatically be added to UC Berkeley's distribution list to receive future notices and announcements about the environmental review process for this and all other capital projects. If you do not wish to submit comments on the scope of the EIR but would like to be added to the university's mailing list, you can subscribe here: https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/about-us/subscribe-our-email-list.

Responses to this NOP must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday May 15, 2020. Please e-mail or send your written response to:

Raphael Breines, Senior Planner
Physical & Environmental Planning
University of California, Berkeley
300 A&E Building, Berkeley, CA 94720-1382

Email: planning@berkeley.edu

Please include "LRDP Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR" as the subject. Public agencies providing comments are asked to include a contact person for the agency.

As a result of the expanding outbreak of COVID-19 and restrictions placed on in-person gatherings throughout the State of California, in consultation with UC Office of the President and the Office of General Counsel, UC Berkeley will host an online public session to receive public comments on the scope of the EIR, rather than an in-person event. **The online public session will be hosted on the evening of April 27, 2020, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m**. and conducted via a live video feed; there will not be an in-person session. To participate in the online public session, please submit your comments in advance but no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2020, via email to planning@berkeley.edu, with your first and last name, and write in your email that you grant permission to UC Berkeley to read your comments aloud as part of the online public session. There is a 500 word limit for all comments read aloud. While all comments received will be included in the public record, if you would like your comments read aloud, please submit a condensed version that is no more than 500 words. Depending on the volume of comments received (as is typical with all public hearings) because of time constraints we may limit each person's comments read aloud on the live video stream to no more than two minutes to make sure all comments are heard.

On April 27, 2020, starting at 6:30 p.m., via live video feed, the university will provide a brief presentation of the proposed project at the following link: https://lrdp.berkeley.edu/scoping-meeting. Immediately following, staff will read aloud public comments received to date by persons granting permission to UC Berkeley to do so. If you would like to submit a comment to be read, please email planning@berkeley.edu and include your full name. Emailed comments received by 5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2020, will be read out loud; depending on the number of emailed comments received by the cut-off time, university staff will read each letter up to 500 words. All written comments, whether emailed or send via US Mail, received within the comment period will be equally considered.

The Online Public Scoping Session details are as follows:

Monday, April 27, 2020
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: https://lrdp.berkeley.edu/scoping-meeting

To participate, access the link above. To submit comments, email them to planning@berkeley.edu. If you would like your comments read via the live video feed, submit them by 5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2020, and indicate that you grant permission for the letter to be read aloud. Comments should be no more than 500 words to allow all comments to be heard. Based on the number of comment letters received, up to two minutes of each comment will be read aloud.

If you need to review a paper copy of this notice or have questions regarding this project and associated environmental review, please contact Raphael Breines, Senior Planner, Physical & Environmental Planning, UC Berkeley, at 510-642-6796 or rbreines@berkeley.edu.

Sincerely,



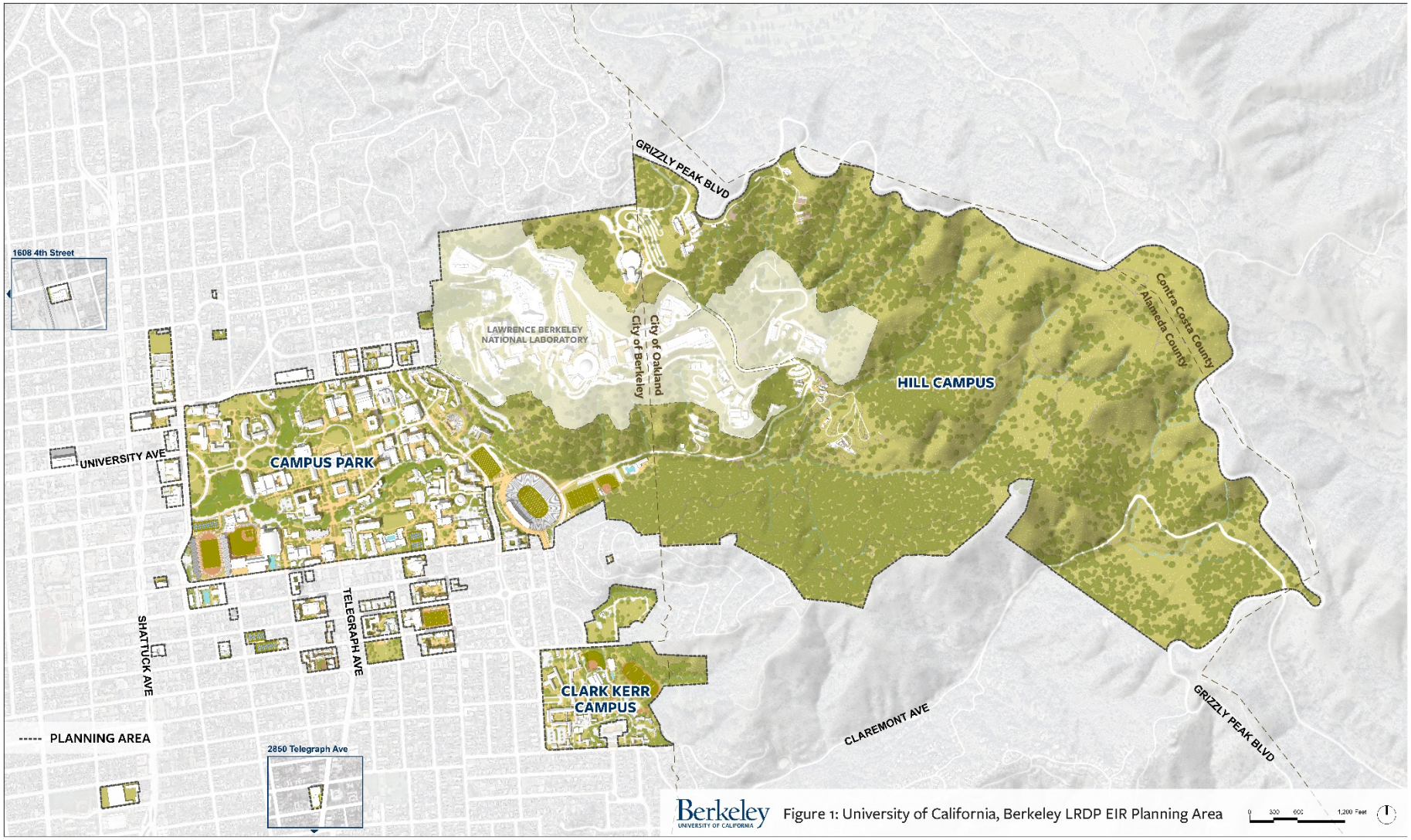
Wendy Hillis
Campus Architect, Assistant Vice Chancellor
University of California, Berkeley

Attachments:

Attachment A: Figures

Figure 1: LRDP EIR Planning Area
Figure 2: Housing Project #1 Site Location
Figure 3: Housing Project #2 Site Location
Figure 4: LRDP Draft Land Use Map

Attachment B: Environmental Factors Not Affected


GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD
1608 4th Street
LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY
City of Oakland
City of Berkeley
Contra Costa County
Alameda County
HILL CAMPUS
UNIVERSITY AVE
CAMPUS PARK
SHATTUCK AVE
TELEGRAPH AVE
CLARK KERR CAMPUS
CLAREMONT AVE
GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD
PLANNING AREA
2850 Telegraph Ave
Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Figure 1: University of California, Berkeley LRDP EIR Planning Area
0 300 600 1,200 Feet

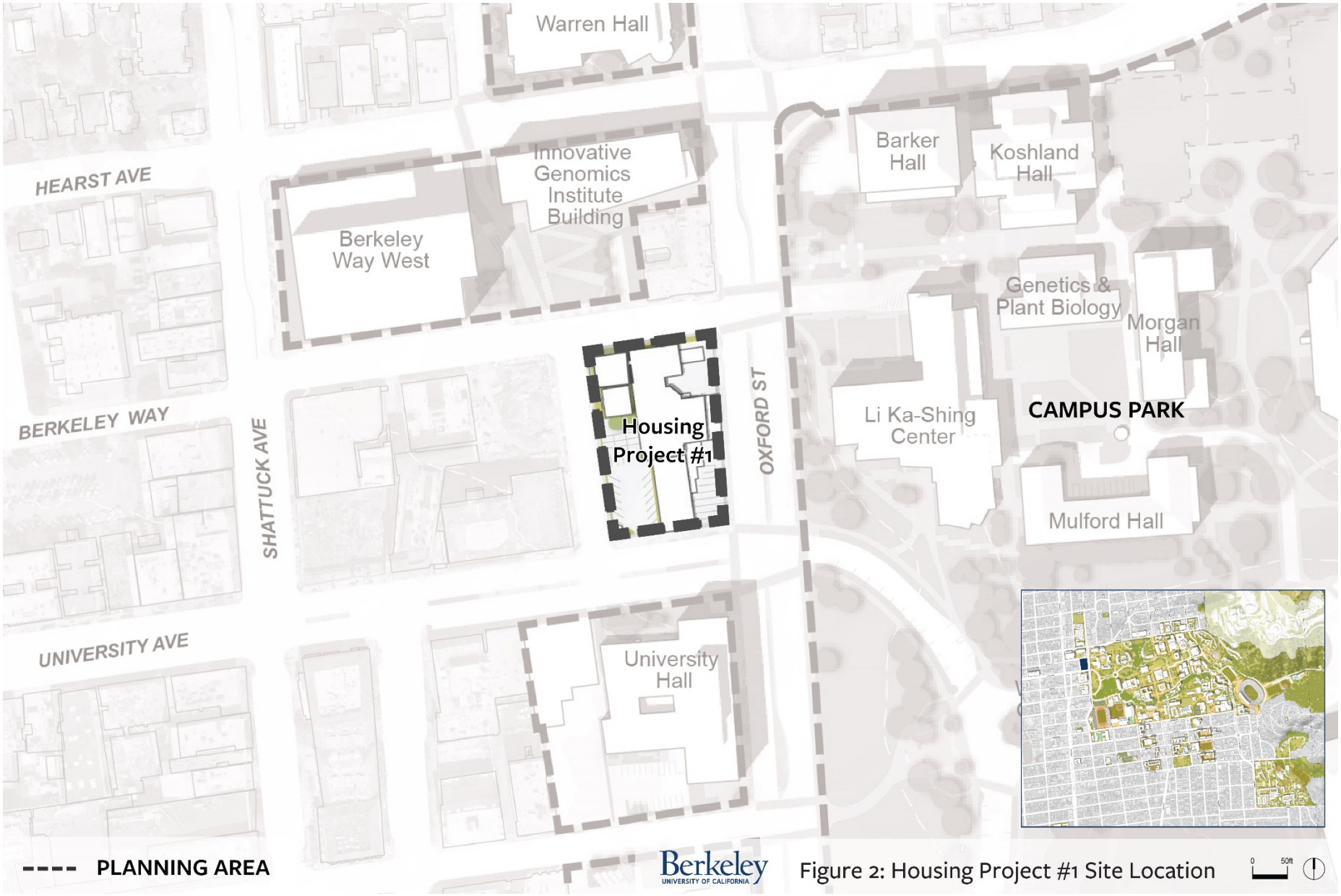


Figure 2: Housing Project #1 Site Location

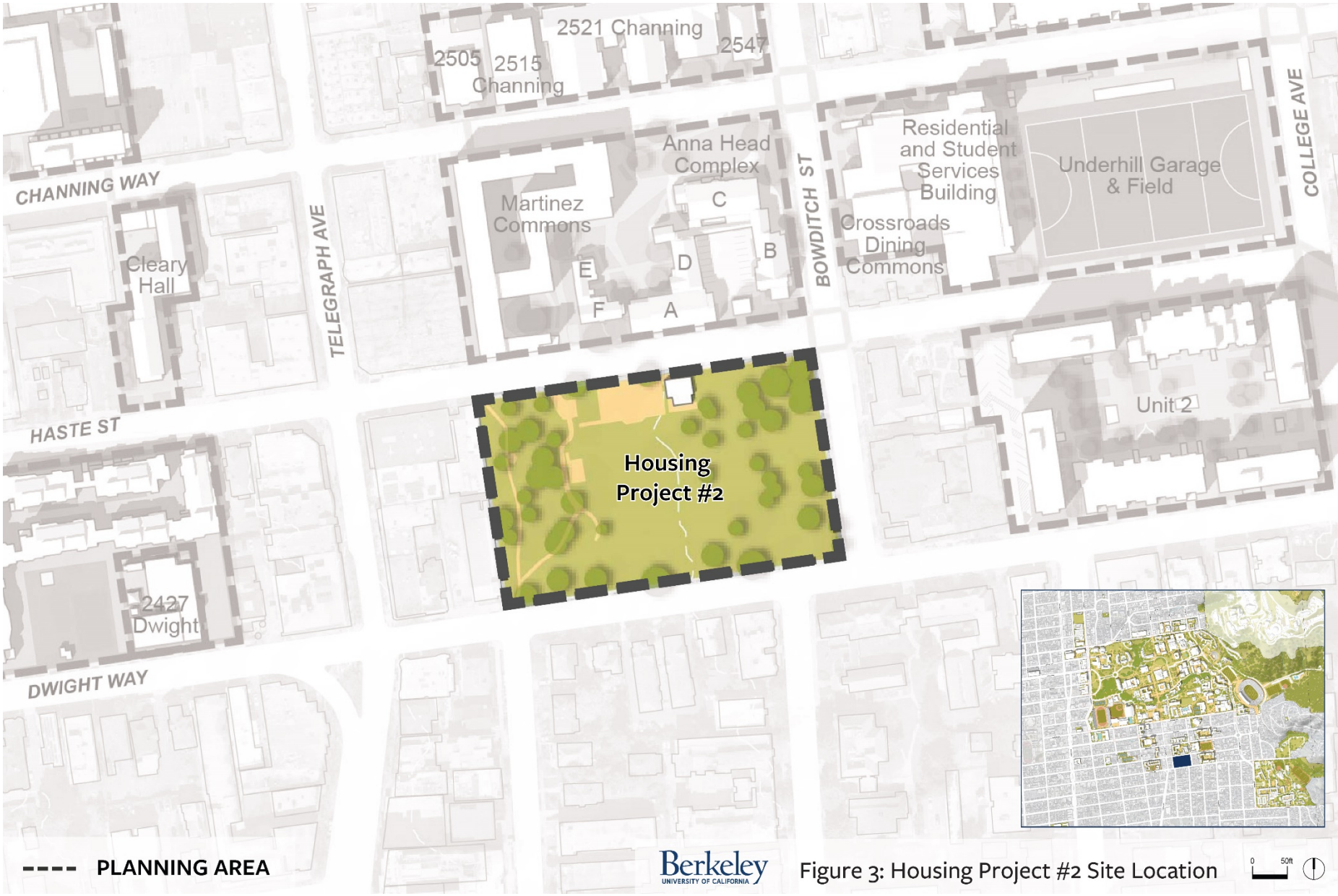
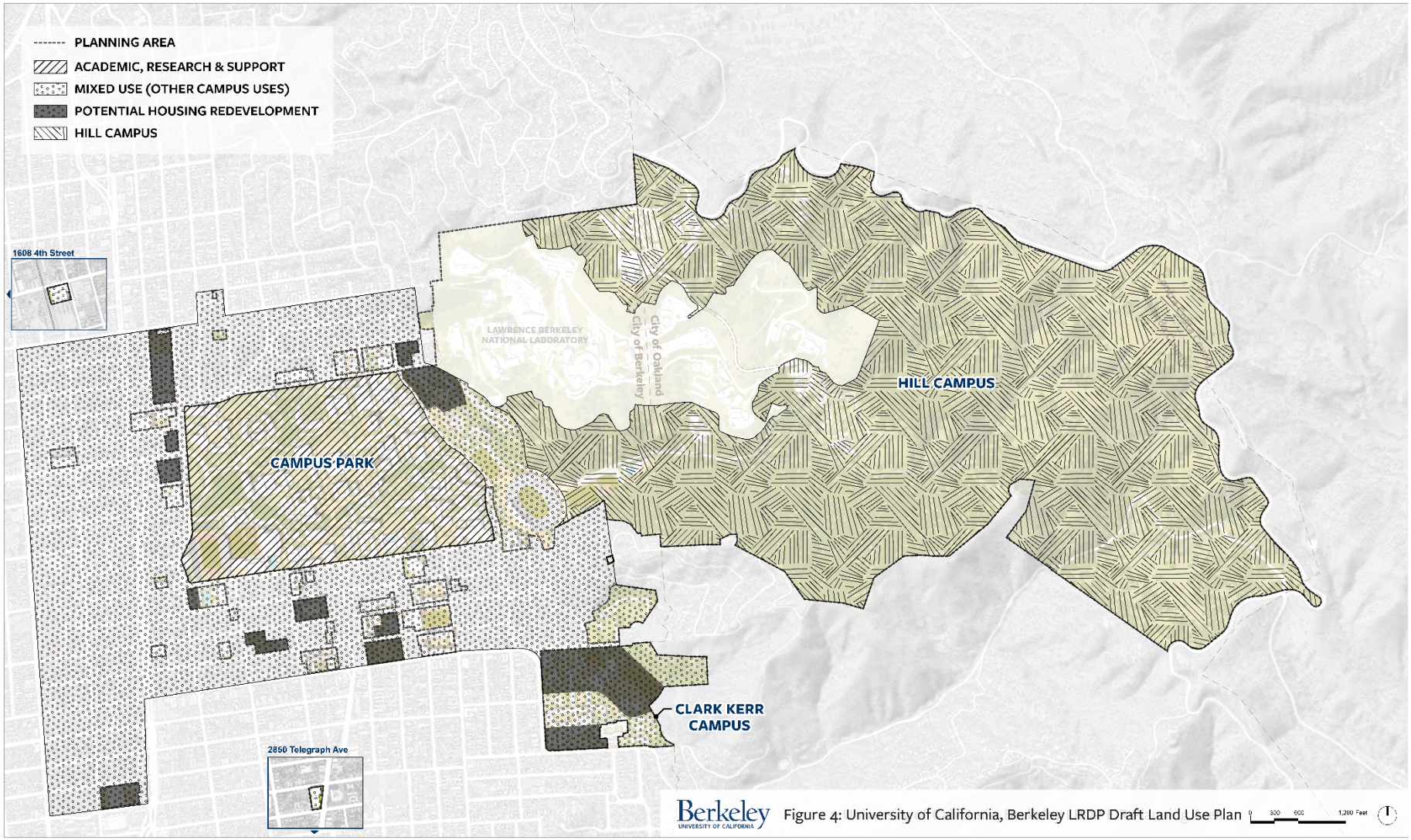


Figure 3: Housing Project #2 Site Location


PLANNING AREA
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH & SUPPORT
MIXED USE (OTHER CAMPUS USES)
POTENTIAL HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT
HILL CAMPUS
1608 4th Street
LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY
City of Oakland
City of Berkeley
HILL CAMPUS
CAMPUS PARK
CLARK KERR CAMPUS
2850 Telegraph Ave
Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Figure 4: University of California, Berkeley LRDP Draft Land Use Plan
0
300
600
1,200 Feet

ATTACHMENT B

UC Berkley Long Range Development Plan Update and Housing Projects #1 and #2 EIR: Environmental Factors Not Affected

The EIR for the LRDP Update will determine whether the implementation of the proposed project may result in environmental impacts that require mitigation measures to offset potential impacts. As briefly described below, the proposed project would have no impact on the following criteria, listed by environmental topic area, pursuant to Appendix G of the 2019 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and these issues will not be addressed in the EIR.

AESTHETICS

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	❒	❒	❒	■

The planning area is not on or within the viewshed of a State scenic highway.[1] Regional access to UC Berkeley is provided by Interstate Highways 80 and 580, and State Routes 24 and 13. None is a designated or presently eligible scenic route. Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
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 California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	❒	❒	❒	■
Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	❒	❒	❒	■
Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland (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))?	❒	❒	❒	■
Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland (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))?	❒	❒	❒	■
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?	❒	❒	❒	■

As a result of the project's location in a primarily urbanized setting, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on Agriculture and Forestry Resources. Maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and

[1] California Department of Transportation California Scenic Highways Program, Scenic Highway System Lists, List of eligible and officially designated State Scenic Highways, https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways, accessed February 28, 2020.

Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency categorize land within the planning area as Urban and Built-Up Land, and "Other Land"; the LRDP Update Planning Area does not contain farmland or grazing land.[2] In addition, the cities of Berkeley and Oakland do not contain land zoned for farmland or timberland production.[3], [4] Portions of the planning area contain land designated as Open Space, but do not contain State or national forest lands. Consequently, there would be no impacts regarding agriculture and forestry resources and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	❒	❒	❒	■

The planning area not located within any area designated for an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved conservation plan. Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	❒	❒	❒	■

The proposed project would not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
For a project 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, result in a safety hazard for people living or working in the project area?	❒	❒	❒	■

[2] California Resources Agency, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Alameda County Important Farmland 2016, and Contra Costa County Important Farmland 2016, accessed February 26, 2020.

[3] City of Oakland, 2018. Zoning and Estuary Policy Plan Maps. https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Zoning_EPP_Map_20181211.pdf, accessed February 27, 2020.

[4] City of Berkeley, 2014. Land Use Zoning Districts, https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/IT/Level_3_-_General/Zoning%20Map%2036x36%2020050120.pdf, accessed on accessed February 27, 2020.

The planning area is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of an airport.[5, 6] The nearest public airport is the Oakland International Airport roughly t10 miles south of the planning area.[7, 8] Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?	❒	❒	❒	■
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?	❒	❒	❒	■

The California Department of Conservation, Geological Survey (CGS) classifies lands into Aggregate and Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) based on guidelines adopted by the California State Mining and Geology Board, as mandated by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1974. These MRZs identify whether known or inferred significant mineral resources are present in areas. There are no areas in planning area with development potential that contain areas for mineral resources where there is adequate information indicating significant mineral deposits or the high likelihood of significant mineral deposits present.[9,10,11] Therefore, there would be no impact with regard to the loss of a valuable mineral resource and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

NOISE

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 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?	❒	❒	❒	■

As stated in Section V, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, above, the planning area is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, no impact would occur under this criterion and this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

[5] Contra Costa County Airport Land Use Commission, 2000. Contra Costa County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/851/Cover-Introduction-and-County-wide-Policies?bidId=, accessed February 27, 2020.

[6] Alameda County, 2019. California Airport Land Use Commissions (ALUC). https://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/generalplans/airportlandplans.htm, accessed February 27, 2020.

[7] AirNav, 2016. Browse Airports, United States of America, California. http://www.airnav.com/airports/us/CA, accessed February 27, 2020.

[8] Google Map data, 2020. Airports near Berkeley, California. https://www.google.com/maps/search/airport/@37.849113,-122.3818286,10.75z, accessed February 27, 2020.

[9] California Geological Survey, 2018. Aggregate Sustainability in California. https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/Documents/MS_052_California_Aggregates_Map_201807.pdf, accessed February 27, 2020.

[10] California Department of Conservation, 2016. Mines Online. https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html, accessed February 27, 2020.

[11] California Department of Conservation, 1982. Mineral Land Classification Map Special Report 146 Plates 2.7, 2.19, 2.20.