Dear Middle Earth Residents,

Welcome to UC Irvine and Middle Earth Housing! We’re excited to have you with us this academic year and hope you have a wonderful experience while you’re a part of our community!

As you may know, construction on the Middle Earth Expansion has begun! Two, seven-story towers with approximately 500 beds located on the upper five floors, with one floor of dining (first floor) and one floor of study/common area space (second floor) is being built and will open in the Fall of 2019. Our basketball court is currently being relocated between Shadowfax and Pippin and will be completed on 11/1/17. The Tolkien Room will serve as our game room/recreation space for the next two years and it located on the North side of Pippin and can be accessed by entering the building through the front doors (no swipe necessary).

We are making every effort to minimize impacts on you during your stay. Unfortunately there will be associated noise which might be a little loud at times, as well as additional dust and changes to paths of travel, especially regarding access to Ring Road. We recommend that you close your windows and blinds while in your room if you are distracted and to minimize noise and dust. Free ear plugs and dust cloths are available in the Middle Earth Housing office as needed. We apologize for any inconveniences caused by the construction during your time with us. Due to their immediate adjacency to construction/staging areas and the duration of the project the following halls will have fans placed in each room: Harrowdale, Hobbiton, Isengard, Lorien, Mirkwood, Misty Mountain and Whispering Wood.

Normal construction hours for this project will be 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (noisy work will begin after 8:00 a.m.), Monday-Friday, and 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Saturday work must be scheduled with us in advance, and we’ll let you know what’s going on each week when our Weekly Email is sent out each Friday. Work is not scheduled on Sundays.

For your safety, when walking/biking/skateboarding/etc. to and from Middle Earth, please stay within identified travel paths. For the safety of all community members, certain pathways are restricted to pedestrians only (no bikes/skateboards/etc.) and are marked. Please be aware of all vehicular and bike/skateboard/etc. traffic when crossing the Brandywine Service Road. Construction areas are clearly marked with signs and a fence. Do not enter construction areas at any time.

Questions or safety concerns about the construction should be directed to the Middle Earth Housing Office, at 949-824-5976 during regular business hours (8:00am-8:00pm, Monday through Friday). Urgent concerns after hours (such as suspicious persons/activity in the construction site, noise issues, and/or utility issues like leaks or outages) can be addressed by calling the Middle Earth Duty Line at 949-824-4751.

Regular updates on the status of this construction work will be sent out weekly our Construction News website is up and running now at https://housing.uci.edu/communityLife/me-expansion.html Check for updates! Again, we apologize for any inconvenience you might experience due to this important project.

Sharon Stead, Ph.D.
Director, Middle Earth Housing
View of the Middle Earth Expansion from Ring Road