CHAPTER 4  PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

4.1 Formal Requirements

The goal of fully informing the public of the effects of development is at the heart of CEQA. Public involvement in the CEQA process aims to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process - specifically, that public concerns about environmental issues and the potential effect of development on the physical environment are addressed prior to project approval.

The process of interacting with Responsible and Trustee Agencies and the public can often be as important as the technical content of the environmental document. The public involvement process can enhance both the quality and credibility of the document, if conducted properly. It can also avoid costly project delays that result from political or bureaucratic processes.

CEQA requires certain public involvement actions and encourages others. The University of California requires a public hearing on an EIR as noted in Chapter 2, Procedural Requirements for CEQA Compliance. These formal requirements are summarized in Table 8 and The Regents action requiring a public hearing for an EIR is in Appendix A.

The specific requirements for public notification are covered under the process sections in UC CEQA Handbook Chapter 2.
For Negative Declarations and Mitigated Negative Declarations
2.2.2 Public Notice/Agency and Public Review
2.2.6 Notice of Determination

For EIRs
2.3.2 Notice of Preparation
2.3.3 NOP Review
2.3.4 Scoping
2.3.8 Notice of Completion/ Notice of Availability
2.3.9 Public Review of DEIR
2.3.10 Public Hearing
2.3.16 Notice of Determination for an EIR