6 CEQA-REQUIRED ASSESSMENT CONCLUSIONS

As required by Section 15126 of the CEQA Guidelines, this chapter provides an overview of the impacts of the proposed 2020 LRDP based on the technical analyses presented in this EIR. The topics covered in this chapter include unavoidable significant effects; expected significant irreversible changes; and growth inducement. A more detailed analysis of the effects the 2020 LRDP would have on the environment is provided in Chapter 4: Environmental Evaluation. Project alternatives are discussed in Chapter 5.

6.1 UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Section 15126.2(b) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR describe any significant impacts that cannot be avoided, even with the implementation of feasible mitigation measures. This section lists the impacts for the 2020 LRDP that were found to be significant and unavoidable. No significant and unavoidable impacts were found for the Tien Center.

2020 LRDP

Development under the 2020 LRDP would result in the following significant and unavoidable impacts:

AIR

- Operational emissions from implementation of the 2020 LRDP may hinder the attainment of the Clean Air Plan.
- With the incorporation of diesel particulate matter into air risk analyses, the 2020 LRDP would contribute to a cumulatively considerable increase in toxic air contaminants from stationary and area sources.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Under certain circumstances warranted by public benefits in furtherance of the university's educational mission, projects developed under the 2020 LRDP could cause substantial adverse changes in the significance of historical resources.
- Under certain circumstances warranted by public benefits in furtherance of the university's educational mission, projects developed under the 2020 LRDP could cause substantial adverse changes in the significance of archaeological resources.

NOISE

- University housing developed under the 2020 LRDP could expose residents to excessive noise levels.
- Noise resulting from demolition and construction activities necessary for implementation of the 2020 LRDP would, in some instances, cause a substantial temporary or periodic increase in noise levels, in excess of local standards prescribed in Section 13.40.070 of the City of Berkeley noise ordinance, at affected residential or commercial property lines.

TRAFFIC

- The 2020 LRDP would increase vehicle trips and traffic congestion at seven intersections to unacceptable levels, and exacerbate unacceptable conditions at an eighth. Implementation of proposed mitigations to reduce these impacts is outside the jurisdiction of The Regents.

- The 2020 LRDP would increase vehicle trips and traffic congestion at two intersections, leading to substantial degradation in level of service that cannot be mitigated.
  - The signalized **University Avenue / Sixth Street** intersection, which is projected to operate at LOS F during both AM and PM peak hours regardless of the project. The project would increase the intersection volume by 7 percent during the AM peak hour, and 6 percent during the PM peak hour.
  - The signalized **University Avenue / San Pablo Avenue** intersection, which is projected to operate at LOS F during both AM and PM peak hours regardless of the project. The project would increase the intersection volume by 8 percent during the AM peak hour, and 6 percent during the PM peak hour.

- Development under the 2020 LRDP would cause the following Alameda County CMP Designated System roadways to exceed the level of service standard established by the CMA:
  - **Ashby Avenue eastbound**, between College Avenue and Domingo Street
  - **Ashby Avenue westbound**, between Adeline Street and San Pablo Avenue
  - **University Avenue westbound**, between MLK Jr. Way and I-80
  - **San Pablo Avenue northbound**, between Gilman Street and Marin Avenue
  - **Shattuck Avenue southbound**, between Dwight Way and Adeline Street.
  - **Shattuck Avenue southbound,** between Hearst Avenue and University Avenue (MTS only)
  - **Dwight Way westbound,** between MLK Jr. Way and Sixth Street (MTS only)

6.2 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE IMPACTS

Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines requires a discussion of the extent to which a proposed project will commit nonrenewable resources to uses that future generations will probably be unable to reverse. An example of such an irreversible commitment is the construction of highway improvements that will provide public access to previously inaccessible areas.

A project would generally result in a significant irreversible impact if:

- Primary and secondary impacts would commit future generations to similar uses.
- The project would involve a large commitment of nonrenewable resources.
- The project would involve uses in which irreversible damage could result from any potential environmental accidents associated with the project.
- The proposed consumption of resources is not justified.

Under the 2020 LRDP, the university would continue to commit university land and buildings to university-related uses, thereby precluding any other uses for at least the lifespan of the 2020 LRDP. Although the 2020 LRDP would continue and reinforce this commitment, through capital investment in renewing and expanding university facilities, it does not represent a change from existing conditions.

Project implementation and operation will require the consumption of resources such as water, natural gas, and electricity. However, the amount and rate of consumption of these resources would not be wasteful due to the university's current policies ensuring responsible resource conservation and recycling, and to 2020 LRDP objectives, policies

and mitigation measures to minimize resource consumption. Nonetheless, construction under the 2020 LRDP would require the irretrievable commitment of nonrenewable energy resources such as construction materials and fuels for construction vehicles and equipment.

As described in Chapter 4.6, UC Berkeley uses, stores and transports hazardous materials. The university complies with all applicable state and federal regulations addressing hazardous materials and has an extensive campus program in place for the safe use, handling and disposal of these materials. UC Berkeley's safety record indicates that current practices with respect to hazardous materials handling are adequate and thus the potential for the 2020 LRDP to cause irreversible environmental damage from a hazardous materials accident is less than significant.

Implementation of the 2020 LRDP would not result in the wasteful or unjustifiable use of energy or other resources. UC Berkeley has implemented various water conservation and energy efficiency measures and best management practices. UC Berkeley has also implemented various reuse and recycling measures, such as a materials exchange program. Furthermore, the 2020 LRDP includes several policies that would improve current practices. For example, the 2020 LRDP includes policies to develop new buildings to a LEED 2.1 equivalent standard; to design new buildings to outperform the required provisions of Title 24 by 20 percent; and to design future projects to minimize energy and water consumption and wastewater production.

6.3 GROWTH INDUCEMENT

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR consider the ways in which a proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Typical growth inducements might be the extension of urban services or transportation infrastructure to a previously unserved or underserved area, or the removal of major obstacles to development.

The 2020 LRDP would induce population growth, as described in Chapter 4.10. However, the increment due to the 2020 LRDP is not significant in relation to projected regional growth. Moreover, the growth under the 2020 LRDP would occur in an already urbanized area and would not itself result in the need for new roads or utilities, which could in turn induce further growth.

The project would not require the urbanization of land in remote locations and would not encourage premature or unplanned growth. On the contrary, the 2020 LRDP would accommodate future growth in campus programs by more intensive development on land on and adjacent to the Campus Park, and would provide substantial amounts of new student housing within convenient walking or transit distance of the Campus Park.

The Tien Center would not result in any growth-inducing impacts because it would be constructed on campus and would primarily house employees who already work elsewhere on campus; only five new employees are expected as a result of the project. Space vacated by employees moving to the Tien Center would be reassigned to existing staff or students.