



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**SAN FRANCISCO VA MEDICAL CENTER
VETERINARY MEDICAL UNIT FACILITY REPLACEMENT
AND EXPANSION PROJECT
PROJECT NO. 662-608**

Submitted to:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
PROPOSED VETERINARY MEDICAL UNIT FACILITY AT
THE SAN FRANCISCO VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) assessed the potential impacts of the efforts related to the construction and operation associated with the Veterinary Medical Unit (VMU) Facility (Proposed Action) at the San Francisco VA Medical Center (SFVAMC). An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the regulations set forth by the Council on Environmental Quality implementing the provisions of the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) (CEQ Regulations, Title 40 CFR 1500-1508); Executive Order 11514 as amended by Executive Order 11991; and VA Regulations – Environmental Effects of VA Actions (Title 38 CFR Part 26). The attached EA is incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Proposed Action involves construction and operation of a new two storied VMU Facility on the SFVAMC main campus. Facility operations are currently spread out in four different buildings on the campus and the new facility is planned to consolidate all VMU operations into one modern facility. The site for the Proposed Action has been designated by the SFVAMC, and it is located in a triangular open area between Buildings 6, 12, and 205. Building Trailer 17 (see Figure 3) would be demolished as part of this project. The checklists on the following pages provide an analysis of environmental impacts that could result from construction and operation of a new VMU Facility on the SFVAMC campus.

An alternative considered but dismissed from further consideration included keeping the existing Trailer 17 at the SFVAMC. This alternative does not satisfy the purpose and need for the Proposed Action, which is to provide more efficient conditions for veterinary medical research activities at the SFVAMC.

Summary of Environmental Consequences

Analysis indicates the Proposed Action would not result in short-term or long-term impacts to the following resources: community services, economic activity, real property, resident population, and environmental justice.

The proposed action would have minimal to moderate impacts on aesthetics, air quality, coastal zone/floodplains/wetlands/watersheds/rivers/lakes, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise, public controversy, public safety and solid/hazardous waste, transportation and parking, utilities, and vegetation and wildlife. No severe impacts were identified.

Construction activity will generate short-term impacts from temporary increases in noise, construction pollutant emissions, including dust, and temporary increases in traffic and loss of parking. Construction activities also have the potential to cause short-term impacts from storm water pollution, safety hazards to the public, impacts from vegetation removal, and temporary effects on visual quality. Mitigative actions included in the EA minimize these potential adverse

effects, as well as potential impacts from seismic and geological hazards and archaeological resources.

Furthermore, the Proposed Action would result in no adverse cumulative impacts to any environmental resource area. Although there would be a potentially adverse cumulative impact on the species of regional concern when considering all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the area, the potential impacts of the Proposed Action would not contribute to the potential impacts, and would not be cumulatively considerable, provided that the mitigative actions identified in this EA are implemented and adhered to. Thus, all cumulative impacts would be considered insignificant.

Public Review

The Draft EA was circulated for public period from February 1 through April 4, 2011. A Notice of Availability for the EA was published in the San Francisco Chronicle on February 4, 2011. Hard copies of the EA were distributed on January 31, 2011. Copies were also made available at the SFVAMC Engineering front desk and electronic copies were made available on the SFVAMC website. A total of five comment letters were received during the public review period. The attached final EA has been revised with clarifications and edits to address the comments. While not required by NEPA, responses to comments have been prepared and included in the final EA.

Decision

As a result of the impact analysis of the Proposed Action in the EA, it is the VA's conclusion that, with the incorporation of the appropriate construction practices, compliance with regulatory requirements, and implementation of mitigation actions in the EA, the Proposed Action would not have a significant environmental impact; therefore an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.



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Date

Attachment: Final Environmental Assessment