

March 17, 2026

Notice of Preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report

Project Title: Channing-Bowditch Student Housing Project

Lead Agency: The Regents of the University of California

Project Location: The project site is located in the City of Berkeley in Alameda County at 2538 Channing Way, at the southwest corner of Channing Way and Bowditch Street. The project site is a portion of one assessor's parcel (Assessor Parcel Number 55-1875-9-1).

County: Alameda County, California

UC Berkeley is preparing a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) tiered from the UC Berkeley's 2021 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Environmental Impact Report for the Channing-Bowditch Student Housing Project (project or proposed project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). When the decision to prepare an SEIR has already been made, CEQA states that an initial study is not required (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(a)). Accordingly, an initial study has not been prepared. This notice of preparation (NOP) has been prepared pursuant to Sections 15082 and 15083 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

UC Berkeley has prepared this NOP to provide responsible and trustee agencies and other interested parties with a description of the proposed project and information on potential environmental effects of the proposed project, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a). The NOP is available for public review on UC Berkeley's Capital Strategies website: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/environmental-review>.

Project Location

The project site encompasses approximately 1.98 acres at 2538 Channing Way in the City of Berkeley, Alameda County. The project site encompasses a portion of Assessor Parcel Number 55-1875-9-1. The project site is bounded by Channing Way to the north, Bowditch Street to the

east, Haste Street to the south, and the Maximino Martinez Commons student housing complex to the west (see Attachment A). The project site includes the former Anna Head School for Girls complex, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and is a City of Berkeley Landmark. The project site is within an area of the campus designated in the 2021 LRDP as “City Environs Properties” and is in the City of Berkeley’s Southside neighborhood. The project site is in a high-density area within one-half mile of UC Berkeley “Campus Park” (an area designated in the 2021 LRDP). The project site is not included on the Cortese List under Government Code section 65962.5.

Description of the Project

The UC Berkeley 2021 Long Range Development Plan (2021 LRDP) is a comprehensive long-range land use plan that guides physical development on the UC Berkeley campus consistent with UC Berkeley’s mission, priorities, strategic goals, and campus population projections through the 2036-37 academic year. On July 22, 2021, the UC Board of Regents (the Regents) certified the 2021 LRDP environmental impact report (2021 LRDP EIR), State Clearinghouse No. 2020040078, and approved the 2021 LRDP. The 2021 LRDP EIR analyzed development on the project site, which is within the City Environs Properties. Specifically, the 2021 LRDP EIR envisioned 210,000 square feet (8 stories tall) of academic life and campus life development for the project site, also known as the Anna Head redevelopment site (CE5) in the 2021 LRDP EIR. Attachment B shows the location of the project site within the 2021 LRDP EIR study area.

The proposed project would involve demolition of three on-site buildings (buildings B, C, and D as shown on Attachment A) and construction of a student housing complex. Buildings A and E/F, as shown on Attachment A, would remain. The proposed student housing complex would include development of an up to 550,000 gross square-foot student housing complex providing up to 2,000 beds as well as a dining hall and student amenities. The portion of the student housing complex along Channing Way would be up to 26 stories in height and the portion of the building along Bowditch Street would be up to 14 stories in height. The ground floor would contain a dining program for building residents and the adjacent campus community, a portion of which would be located in the existing Anna Head School Alumnae Hall (Building A); the building’s interior would be repurposed for this use. The dining program would open up onto a shared dining courtyard and interior glade shared between Anna Head Alumnae Hall and the adjacent Martinez Commons student housing building. The second floor of the podium would contain student amenities including a fitness center, lounge space, a community kitchen, a game room, student club space, and a number of terraces looking out over the interior open space. No vehicular parking would be provided on site. A passenger drop-off is proposed on Channing Way.

The site’s historic significance informed the design process, with attention to the scale, proportion, and material texture of existing Anna Head School Buildings A and E/F. The proposed new student housing buildings would tie into the historic context through

complementary massing of the first two levels of program, material selections, and textured detailing that reinforce continuity while maintaining a clear contemporary expression. Building A was seismically retrofitted and restored in 2013. The building is proposed to become part of the ground level experience of the new Anna Head House project, serving as a large dining hall. The interior would remain largely as-is, and openings would be created in the north facade to connect directly to the new building.

Probable Environmental Effects

Consistent with the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, the SEIR will analyze the environmental impacts of (1) substantial changes in the proposed project, (2) substantial changes that have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project will be undertaken, and (3) new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the previous EIR was certified. Because the proposed project includes housing and is approximately 340,000 square feet larger than the redevelopment analyzed in the LRDP EIR, the proposed project could result in new or more severe significant impacts related to cultural resources and this and other potential impacts will be analyzed in the SEIR.

Where new significant effects or substantially more severe previously identified significant effects are identified, the SEIR will discuss feasible mitigation measures to avoid or reduce those effects, along with a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives to the proposed project. The SEIR will also analyze the cumulative impacts that could result from changes to the project.

Public Review and Comment Period

UC Berkeley invites comments on the scope and content of the Draft SEIR and appreciates your prompt review of this NOP. Written comments should focus on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft SEIR for the Channing-Bowditch Student Housing Project, germane to agencies having statutory responsibilities associated with the proposed project, as well as public interest in the proposed project. All comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period will be considered in the Draft SEIR. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, this NOP will be circulated for no less than a 30-day review period, which will extend from March 17 to April 20, 2026. Responses to this NOP must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2026. Please send your written or electronic responses, with appropriate contact information, to the following address:

Shraddha Navalli Patil, Senior Planner
 UC Berkeley Capital Strategies
 Physical & Environmental Planning
 1995 University Avenue, Room 530

Berkeley, CA 94704

Email: planning@berkeley.edu

Please include a subject line indicating Scoping Comments: Channing-Bowditch Student Housing.

Public Scoping Meeting

UC Berkeley will hold an online public scoping meeting to inform interested parties about the project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide oral and written comments on the scope and content of the SEIR. The scoping meeting will be held exclusively through Zoom videoconference. The meeting information is as follows:

Date: April 2, 2026

Time: 12 noon onwards

Meeting Link: <https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/public-meetings>

For instructions to access and participate in the Zoom meeting by telephone or from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device, please visit:

<https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/public-meetings>.

To request a paper copy of this notice or if you have questions concerning this NOP, scoping session, or associated environmental review for the project, please contact Shraddha Navalli Patil, Senior Planner, Physical & Environmental Planning, at (510) 495-5786 or planning@berkeley.edu.

Sincerely,

Wendy Hills

Campus Architect, Assistant Vice Chancellor
University of California, Berkeley

Attachments:

- A) Project Location Map
- B) 2021 LRDP EIR Study Area

Attachment A: Project Location Map



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Fig 3 Site Plan

Attachment B: 2021 LRDP EIR Study Area

