UC Merced
Physical Design Framework

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
2009 DRAFT

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Regents of the University of California
2009.

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I. Overview

Forty years after the University of California opened its last campus, the University of California, Merced opened for instruction in Fall 2005. In March 2009, the Regents of the University of California adopted UC Merced's 2009 Long Range Development (LRDP) to establish a land use framework for an 815-acre campus that will accommodate 25,000 students at full development. At its core, the LRDP establishes what types of land uses will occur on future development of the campus site.

This document provides an overview of how the LRDP, campus planning and design principles and development process will integrate with each other over the next decade. The document:

- references UC Merced's Financial Plan which delineates the campus' key academic, strategic, and specific building goals,

- describes the planning and design criteria that guide the siting and development of capital projects,

- provides an overview of the evolving administrative processes that will enable coordinated, strategic growth

- details the unique infrastructure challenges facing a young and growing campus.

II. Context

Setting

UC Merced's campus is located in the San Joaquin Valley. Bordered on the east by the Sierra Nevada and separated from the Pacific Ocean by the Coast Ranges, the San Joaquin Valley is one of the most distinctive aspects of California's topography. Two hundred fifty miles long and 50 miles wide, the Valley's flat, open landscape includes parts of eight counties.

The campus is located in Merced County, a rural agricultural jurisdiction that encompasses 1,984 square miles of land and has a population of 255,250 (2008). The site is approximately 5 miles northeast of the City of Merced, set at the edge of the valley floor on rolling range land.

In the planning process to develop the campus, a large network of seasonal wetlands was discovered nearby and throughout the property. To preserve this rare resource, thousands of acres adjacent to the north and east sides of the campus are permanently preserved under conservation easements provided by the state. At more than 30,000 acres, this reserve constitutes the largest protected vernal pool environment in the United States and possibly the world. Campus views across the expansive open space provide visual links to the area's agricultural heritage and the Sierra Nevada in the distance.

In addition to seasonal wetlands in the vicinity, the Merced Irrigation District owns Lake Yosemite, a man made irrigation reservoir northwest of the campus. The Lake is an important visual and recreational amenity. Furthermore, the Fairfield and Le Grand Canals operated by the Merced Irrigation District (MID) wind through the campus site. and provide water to communities and farm operations in the area. These canals subdivide the campus into distinct geographic areas.

South of the campus boundary, planning is underway for a supporting community adjacent to UC Merced which will propose to have land use densities four to six times greater than what is typical in the San Joaquin Valley. It is expected that this University Community will have the capacity to accommodate 50% of UC Merced student housing needs, while the other 50% will be accommodated on the campus. Like the 2009 LRDP, these Physical Design Principles apply only to the campus. Guidelines for this proposed community will be addressed in a separate planning involving local jurisdictions.

Growth

As of Fall 2008, 2,718 students were enrolled at UC Merced. As the newest member of the University of California system, UC Merced's current enrollment provides an excellent and unique learning experience on a campus with distinctive ethnic and regional diversity.

UC Merced Full-time Equivalency (FTE) Enrollment Projections
2007-08-Full Development

Population	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2014-15	2019-20	2020-21	Full Development
Undergraduate	1,885	2,573	3,183	5,770	8,288	8,815	22,250
Graduate	124	163	235	860	2,042	2,249	2,750
Subtotal	*2,009*	*2,736*	*3,418*	*6,630*	*10,330*	*11,094*	*25,000*
Faculty	136	146	183	350	533	573	1,420
Staff	605	644	804	1,541	2,344	2,520	4,828
Post-Doctoral Researchers	30	32	40	77	117	126	312
Subtotal	771	822	1,027	1,968	2,994	3,219	6,560
Other Daily Population	50	70	85	165	250	270	625
Total	2,830	3,628	4,530	8,683	13,574	14,583	32,185

Source: UC Merced Institutional Planning and Analysis, 2008.

UC Merced has developed Full-time Equivalency (FTE) projections through the 2020-21 academic year. These are based on enrollment levels anticipated through the 2010-11 academic year. FTE is not the same as headcount. "FTE" refers to the total number of students present for an entire school year at an equivalent of full time. As such, this count reflects the varying attendance patterns of students (full time, part time, etc.) Undergraduate FTE projections are based on current enrollment levels, projected growth rates, and campus capacity, and were informed by the State of California's Department of Finance projections of local and statewide high school graduates.

Graduate FTE projections were based on anticipated need for additional research and education opportunities in emerging fields, expected labor market demand for students with graduate training in specific fields, and existing and projected student demand for graduate programs.

Projected Square Footage Requirements

5,000 Students	10,000 Students	20,000 Students	25,000 Students
1.25 MSF	2.5 MSF	5.00 MSF	6.25 MSF
2,500 beds	5,000 beds	10,000 beds	12,500 beds

Community and Governmental Relations

From community events to student volunteers, UC Merced is developing a rich array of mutually beneficial exchanges with the surrounding community. Educationally, UC Merced's presence has raised the visibility of the UC system within the San Joaquin Valley to ensure that students, parents, teachers and counselors in the Central Valley are aware of the opportunities at UC Merced and that students are guided through the admissions process and the financial aid process. More than 30% of students at the campus are from the San Joaquin Valley and 50.4% are first generation students.

To ensure an ongoing dialogue with community leaders, leaders from UC Merced meet regularly with county and city officials and elected leaders. The relationships developed during these regular meetings provide a foundation for future discussions regarding services and transportation needs that will shape the campus' development. And economically, millions of dollars in contracts associated with construction will be awarded through the university's capital programs.

Physical Relationship

UC Merced is located approximately 5 miles from downtown Merced and Highway 99. The campus is outside of the city limits and vehicular access to the campus generally occurs along one of two, two lane rural arterials approaching from the south and the west. The northern and eastern sides of campus are completely preserved from development and feature clear views of the Sierra Nevada. The same arterial that provides access to Lake Yosemite, a vital community resource one mile northwest of the campus, serves as the approach to UC Merced. The campus' LRDP and LRDP EIR Mitigation measures include processes that will maintain community connections to the Lake.

A campus parkway planned along the City's eastern edge will eventually connect the campus directly to Highway 99, six miles to the south. Planned expansion of the Bellevue Corridor will ultimately connect the campus to Highway 99, 12 miles to the east through the city of Atwater and the Castle Airport Aviation and Development Center, where the campus holds a long term lease for a major research facility.

Two major permit conditions from the Army Corps of Engineers have significantly influenced the design of the campus. A perimeter loop road along the northern and eastern edge buffer campus development from the sensitive adjacent habitat which could host endangered or threatened species. This perimeter loop road is a primary element in the campus's circulation design and street hierarchy.

Hydrologic characteristics of the off-campus topography will bring drainage of more than 800 acres of vernal pool grasslands onto the campus property doubling the amount of stormwater that must be detained on campus during major rain storms. As a result, the campus open space system is sized and shaped to accommodate these flows significantly influencing the campus urban design and land use plan.

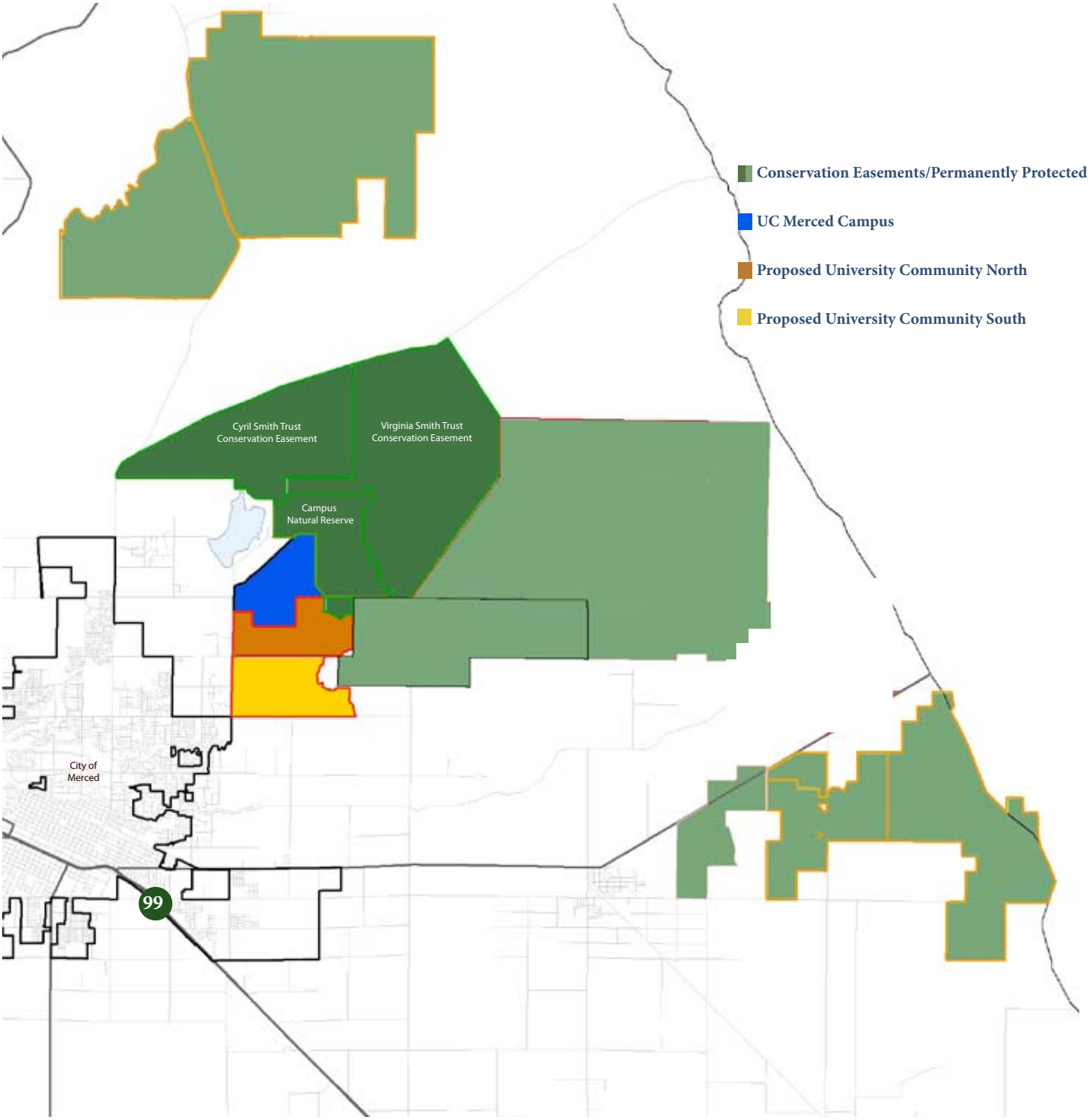
Environmental Context

The existing buildings on the campus were built on the grounds of a former golf course. The surrounding acreage of the site has been and continues to be used for agricultural grazing. A rapidly deteriorating barn structure is the only non-UC built structure on the property. The following 2 issues are of environmental concern as the campus grows:

1. Wetlands: As it develops future plans and projects, the key environmental issue UC Merced has faced is the presence of federally protected wetlands. An application currently is pending with the US Army Corps of Engineers to acquire a permit to fill approximately 70 acres of wetlands on the campus site. The permit, expected in late Spring 2009, will allow the campus to realize its full development capacity.

2. Traffic: The campus is located on the northernmost area of the urbanized portion of Merced. Access to the site is currently limited to 2 lane rural arterials. As the campus grows, the traffic counts on these roads will increase. UC Merced is committed to developing a compact campus core that will reduce the need for automobiles for students on campus. UC Merced is also committed to ensuring transit access to campus is convenient and frequent. Reduction of vehicle use connected to the campus will help reduce the campus' emissions impact.

The Sierra Nevada northeast of the campus site during construction, 2004.



Campus vicinity.

Challenges and Opportunities

1. Irrigation Canals: The planned campus street and open space system intersects with two agricultural irrigation canals owned by the Merced Irrigation District. An easement held by the irrigation district extends 75 feet in each direction from the center of each canal, for a total of 150 feet. The canals serve as distinctive boundaries defining campus neighborhoods and the districts within the campus' Academic Core. The cost of building pedestrian and vehicular bridges over the canals will add significantly to campus' infrastructure costs. However, each crossing becomes an opportunity to add to the aesthetic character of the campus and the quality of transition from one district to another. The canals also give form to major campus open spaces and the bicycle and pedestrian network that weaves through the campus grid.

2. Infrastructure and Services: The campus is located on a site with limited to no preexisting infrastructure. Subsequent phases of campus development will require the investment of significant resources into basic infrastructure above and beyond site preparation and the cost of structures. In contrast to the experiences of its sister campuses, UC Merced has the challenge of building its infrastructure in a fiscal environment where the majority of state financing for infrastructure and new educational facilities, is derived from general obligation and special bonds that are paid back with interest as opposed to the financing structures of the 1960s.

3. Triple Zero Commitment: Unburdened by legacy processes or infrastructure, UC Merced has an opportunity to model best practices for sustainability in design and operations. To date, every permanent structure on campus is eligible for at least LEED silver certification with a majority eligible for LEED gold certification. The campus has adopted a target of zero net energy, zero waste and zero net emissions for the campus through 2020 and beyond. This "triple zero commitment" forms the core of UC Merced's sustainability goals as it applies to development. The design response of both architecture and the visible infrastructure of renewable energy systems will be one of the campus's unique physical characteristics.

4. North and South Bowl: From a topographic standpoint, the site features two naturally occurring land depressions that are partially edged by the canals. The "bowls" provide an internal focus for buildings along their edges. The current plan is to reserves the two bowls as open spaces that also function as retention basins for excess stormwater. The Academic Core and Student Neighborhoods are organized around the two bowls, forming an inward-facing visual perch.

UC Merced's street and open space systems intersect with two agricultural irrigation canals owned by the Merced Irrigation District. As shown below, they would be a path for the bicycle circulation network and a strong campus water feature.

Kolligian Library (top right) and the Central Plant (bottom right) feature elements found in local agricultural buildings.

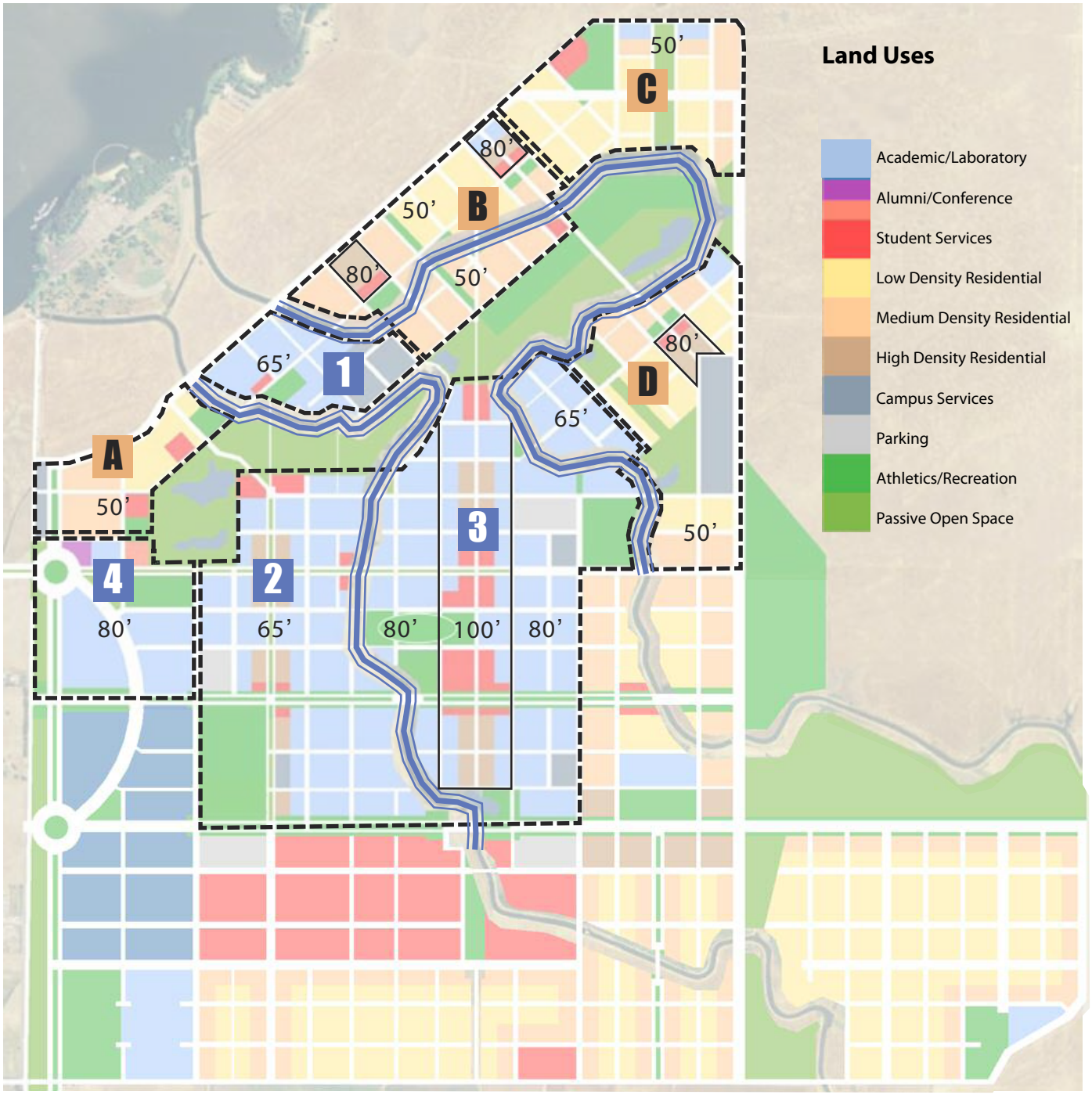
Key Design Attributes

The site's connection to nearby and distant vistas provide a compelling design framework for the campus. Primary views include the peaks of Sierra Nevada, the mountain sourced water of Lake Yosemite and the reflective, open landscape ofthe San Joaquin Valley. Right of way corridors and building design will take advantage of and preserve maximum access to those positive attributes.

Even with these links to the natural environmental, the campus itself will take on a dense, distinctly urban form. Additionally, buildings will provide active ground floor uses along streets where possible, the interior areas of blocks will be enlivenedby courtyards, open space, and passages for pedestrian and occasional vehicular traffic as programmatically appropriate. The scale of development will reflect the type of building (i.e., residential, academic, laboratory, or recreation), its symbolic importance, and its role in defining and enclosing campus outdoor spaces. Noteworthy elements include the establishment of two mixed use Main Streets that bring residential and other active uses to the hearrt of the academic campus core, connecting the campus residential neighborhoods to the north to the University Community Town Center to the south.

Building heights will be a function of land supply and construction and infrastructure costs. The physical design framework approach calls for typical campus building heights that will change over time with two to four story buildings likely to be built in earlier phases and taller building in later phases. A height map has been established to create greater densities at neighborhood centers and along the two "Main Streets" that connect the northern portions of the campus through the Academic Core to the Town Center district in the University Community to the south. These taller spines will also enable buildings in the interior of the centers and cores to take advantage of the expansive views across the grasslands and up to the Sierra Nevada.

Buildings will be sited and designed to respond to the climate and support sustainability commitments. For example, solar access, shading, daylighting, and natural ventilation will be important design considerations Buildings also may provide shade and wind protection of outdoor spaces.



UC Merced LRDP Draft

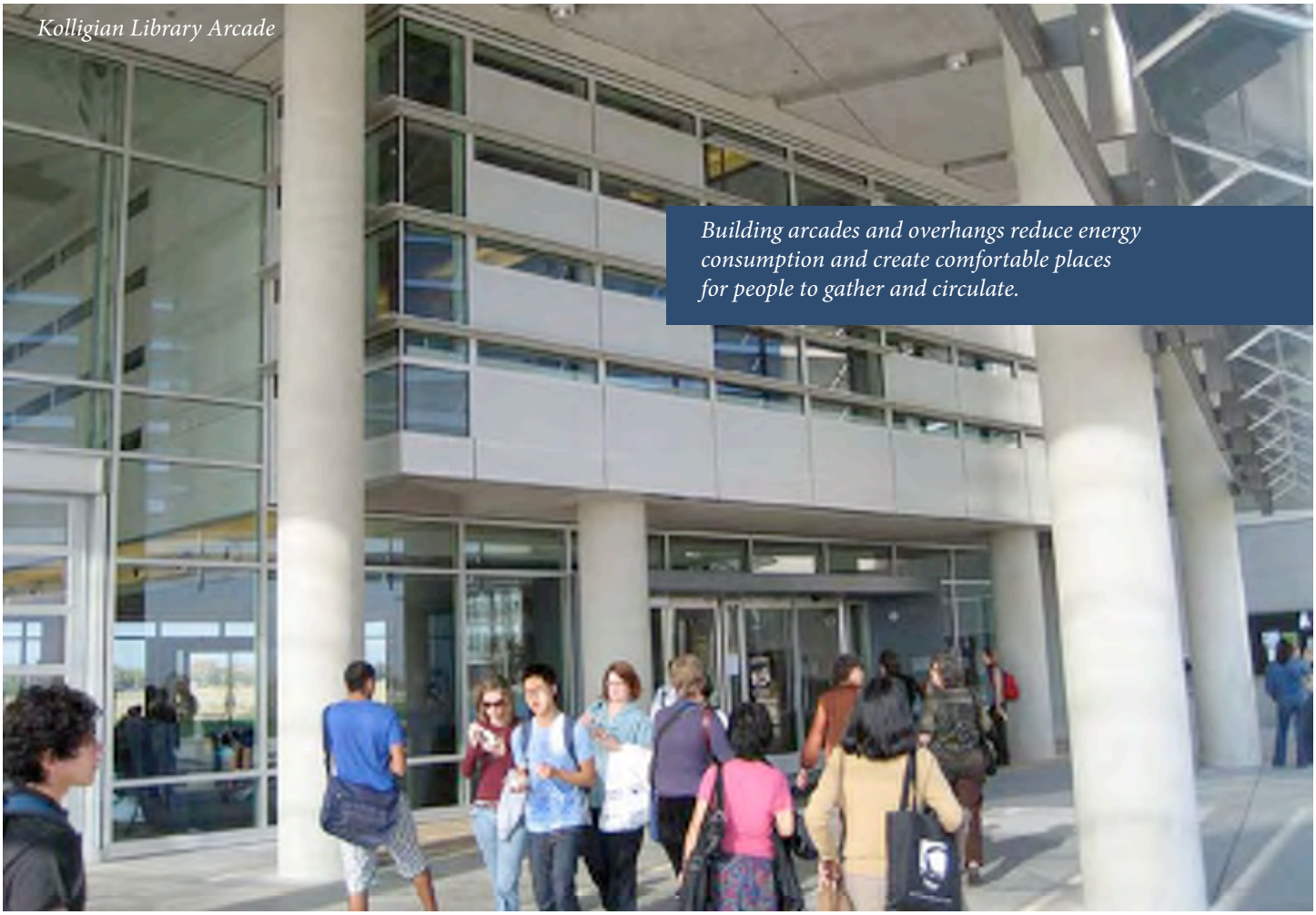
Campus Height and Massing Districts

Academic Campus

1. North Campus
2. Central Campus West
3. Central Campus East
4. Gateway District

Student Neighborhoods

A. Lake View Neighborhood
B. North Neighborhood
C. Sierra View Neighborhood
D. Valley View Neighborhood



Kolligian Library Arcade

Building arcades and overhangs reduce energy consumption and create comfortable places for people to gather and circulate.

Lake Lot 2

Geocellular porous parking lots facilitate stormwater capture and groundwater recharge.

Gallo Recreation and Wellness Center

Drought and climate-tolerant campus landscaping requires less water.

III. Long Range Development Plan

The 2009 LRDP and its Environmental Impact Report were certified by the Regents in March 2009. The LRDP identifies development objectives, land uses, and estimates the new building space needed to achieve defined academic and strategic program expansion through full development. The LRDP concentrates on four key elements: land uses, landscape and open spaces, circulation and transportation, and utilities.

Land Use

The LRDP focuses on UC Merced's 815 acre campus. The LRDP describes land use categories that reflect those activities that will be predominant in any given area "Predominant uses" are the primary programs, facilities, and activities in a general geographic area. In addition, other associated or compatible uses are allowable within any given area. For example, parking and student housing may be included in academic use areas.

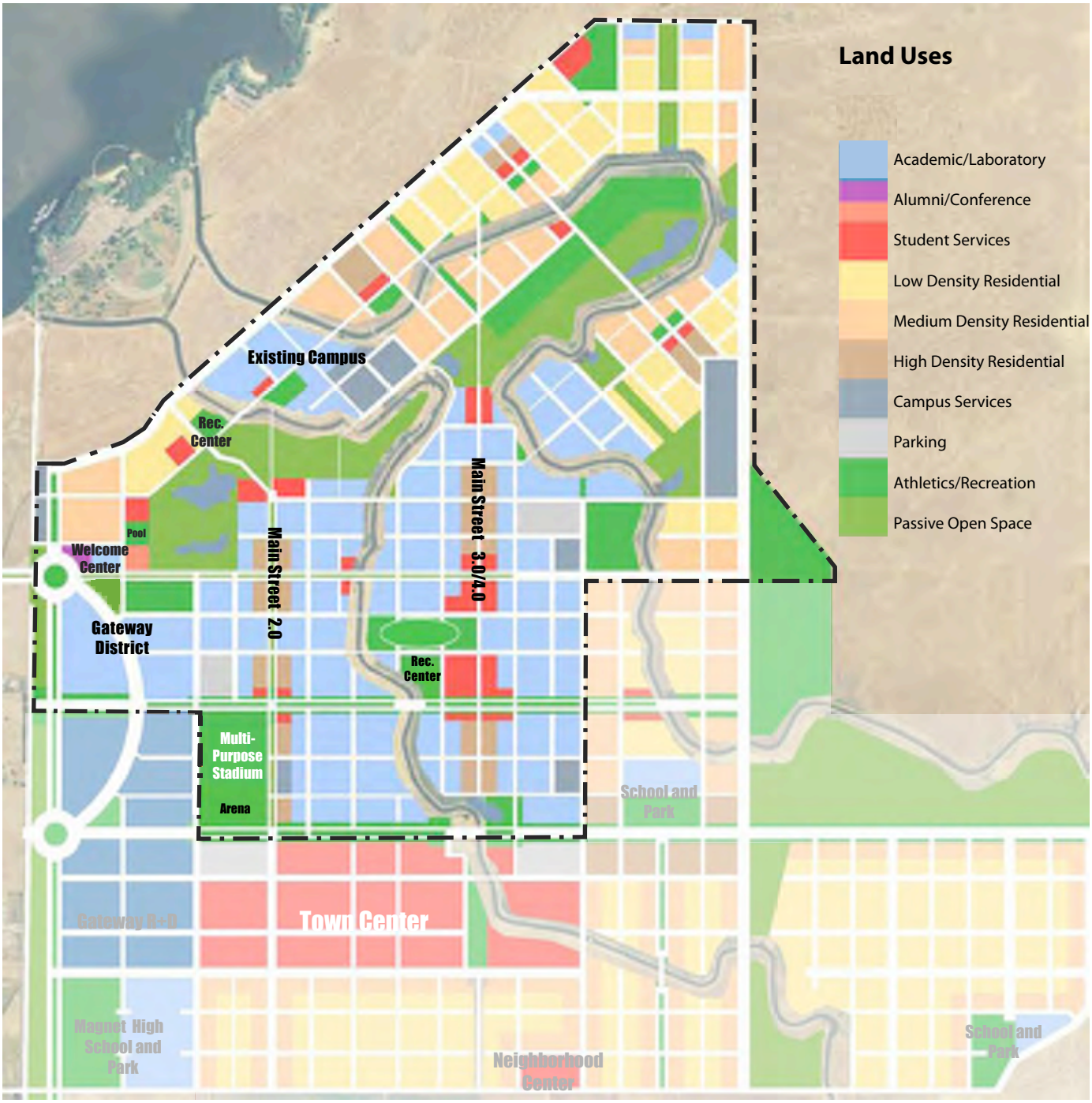
Academic Use/Laboratory
Academic uses include classrooms; instructional and research laboratories; undergraduate, graduate, and professionalschools and programs; ancillary support facilities such as administrative facilities, libraries, performance and cultural
facilities, clinical facilities, research institutes, conference facilities, and services supporting academic operations.

Alumni/Conference Center
This category includes alumni and conference centers, office space and meeting rooms.

Student Services
This category includes student unions, admissions, registrar, dining halls, bookstores, financial aid, career, health and counseling services, academic assistance and recreation/fitness centers.

Low Density Residential (36-60 beds/gross acre)
Residential facilities for undergraduate and graduate students, students with families, student groups, international students with families, and other university affiliates.

Medium Density Residential (48-80 beds/gross acre)
Residential facilities for undergraduate and graduate students, students with families, student groups, international students with families, and other university affiliates.



UC Merced LRDP

Land Use: Land Area Summary

Academic Core	**200 acres**
Academic/Laboratory	115 acres
Research & Development	75 acres
Alumni/Conference Ctr.	10 acres
Campus Services	**40 acres**
Corporation Yard	10 acres
Logistics/Receiving	15 acres
Central Plant/Energy Ctr.	13 acres
Public Safety	2 acres

Student Neighborhoods	**225 acres**
Student Services	30 acres
High Density Residential	25 acres
Medium Density Residential	90 acres
Low Density Residential	80 acres
Parking	**110 acres**
Parking Structures	12 acres
Distributed Lots/Streets	98 acres

Athletics and Recreation	**140 acres**
Passive Open Space	**100 acres**
TOTAL	**815 acres**

High Density Residential (63-320 beds/gross acre)
Residential facilities for undergraduate and graduate students, students with families, student groups, international students with families, and other university affiliates.

High Density Residential/Mixed Use Main Street (180-320 beds/acre)
Academic, Student Services plus Residential facilities for undergraduate and graduate students, students with families, student groups, international students with families, and other university affiliates.

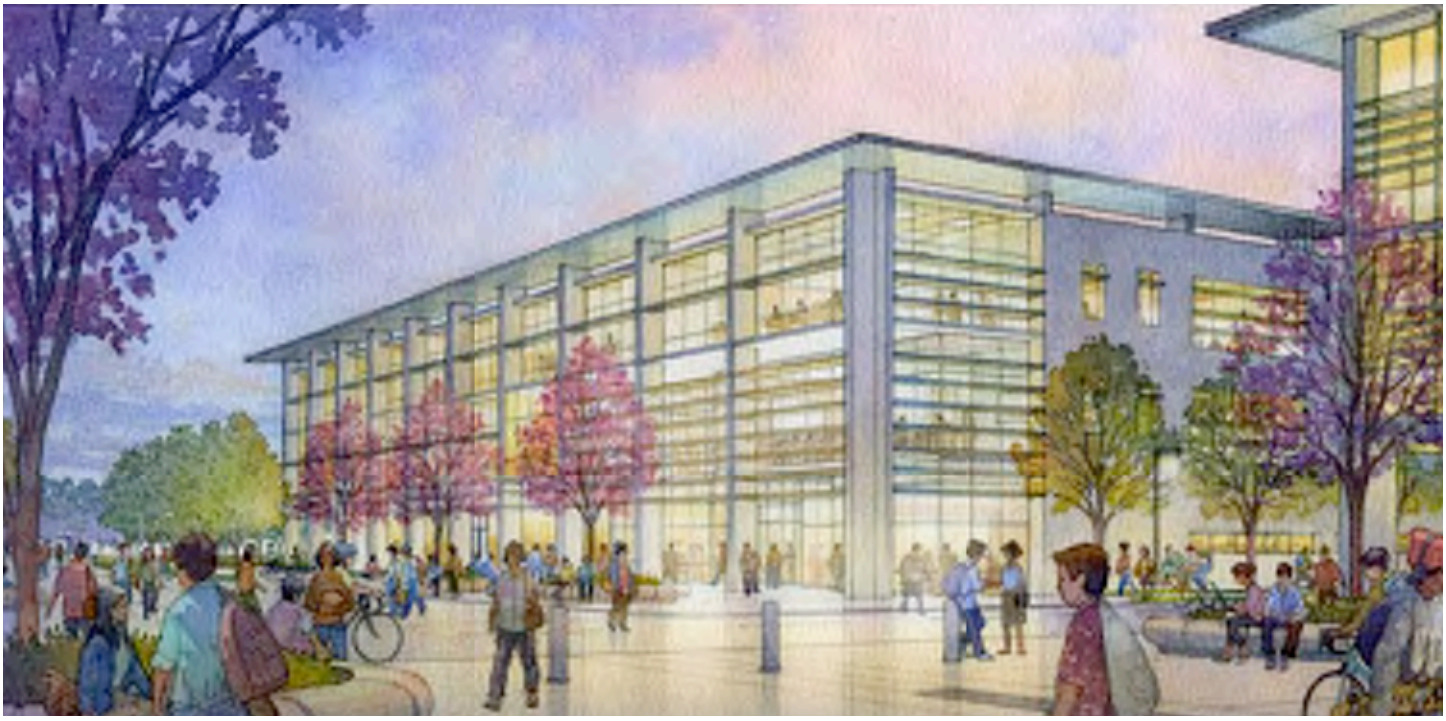
Campus Services
Facilities required to service the campus on a daily basis. This includes facilities for personnel and equipment related to the development, operations, security and safety, and maintenance of University facilities; e.g., general maintenance activities, materials handling, police offices and facilities, utility plants, serviceyards, recycling areas, storage, etc.

Parking
The parking category also include ssetbacks, landscaping, paths, onsite utility services, sidewalks, and all roads associated with service facilities. It also includes on-street and interim parking. Parking will be supplied at a rate of 0.62 per enrolled student. However, it is expected that a higher rate will be necessary until the campus and local transit systems mature. In the course of campus development, incidental lots associated with individual projects or clusters will be developed, while larger interim surface lots will be developed near the edges of the evolving campus. Only structures are indicated on the map.

Athletics/Recreation
This category encompasses indoor and outdoor athletic facilities and fields. The Athletics/Recreation designation also includes setbacks, landscaping, paths, on-site utility services, sidewalks and roads associated with facilities.

Passive Open Space
The Passive Open Space category designates larger, landscaped spaces within the campus boundaries. It also incorporates the campus storm water management systems, including lakes and detention areas, as well as the irrigation canals, which will be integrated into the campus pathway and open space systems

The North Bowl will double as a space for recreation and stormwater managemenet.



Campus building design features a modern pallette of concrete, glass and steel.

Student Housing 3: Loft-like student residential housing will create a sense of activity along Scholars Lane.

Main Street 2.0: Both planned Main Streets will mix residential uses with academic uses on linear corridors through the heart of the campus.

Landscape and Open Space

Permanently preserved under conservation easements, the 26,000 acres of land bordering the campus on the north and east constitutes the largest protected vernal pool environment on the planet. While the vernal pool landscape will play an important role in UC Merced's academic and research functions, it will also shape the character of the campus. This permanent open space will link the campus to the Sierra Nevada and to the area's agricultural heritage. Its rugged, natural beauty will make a lasting impression as a defining campus characteristic in the memories and affections of students, visitors and faculty.

Carrying the experience of this expansive natural beauty into the campus' built environment, landscaped areas on campus will be places for rest and recreation defined by a network of places clearly designed for activity.

Fairfield Canal and Le Grand Canal
The Fairfield and Le Grand Canals owned by the Merced Irrigation District (MID) wind through the site creating movement and water sounds. This linear landscape will evoke the Valley's riparian corridors through irregular plantings of indigenous species. The canals also provide an armature for bike and pedestrian paths weaving through the development grid.

Loop Trail and Road
The Loop Trail will be part of the Loop Road around the campus. It parallels the road as a detached bike and walking pathway. The trail provides sweeping views of the landscapes surrounding the campus. The trail is accessible from the student neighborhoods and the academic retreats.

Parkway Trail
The Campus Parkway Trail will provide a north-south connection to the city of Merced, the proposed University Community, and adjacent neighborhoods. The trail weaves through a park-like setting of seasonal stormwater retention areas, casual recreation spaces, and shaded woodlands.

Bowl Trails
The North and South Bowl areas will include bisecting trails/roads that connect the student neighborhoods to the academic core, recreation venues and a perimeter trail that connects gathering places.

The Vision for UC Merced's Landscape Design Framework

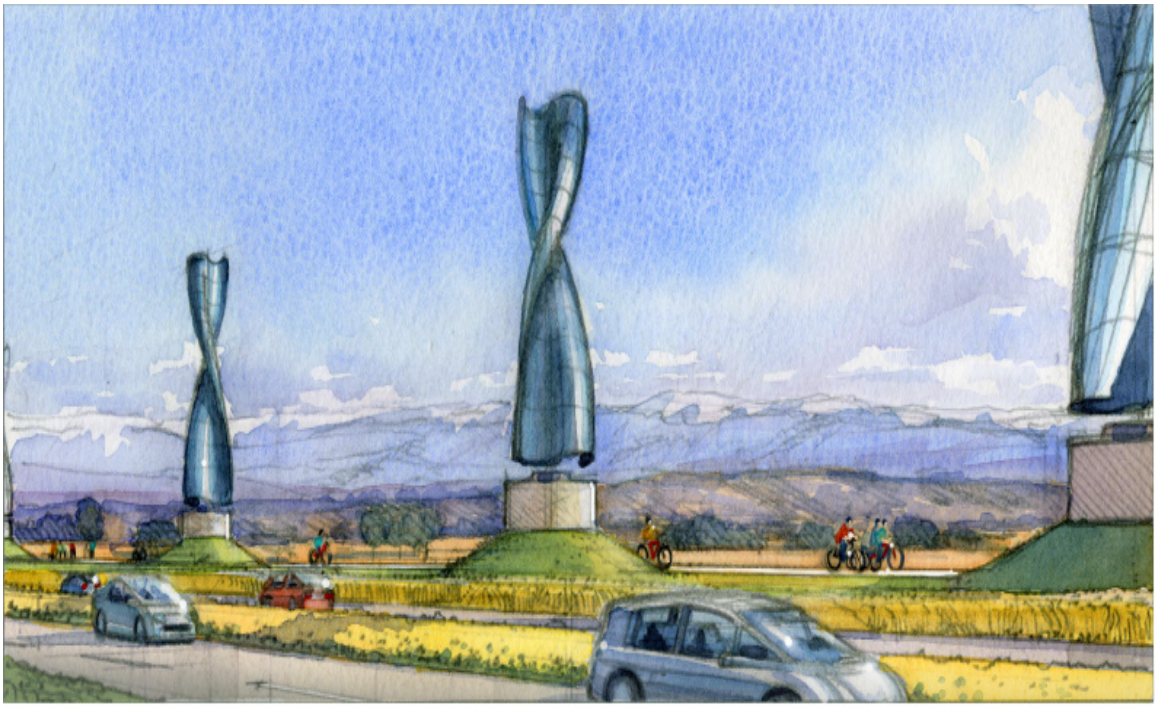
UC Merced's Landscape Design Framework calls for the development of landscape guidelines and standards that minimize irrigation needs with a preference for species native to the Central Valley. The vision includes:

- Riparian planting corridors along the canals and naturally drained corridors evocative of the native landscaping along the Central Valley's waterways;

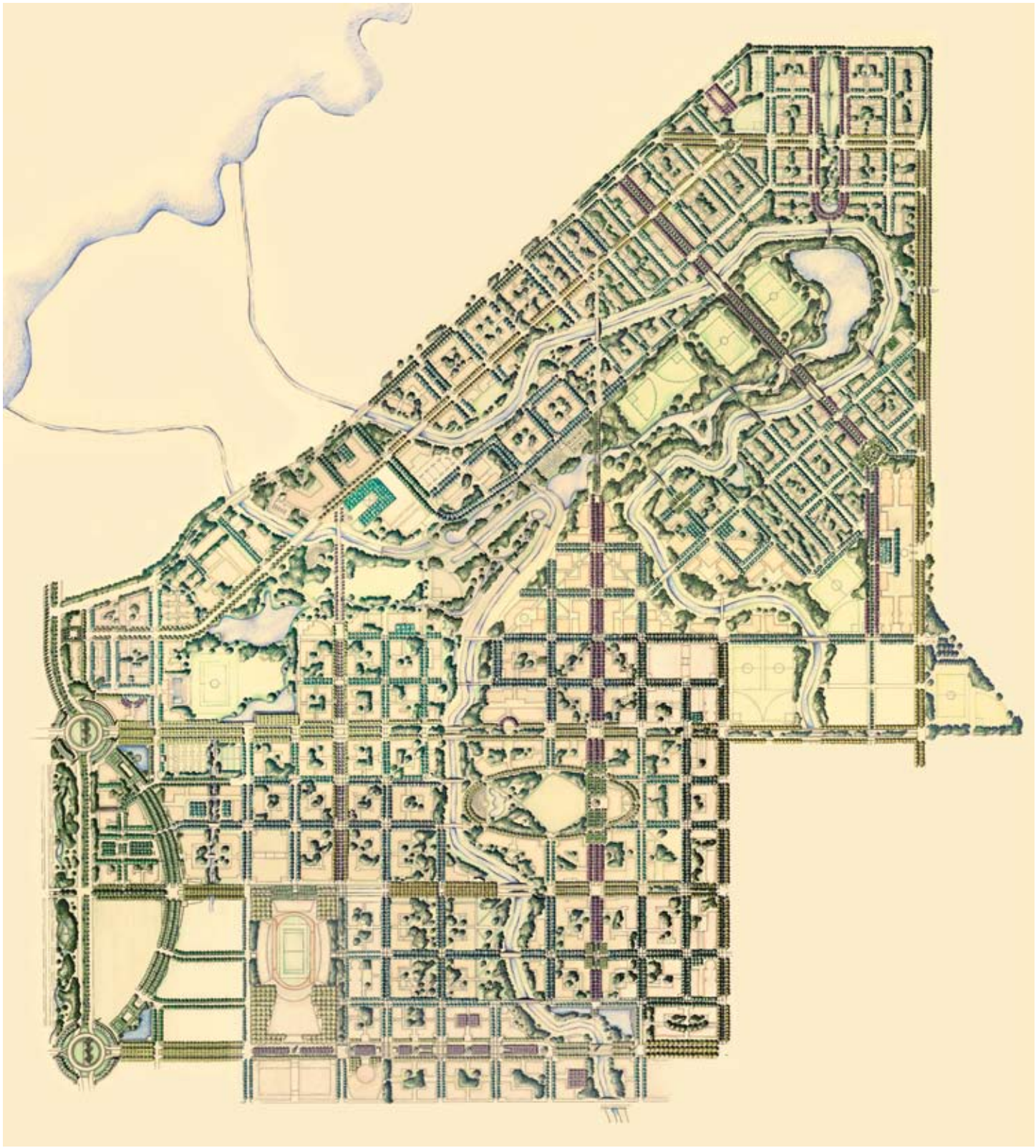
- Natural and native landscape along the edges of campus development as growth occurs to merge with and buffer adjacent habitat, minimize the need for irrigation and maintain a direct connection to the vernal pool grasslands;

- Orchard like planted canopies in formal open spaces, quads, squares, plazas and parking lots evocative of the Central Valley's agricultural landscape heritage to provide spring and fall color and deep shade for public comfort;

- Urban streetscape plantings evocative of Central Valley communities along the campus grid street system; and ornamental plantings along special corridors, near gateways and building entries to provide seasonal color, variety and form.

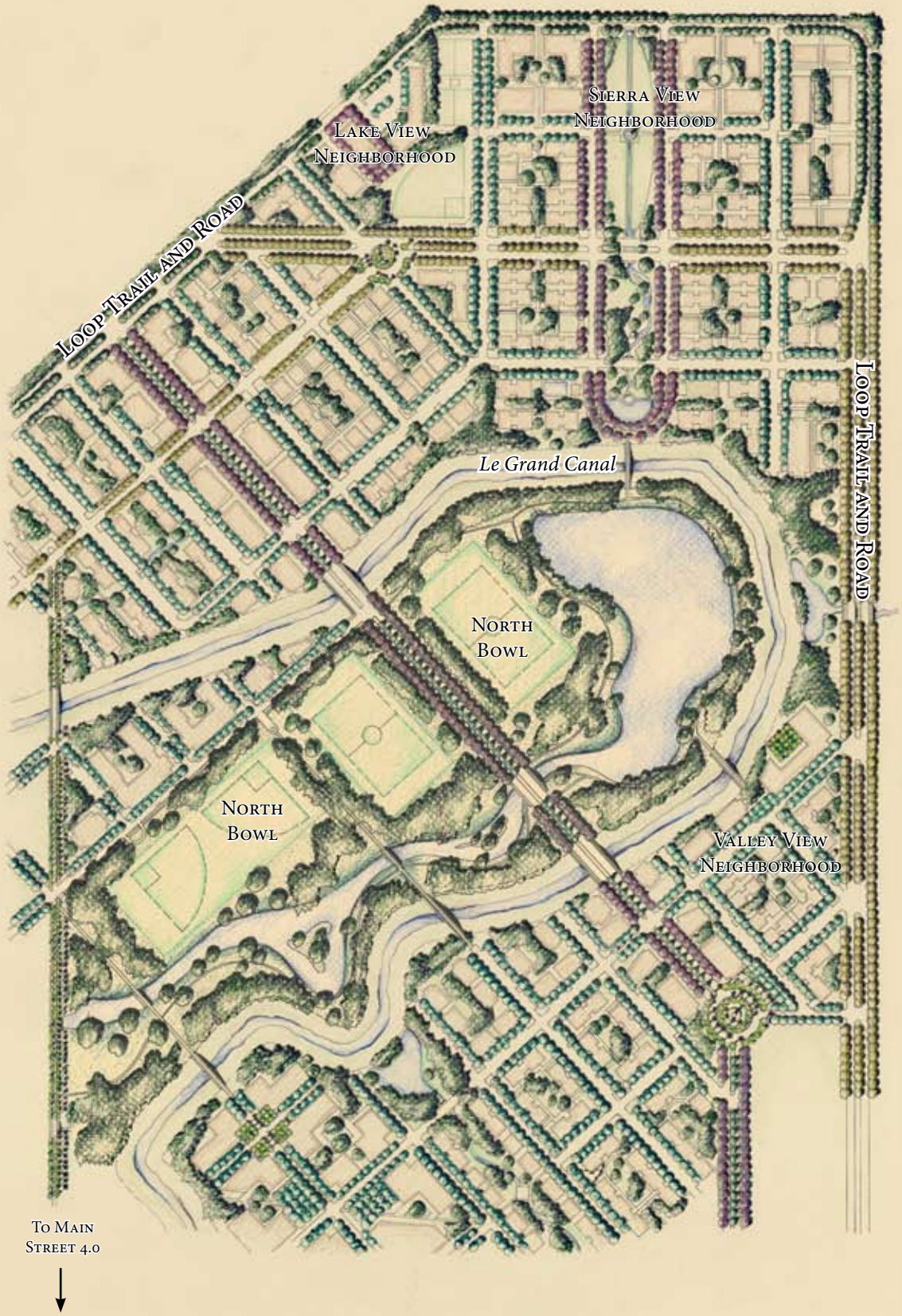


Native grasses along the campus edge facing the Sierra.



Campus Landscape Vision

The North Bowl
University of California, Merced



Circulation and Transportation

UC Merced's ultimate goal is develop a tree-lined, pedestrian oriented campus based on a orthogonal grid. The grid is derived from the traditional forms of the Central Valley. The grid, which has two separate orientations, has several long term advantages for the development of a sustainable campus. Its permeability allows summer breezes cooled by passing over the lake to pass through the northern half of the campus. Its rational order encourages use of multiple pathways by pedestrians, bicyclists, making the campus more accessible. It also allows for the efficient distribution of infrastructure and flexibility in the development and redevelopment of blocks for a variety of land uses over time as the campus evolves over generations. And its rigorous north south orientation maximizes the efficiency of designing buildings to take advantage of solar access and natural light.

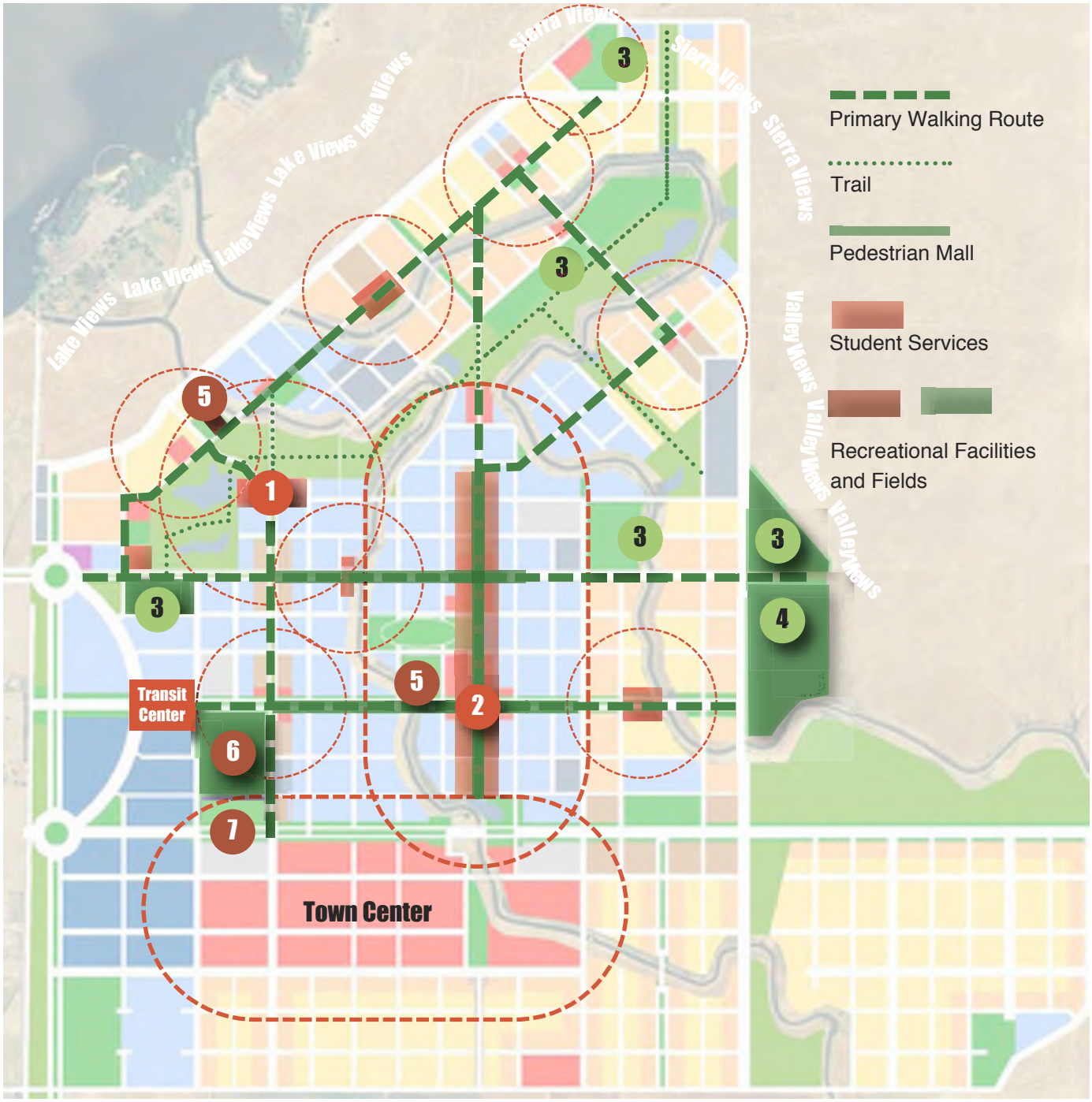
The campus circulation network will mix modes for pedestrians, public transit and bicycles. Cars will have limited access. The circulation layers for transit, campus shuttles, bike paths and pedestrians are coordinated to avoid conflicts and parking is clustered at the edges of campus.

The pedestrian circulation network takes steps towards building a culture of walking by providing wide, shaded, attractive sidewalks along a logical urban grid. The walking time from within the center of the academic core to surrounding neighborhoods is designed to be 10 minutes and avoids conflicts with bicycle and shuttle routes.

The campus' topography provides an opportunity to develop a comprehensive bicycle network through campus. As demonstrated in the accompanying map, bicycle routes will penetrate each of the student neighborhoods. To facilitate a culture of bicycle transit, the plan contemplates the incorporation of amenities such as bike lockers (in addition to bike racks) at new buildings, as well as shower facilities in all new buildings. To ease interaction with other modes of transportation, the plan envisions that campus transit and shuttle vehicles will be designed to accommodate the transport of bicycles.

Access to public transit will be a critical component of student connectivity to the city of Merced. The current system of CatTracks campus shuttles provides hourly access to off-campus venues. To better connect the campus to the community, the plan contemplates an intercommunity transit center at the campus' "front door" arch. The transit center is located to optimize pedestrian access to peak commute hour employment and instructional facilities as well as major off-peak access to sports and cultural event venues. At this transit hub, users will have access to information about bus routes and schedules.

The loop road at the perimeter of the campus allows for service and vehicular access from the edges of development, while managed access to the interior streets leaves the neighborhood centers and Academic Core safe for pedestrians and cyclists and allows for efficient transit systems.



UC Merced LRDP

Circulation: Pedestrians

Student Neighborhood Services

-Cafeterias/Food Service
-Neighborhood Commons
-Main Street

Student Union

1. Student Union 2.0
2. Student Union 4.0

Recreational Facilities

3. Soccer Fields
4. Baseball/Softball Fields
5. Intermural Gym/Rec. Center
6. Multi-use Stadium
7. Arena

Utilities

The campus' Central Plant is the first utility plant to ever receive a LEED Gold rating. The Central Plant's two-million gallon thermal energy storage tank contains water that is chilled overnight for campus cooling purposes during the day. This saves energy and money for the campus. As the campus grows, utility and infrastructure improvements phased over time are necessary to serve additional facilities built to accomodate UC Merced's academic mission and anticipated enrollment growth. The LRDP identifies locations for future energy centers.

IV. Planning Principles

UC Merced's Physical Design will be shaped by five planning principles.

• *Define the campus with an interdisciplinary Academic Core.*

UC Merced's academic mission is focused on interdisciplinary interactions. The design and scale of the teaching and research facilities are a significant element in reinforcing the connections that interdisciplinary work requires. As the campus grows, the size of the academic and research program will require multiple academic cores to maintain the quality of environment to support effective communication interaction.

• *Create higher-density neighborhoods for students.*

Creating communities is essential to the active life of the campus. Higher density neighborhoods. and housing near the Host District will provide options for all students. The two "Main Street" neighborhoods will be on-campus resources for upper division and graduate students.

• *Organize the campus around shared open spaces accessible within a 10-minute walking radius.*

With Sierra Nevada views and unique vistas, open space will be the central organizing features of the campus. These areas will function as informal active and passive shared activity places. Most prominent of these spaces is the "Bowl" — an open space natural feature integral to the ecologically sustainable design of the campus. Together with other significant open spaces, such as the Grand Ellipse (a large central park), these spaces will define a pattern of neighborhoods within the greater campus. All members of the campus community will be within a 10 minute walking distance to these features.

• *Design a plan for compact infrastructure.*

The compact footprint approach applies to all infrastructure systems. It minimizes investment and reduces a wide variety of long term costs.

• *Locate student services with a focus on convenience.*

Student services can form a valuable focus for the on-campus residential neighborhoods. Dispersing routine services makes them accessible and convenient to a student's daily life.

Sustainability

Since its inception UC Merced has been a leader in sustainable planning and environmental design. In planning the site, the campus has been directly involved in the conservation of more than 26,000 acres of native vernal pool grasslands—habitat to several special status species.

UC Merced leads in three distinct ways.

The campus is committed to teaching skills to advance social, economic and ecological sustainability, and to educate the world's thought leaders in sustainability. This commitment is a a significant research theme that provides a context and focus for dozens of disciplines in natural sciences, social sciences, management, engineering and humanities that has established an international reputation for the campus in just a few years.

It is a commitment in public service to apply that expertise in sustainability in a region where the need to achieve sustainability is paramount, and in a state that represents perhaps the world's best hope for innovation.

Finally, it is a commitment to provide an example by demonstrating through the campus' own planning, design and construction and operational approaches, leading- edge practices in sustainability.

Triple Zero Commitment

The 2009 LRDP continues the commitment to plan, design, build and operate the UC Merced campus at ever increasing levels of sustainability. The LRDP establishes goals and policies that mandate the use of broad-based, innovative sustainable techniques in facility and infrastructure design and construction. It includes integration with the research initiatives and innovations that are part of the overall campus research program, particularly in the area of solar power and building energy management systems. Finally, the LRDP establishes goals and policies for operational systems to support the ongoing practice of sustainability in campus life. Creating and maintaining a campus that demonstrates sustainability at every level is a core principle of the LRDP. It establishes sustainability goals for the campus, most notably the "Triple Zero Committment":

1. To consume zero net energy
UC Merced's goal is to reach zero net energy through efficiency and renewable energy production.

2. To produce zero landfill waste.
UC Merced's goal is to divert from landfill all campus waste by reducing excess consumption and recycling to the maximum extent feasible.

3. To produce zero net carbon emissions
UC Merced's goal is to prevent as much carbon emissions as it produces.

V. District Design Standards

In accordance with LRDP policies, District Plans are under development for each phase of campus construction. The district plans will provide specific details on architectural standards, infrastructure, services, and open space in accordance with the Long Range Development Plan. All development will be in accordance with the district plan.

Four academic districts are covered by the district plans, the Gateway District, North Campus, Central Campus West and Central Campus East. Four residential neighborhoods are addressed by the district plan process: Lake View, North Neighborhood, Sierra View and Valley View.

Each district plan is subject to the policies developed by the LRDP to preserve the nighttime sky through the minimization of light polluting fixtures. Uniform Signage and Wayfaring standards for the campus are also under development. Adherence to the standards and policies will be enforced through the planning and design process described below.

VI. Physical Planning and Design Process

UC Merced is currently in Phase 1 of its development. Phase 1 consists of two sub-phases: Phase 1.1, which is the existing 104-acre campus, and Phase 1.2, which is a 58-acre area to the north of Phase 1.1. Much of Phase 1.1 has been already built, and with the completion of some approved but not yet constructed projects, this portion of the campus will soon be fully built out. Full development of both sub-phases would provide adequate facilities for an enrollment level of 5,000 FTE students and would house up to 2,500 students on the campus.

To ensure this construction effort leads to a cohesive, high quality campus, the University has established committees who provide input at various stages. These committees guide project specific scoping, budgeting and design decisions, ensure accountability in diverse areas, and review and advise the administration on decisions and allow for exceptions to plans and policies, within a coherent decision making structure.

To provide this structure, there will be four standing committees appointed by the Chancellor to advise the administrative leadership. Their role is to review, comment, and make recommendations to the Campus Architect and Chancellor on district plans and on individual projects or initiatives. Their membership is intended to bring the multiple perspectives of the campus communities or technical or professional constituencies in the campus physical end environmental development process. Clearer definitions of their respective roles in the development of the campus may result in modification to their charge and membership.

Campus Physical Planning Committee

To advise on site selection, land use, and capital improvement plan projects and priorities, to make recommendations to the Chancellor on projects that may be approved at the campus level, planning policy changes that may be warranted, or exceptions to policy for specific projects, and to assist in the resolution of competing demands between the interests of the campus and the interests of the projects, should conflicts occur. This committee is cooperatively staffed by Physical Planning, Design and Construction and the Capital Budget Office.

Campus Design Review Committee

To advise the Chancellor and Campus Architect on urban, architectural, landscape and sustainable design matters for district plans, district and project design guidelines, campus design standards, development clusters or individual projects and improvement initiatives, and to make recommendations to the Chancellor regarding the design approval of projects that may be approved at the campus level. This committee is staffed by Physical Planning, Design and Construction.

Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability

To advise the Chancellor on all matters of sustainable design, development, management and operation of the campus and its facilities, and to advocate for programs and initiatives that continuously improve campus performance on matters of sustainability. The committee will review and advise on plans and projects in matters related to their charge. This committee is staffed by the Office of the Vice Chancellor Administration under the Director of Environmental Affairs.

Campus Technical Advisory Committee

To advise the Vice Chancellor Administration and the Campus Architect on the scope and functional requirements of district level plans; individual project programs, plans, and design documents; campus design guidelines and standards; and other matters relating to the physical and environmental development of the campus. Director level representation from Physical Planning, Design and Construction, EH&S, Facilities Management, UCPD, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Information Technology Services, and University Relations, as well as the Campus Fire Marshall, shall be included.

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