1 Introduction
Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Study

The Neighborhood Planning Study for the School of Medicine, located on the southern edge of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD)’s west campus, has two primary purposes:

1. To explore and define appropriate opportunities for development, both within the developed portions of the neighborhood and on surface parking lots to meet the potential future needs of the School of Medicine and related disciplines.

2. To establish a coherent structure for developing buildings, open spaces, infrastructure and landscape that will strengthen the positive qualities inherent in the existing campus and create a unique sense of place for the SOM neighborhood.

As stated in the proposed scope of work, the specific objectives of this study are to:

- Analyze undeveloped parcels and potential redevelopment areas to determine the development capacity of the neighborhood.
- Define the amount, location and desired adjacencies of future academic and research facilities, parking, graduate housing and permanent open space areas.
- Evaluate the neighborhood’s ability to accommodate structured parking as indicated in the UCSD Master Plan Study and evaluate the potential for a larger supply of parking in this area.
- Identify pedestrian and vehicular circulation routes that will connect buildings within the neighborhood and provide routes to other adjoining neighborhoods and to the surrounding community.
- Accommodate service and fire access to all existing and proposed buildings.

- Define the neighborhood’s open space network of greens, plazas, courtyards and interconnecting pathways.
- Reinforce connections within the Life and Natural Sciences Academic Corridor which traverses the campus from Revelle College to the west, through the SOM neighborhood and terminates at the East Campus Health Sciences neighborhood across Interstate 5.
1.2 Planning Process

This study is the result of an intense and highly interactive process including faculty from the School of Medicine, the university administration, planning staff and design consultants. The design team has worked closely with the UCSD Physical Planning staff to confirm program requirements, site conditions, infrastructure constraints and the overall philosophy of UCSD’s Master Plan and Long Range Development Plan. The underlying philosophy and fundamental elements of the plan were developed through a series of design ‘charrettes’ - working sessions with consultants, planning staff and the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC, comprised of members of the SOM faculty and administration, together with student representatives and UCSD professional planning staff, acted as a focused client group. A series of optional development/planning scenarios were developed in response to initial discussions and site analysis and presented to the PAC for review. One of these scenarios was selected as the preferred alternative for further refinement and development. As interim approvals were obtained from the PAC, the Neighborhood Plan, in its various stages of development, was presented to the Campus / Community Planning Committee (C/CPC) to gain broader review and approval from an overall University community perspective. The plan has been presented for informal review to several committees within the School of Medicine. In addition, the plan and design guidelines have received periodic reviews from the Design Review Board (DRB) to ensure consistency with the principles of UCSD’s Master Plan and in a manner which is compatible and complementary to the adjacent neighborhood plans.
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