

## **3.3 Environmental Impact Report**

### **3.3.1 Introduction to Preparing EIRs**

This section of the Handbook contains a description of the content requirements of an EIR. The section is organized to follow the outline of an EIR, from the introduction to the technical appendices. Several key organizational principles are important to guide the reader in the use of this section.

#### **Tiering**

To encourage increased efficiency in the UC environmental planning process, campuses should use Program EIRs for LRDPs to deal primarily with broad environmental issues, such as campus population levels and cumulative campus development programs. Employing the tiering concept, Project EIRs should then be prepared for projects that are consistent with and carry out the goals and objectives of the LRDP. Broad issues covered by the LRDP EIR need only be incorporated by reference in the Project EIR, with further detail provided only for site-specific issues that have not been adequately covered by the LRDP EIR. In this manner, the LRDP Program EIR can serve as an analytical "umbrella" for all subsequent actions requiring environmental evaluation. (See *UC CEQA Handbook Sections 2.8 and 3.4* for more information on Tiering EIRs under the LRDP EIR.)

#### **EIR Format**

Regardless of the type of EIR prepared, a direct link between impacts and mitigation measures should be established in the EIR. For purposes of clarity, it is advisable to establish a direct connection between the significant impact that has been identified and the mitigation measure that is designed to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level. Specifically, it is recommended that impacts and mitigation measures be numbered to correlate with one another. Establishing this link is particularly important for evaluating complex projects such as LRDPs.

The EIR should clarify which impacts are reduced to less-than-significant levels and which remain significant after mitigation. This information should be incorporated in each section, and summarized in the Summary Table.

#### **EIR Contents**

The Introduction, Summary, and Project Description sections of the *UC CEQA Handbook* (See *Sections 3.3.2 through 3.3.4*) describe the information that should be routinely included in each of these respective sections.

The Setting/Impacts/Mitigation Measures section of this *Handbook* (*Section 3.3.5*) describes the approach that should be used to prepare each of the technical issue sections.

For each Handbook technical section (geology, hydrology, etc.), the text introduces the subject area and is followed by a paragraph on the approach that should be used to prepare LRDP and Project EIRs. The text also describes:

- Responsible Agencies,
- Standards of Significance for evaluating whether the project has the potential to result in significant environmental impacts,
- Analytical Methods for describing the approach that should be taken in analyzing information for each issue, and
- Generally Feasible Mitigation Measures for each issue area that are generally acceptable to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. See *UC CEQA Handbook Sections 3.3.6 through 3.3.26*.