

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC) LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

UC Planning Context

As a constitutionally created State entity, **the University of California (UC) is not subject to local governments' regulations**, such as City or County General Plans or land use ordinances, on property owned or controlled by the University and used in furtherance of the University's mission.

Although there is no formal mechanism for joint planning, UC campuses and medical centers (campuses) may consider, for coordination purposes, aspects of local plans and policies when it is appropriate and feasible. Campuses generally seek to maintain an ongoing exchange of ideas and information, and to pursue mutually acceptable solutions for issues that confront both the campuses and their surrounding communities.

Long Range Development Plans

A Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) is a **comprehensive plan that guides physical development** necessary to achieve the UC mission at its campuses. LRDPs address academic and administrative space needs, housing, open space, circulation, parking, infrastructure, and other land uses that ultimately facilitate the appropriate siting of capital projects.

All LRDPs must be approved by The Regents. Campuses engage in different levels and types of academic and physical planning to inform their LRDPs, including a variety of internal and external consultation processes. Each campus LRDP is influenced by its particular drivers and constraints to growth. How information had been historically represented in prior LRDPs may influence subsequent LRDP updates to ensure that a consistent message is presented to the public. The approach to presenting the LRDP varies, but campuses generally present their planning context, land use strategy, drivers, and constraints when requesting LRDP approval.

An LRDP is not a mandate for growth, and does not commit the University to any specific enrollment level, campus population, or development. Facility development may not keep pace with demonstrated need due to funding constraints. Similarly, campus population may or may not grow at the rates projected in the LRDP.

LRDPs do not expire; an LRDP is in effect until it is replaced. LRDPs present a "horizon year," which simply provides the basis for identifying the development needed to accommodate estimated campus population growth through a defined period. LRDPs typically cover a 10 to 15 year planning period. Determining the length of the planning period may depend on academic and other physical planning efforts, anticipated development cycles, and alignment with local, regional, or state plans and regulations.

Growth projections are informed by campus-specific variables. Projected levels of campus population and resulting development growth contemplated in LRDPs are a function of physical capacity, strategic academic priorities, historic growth levels, and input from campus and community stakeholders.

Not all UC-owned property needs to be included in an LRDP. In most instances, LRDPs include the contiguous property of a campus. Other off-campus or remote properties, such as those managed by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Division or the Natural Reserve System, do not have applicable LRDPs.

Long Range Development Plans and California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a state statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. **UC is required by CEQA statute to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for its LRDPs.** The LRDP EIR analyzes the environmental impacts of campus growth as captured by the development proposed within the LRDP to accommodate the projected campus population.¹ LRDP EIRs are certified by the Regents in support of the approval of an LRDP. LRDP EIRs analyze campus development at a programmatic level, but enable the campus to streamline the environmental review process for subsequent projects that implement the LRDP.

Project-specific environmental review for subsequent projects must still occur, but the process is generally more focused and/or shorter because it can leverage LRDP EIR analyses and identification of mitigation measures. This approach to CEQA compliance is generally referred to as “tiering.” Because they focus on long-term development, LRDPs generally draw the most interest from the public as compared to individual development projects.

While LRDPs do not expire, since the environmental analysis of an LRDP EIR is based on the growth projected in the LRDP, updates or amendments to LRDPs are commonly driven by the campus approaching the population or development square footage levels analyzed in the LRDP EIR. If a campus exceeds the campus population levels in its LRDP and LRDP EIR, and those increases result new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts, additional environmental review is required.

Mitigation measures are only triggered when environmental impacts actually occur, typically at the time of an individual project’s construction and operation (as opposed to the point in time when the LRDP is approved). Campuses track implementation of mitigation measures via a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, which CEQA requires as a component of EIRs.

LRDPs and Project Approvals

All projects undertaken within the boundaries of an approved LRDP **must be determined to be in general conformance with the applicable LRDP.** Conformance with the applicable LRDP is also a component of a project’s environmental review under CEQA, and is a requirement of the delegation of authority to approve capital projects at an administrative level (*i.e.*, below the level of The Regents per Regents Policy 8103 on Capital Project Matters). The Office of the President (OP) evaluates LRDP conformance for each capital project. If an element of a project does not conform to the LRDP, the campus may need to request that The Regents or OP consider an amendment to the LRDP to allow the project to go forward. Pursuant to Regents Policy 8103, OP has been delegated authority to approve minor LRDP amendments that meet certain criteria.

¹ Pursuant to SB118, enrollment or changes in enrollment, by themselves, do not constitute a project for purposes of CEQA.