The Greenhouse Replacement project (proposed project) would construct an approximately 15,000-gross-square-foot (GSF) greenhouse and headhouse facility on an undeveloped site located in the Academic Core of the University of California, Irvine (UCI). A service road and four parking spaces would be constructed to connect the project site to West Peltason Drive, and improvements would be made to the existing pedestrian footpath located south of the project site to allow for emergency vehicle access. Additional scope of work includes demolition of existing ornamental landscaping and installation of utilities, lighting, and new landscaping.

The proposed project is a replacement for the existing approximately 15,000 GSF greenhouse and headhouse facility located approximately 0.25 miles northeast of the project site, which would be demolished and analyzed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the upcoming Student Success Building project.

Pursuant to CEQA, the proposed project has been determined to be categorically exempt under Article 19, 15303, Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures. The proposed project is the replacement of an existing facility located within 0.25 miles of the project site, the site is located within a built-out area of the Academic Core, sufficient public services and utilities are available to serve the site, and the site is not considered environmentally sensitive. Furthermore, per CEQA Section 15300.2, none of the exceptions to a Categorical Exemption are applicable.

The project design and CEQA determination are under review and are pending approval by the UCI Chancellor no earlier than November 19, 2019.