

3.1 Initial Study

3.1.1 Introduction to Preparing Initial Studies

According to *CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c)*, http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/art5.html the purpose of an Initial Study is to provide a preliminary analysis of a proposed action to determine whether a Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report should be prepared. An Initial Study also enables an applicant or Lead Agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts in lieu of preparing an EIR, thereby potentially enabling the project to qualify for a Negative Declaration. The Initial Study provides a factual basis for the Negative Declaration, or serves to focus an EIR on the significant effects of a project. The Initial Study should be used to determine the extent which the LRDP EIR analysis adequately addresses impacts of a subsequent project.

An Initial Study is not required if, through the environmental classification process, the campus determines that an EIR would clearly be required for the project; however, an Initial Study may still be desirable to identify the scope and potential cost of an EIR and may serve to eliminate some issues from further analysis.

An Initial Study is required for any project that is tiered under the LRDP EIR or any other Program EIR (*CEQA Statutes Section 21094 (c)* http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/stat/chap2_6.html and *CEQA Guidelines Section 15153(b)(1)*). http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/art10.html

UC CEQA Handbook Section 3.1.2 identifies the format for an Initial Study.