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\$1.7 billion program

Housing key to construction plans at UCSD

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LA JOLLA — Nearly 30,000 students are expected to be studying at the University of California-San Diego by the 2020-21 school year, and it is hoped a projected \$1.7 billion plan will go a long way toward addressing their needs.

About 28,000 undergraduate and graduate students study at UCSD today, and on-campus housing has been a continuing challenge.

To meet that challenge, work is expected to begin this summer on the two-phase UCSD North Campus Student Housing Community project.

The approximately \$122 million first phase will add more than 1,030 dormitory beds in a 14-story building, mainly for undergraduate transfer students. Work is expected to get under way this summer and is slated for completion in mid- to late 2009.

The project team for the first phase includes architect **MVE Institutional Inc.** of Irvine, New York-based architect and engineer **Skidmore Owings & Merrill** with offices in Los Angeles, and **Turner Construction** of New York City, the general contractor.

Helix Electric is the design-build electrical subcontractor and is providing the electrical systems to support a high-tech and environmentally efficient dormitory, as well as powering seven additional low-rise buildings that will house a new café, bookstore and other community amenities.

The projected \$103 million, 700-bed non-bid second phase, which could begin early next year. That 190,000-square-foot phase is slated for completion by mid-2011.

While the main housing focus is for undergraduates, the plan hasn't forgotten the graduate students.

UCSD has more than 1,000 graduate students on its waiting list for housing, and while undergraduates are guaranteed housing for their first two years, 750 students are currently housed three to a room.

The school recently spent \$66 million (construction cost) to build an 800-bed graduate dormitory in the Mesa Housing area of the East Campus.

The 374,000-square-foot project con-



structed by **Sundt Construction** has 800 parking stalls onsite as well. **Studio E** of San Diego and **MVE Architects** of Irvine designed that project.

More housing is a planned \$63 million, 500-bed expansion and renovation of the 129,000-square-foot, 500-bed Revelle Housing Complex. That work could begin early next year with completion slated for mid-2011.

While housing is a key element of the UCSD master plan, the intent is to divide development at the campus' colleges into neighborhoods focused on different disciplines.

These include marine sciences, natural and life sciences, humanities, social sciences and engineering and physics.

To remain competitive with other institutions in biotechnology studies, UCSD is planning a 54,800-square-foot biological and physical sciences building that ideally would get under way by mid-2010 and be completed by the end of 2012.

UCSD is not only a huge magnet for biotechnology firms that tend to cluster around the university on the Torrey Pines mesa, it is also home to the San Diego Supercomputer Center in the northwestern part of the campus.

While impressive now, UCSD said another 50,000 square feet is needed to keep the computer center in pace with

current demand.

The addition is comprised of administrative and research offices, computer labs, meeting rooms, classrooms, an auditorium and a 5,000-square-foot expansion of the existing supercomputer machine room.

The expansion is expected to cost \$49 million, and is slated for completion this summer.

Not all the improvements are housing related or in the sciences. Now in an aging and cramped location, the music department has long sought better classrooms and recital areas.

The new music building (above), under construction, will have 47,000 assignable square feet and it will provide new instructional spaces, practice rooms, rehearsal spaces, faculty studios, administrative support space and a 400-seat recital hall for the Department of Music.

The project's timing was in doubt in August 2006 when the lowest bid — that of **PCL Construction** — came in at about \$9 million more than the projected \$35 million cost, and the university had to scramble to find the funding to make up the difference.

"We were able to secure a philanthropic donation to fill the gap," Hellman said.

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