

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the University of California procedures for implementing CEQA, the University is required to consult with and obtain comments from public agencies that have jurisdiction by law or discretionary approval power with respect to the proposed project prior to preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and to provide the general public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR following its completion.

In March 2018, the University of California, acting as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), published the Student Housing West Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR), which assessed and disclosed the potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposed SHW project. The Draft EIR was circulated for agency and public comment for an initial period of 45 days that ended on May 11, 2018. In response to requests for an extension of the review period, the University extended the review period an additional 47 days. The second review period ended on June 27, 2018. The University also conducted four public meetings during the Draft EIR review period.

During the time that the Draft EIR was circulating and in the ensuing months, the University revised the design of the project at the Heller site so that the needed number of beds could be provided in buildings that would be five to seven stories high instead of the five to 10-story buildings included in the previous proposal. Furthermore, additional geotechnical data related to the Heller site became available which resulted in some changes to the proposed storm water management system for the Heller site. Similarly, the design of the project at Hagar site was revised, including changes to grading plans, changes to the storm water management system, and the inclusion of a wastewater treatment facility and a second driveway to serve the site. In addition, the number of student beds at both sites changed slightly from the numbers analyzed in the Draft EIR. Also during the Draft EIR circulation period, the University received numerous comments requesting, among other things, additional analysis and clarification regarding the visual effects and the hydrology and water quality impacts of the Hagar site development; clarification regarding the project's traffic impacts; and the evaluation of additional alternatives to the proposed project. In light of these revisions to the project and the comments received, especially related to aesthetics, hydrology and water quality, traffic, and alternatives, the University circulated a Revised Draft EIR for the amended project for agency and public review. This Revised Draft EIR replaced in full the previously published Draft EIR.

The Revised Draft EIR was circulated beginning September 17, 2018, for a 46-day public comment period that ended on November 1, 2018. During this period, the University held two public meetings on the

Revised Draft EIR on October 23, and October 24, 2018, to receive oral comments. A court reporter prepared transcripts of the meetings.

The Final EIR is an informational document prepared by the Lead Agency that must be considered by decision makers before approving or denying the proposed project. *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15132 specifies that the Final EIR shall consist of the following:

1. The Draft EIR or a revision to the draft.
2. Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary form.
3. A list of the persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR.
4. The response of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process.
5. Any other information added by the Lead Agency.

The Revised Draft EIR, which is incorporated by reference, and this document (including revisions to the Revised Draft EIR, comments, responses to comments, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program [MMRP]), constitute the Final EIR. Copies of the Final EIR are available for review during normal business hours at UC Santa Cruz at the following address and Web site:

University of California Santa Cruz
1156 High Street, Mailstop: PPDO
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

The Final EIR can be viewed online at: <https://ppc.ucsc.edu/planning/EnvDoc.html>

This document has been prepared pursuant to the *State CEQA Guidelines*. The Final EIR incorporates comments from public agencies and the general public, and contains responses by the Lead Agency to those comments that are relevant to the Revised Draft EIR analysis. The Board of the Regents of the University of California (The Regents) is responsible for reviewing and certifying the adequacy of this EIR and making a decision with respect to the proposed project.

1.2 ORGANIZATION OF THIS RESPONSES TO COMMENTS DOCUMENT

This document is organized into six sections. Following this introduction (**Section 1.0**), **Section 2.0, Executive Summary**, presents an overview of the proposed project and alternatives as well as the project's environmental impacts and mitigation measures. **Section 3.0, Comments on the Revised Draft EIR and Responses to Comments**, contains a list of persons, agencies, and organizations that submitted written comments on the Revised Draft EIR; transcripts of the Revised Draft EIR public meetings;

reproductions of the written comments; and responses to those comments. Each comment is labeled with a number in the margin. **Section 4.0, Revisions to the Revised Draft EIR**, presents changes to the text of the Revised Draft EIR. **Section 5.0, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**, contains the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project, and **Section 6.0, Report Preparation**, lists persons involved in the preparation of the Final EIR.