

Chancellor Delegated Authority
Mesa Court Community Center Expansion

The University of California, Irvine (UCI) prepared the Mesa Court Residence Hall Expansion Subsequent Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), which was adopted by the Regents on March 16, 2023 along with the design of the project. The IS/MND analyzed the partial demolition of an existing surface parking lot, Lot 5, to construct a student housing tower located within the existing Mesa Court student housing community. The tower would consist of a multi-story building up to six stories in height and would house approximately 450 beds within quadruple occupancy rooms. The development would also include common areas throughout the building, including study areas, collective hubs with kitchens, and laundry facilities. Site work and development would include clearing of the existing parking lot; site grading; connection to campus utility and drainage systems; construction of the tower, pathways, ramps, sidewalks, and outdoor gathering spaces with wireless connectivity; and installation of site lighting and landscape improvements.

UCI is also proposing to remodel and expand the existing 7,442 gross-square-foot (GSF) Mesa Court Community Center. The Mesa Court Community Center Expansion would renovate the existing community center and construct an additional approximately 13,000 GSF of expansion space (approximately 9,000 assignable square feet) for a total building size of approximately 20,442 GSF. Uses would include a dining hall; group study, office, and building support space; a multipurpose room; and restrooms in support of the existing students living in the Mesa Court student housing community. Both project sites are located approximately 300 feet from each other within the existing Mesa Court student housing community, which provides first-year housing for the campus community.

As discussed in the previously adopted IS/MND, it was determined that with the incorporation of mitigation, the project would not have a significant effect on the environment. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15162, 15163, and 15164, an Addendum to the IS/MND has been prepared to address the inclusion of the Mesa Court Community Center Expansion. The Addendum found that Mesa Court Community Center Expansion Project is within the scope of the project analyzed in the IS/MND and the inclusion of the expansion would not result in any new significant environmental effects, substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant effects, or make any mitigation measures previously found to be infeasible now feasible than was previously analyzed in the IS/MND, and none of the conditions requiring the preparation of a subsequent document have occurred.

The design and CEQA determination are under review and are pending approval by the UCI Chancellor no earlier than May 23, 2024.