

Notice of Preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report

To: All Interested Persons and Agencies
From: The Los Angeles Community College District
Date: October 21, 2009
Project Title: East Los Angeles College Facilities Master Plan Update

Subject: The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), acting as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), publicly announces its intent to initiate the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Supplemental EIR) for the East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Facilities Master Plan Update (proposed project). The Supplemental EIR is a continuation of the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) prepared for the ELAC Facilities Master Plan (Original Facilities Master Plan) that was certified on February 20, 2002 (State Clearinghouse Number 2004109028), and the two subsequent Addendums to the Final EIR. An Addendum to the Final EIR was prepared in December 2004 for the 2004 Facilities Master Plan Update and in January 2008 for the modernization and expansion of the existing Dr. Helen Miller Bailey Library, an improvement that was not included in the Original Facilities Master Plan or in the 2004 Master Plan Update.

The Supplemental EIR will contain only the information necessary to make the changes as revised in the proposed project. This focus meets the requirements for supplemental analysis under Section 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines, which requires that only changes to the Final EIR prepared for the Original Facilities Master Plan and subsequent Addendums that may result in significant impacts and that were not evaluated and not previously disclosed be included in this Supplemental EIR.

Purpose of NOP: The Lead Agency has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Supplemental EIR to initiate early consultation and provide opportunity for comment from public agencies, stakeholders, organizations, and interested individuals on the scope of the environmental analysis addressing the potential effects of the proposed project. In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, 14 CCR Section 15000 et seq., the Lead Agency is requesting written comments from public agencies, stakeholders, organizations and interested individuals on the scope and content of the environmental information that should be addressed in the Supplemental EIR. Responsible Agencies, as defined by CEQA Guidelines, Section 15381, if any, will need to use the Supplemental EIR when considering permits or other approvals for the proposed project.

Project Site and Location: ELAC is located at 1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez in the City of Monterey Park in Los Angeles County. The campus is approximately 5.5 miles east of Downtown Los Angeles (**Exhibit 1**). Geographically, the campus is nestled at the base of two groups of hills, the Repetto and Montebello Hills, which cross from the northwest to the southeast of the six-mile area surrounding the college. Specifically, the campus is bounded by Avenida Cesar Chavez to the south, Collegian Avenue to the east, Bleakwood Avenue to the west, and Floral Drive to the north.

Project Description: The proposed project is intended to act as a guide for future development of the college and present projects that carry forward the concepts of providing state-of-the-art learning environments, enhanced infrastructure, aesthetic improvements, improved safety through building improvements, lighting and adequate convenient parking, and the ability to maintain and/or increase course offerings and programs.

The components of the proposed project are broken into three categories: New Facilities, proposed Modernizations and Revised Project Descriptions. A site plan identifying the locations of the various project components within the ELAC campus are presented in **Exhibit 2**.

New Facilities Included in the 2009 Facilities Master Plan Update

Vocational / General Classroom Building – A LEED certified, 60,000-gsf multi-story vocational and general classroom building housing, Administrative Justice, fire technology, forensics (labs-CSI), probation and general lecture classroom and offices. The existing Nursing Building G9 would be demolished to accommodate this new facility.

Student Success and Retention Center – A LEED certified, 130,000-gsf, 5-story building housing English, foreign language, speech and communications, ESL and basic skills, non-credit, Chicano studies, reading/writing labs, learning assistance and honors program, is proposed to consolidate the language arts programs into a single cohesive center. The construction of this facility would address the current program needs to move the college into current facilities standards. The proposed building would replace the existing Business E3, Classrooms E5 and E6 Bungalows and include a landscaped/hardscaped central campus quad area.

Campus Marquees – Three campus electronic digital message-information signs with 8- to 10-foot high by 12-foot wide Light-Emitting-Diode (LED) display boards would be located at the northwest corner of Weingart Stadium, the southwest corner of the Collegian Avenue/Floral Drive intersection, and at the entryway of Parking Structure 3.

Proposed Modernizations in the 2009 Facilities Master Plan Update

Classrooms G8 and H8 Modernization – Classrooms G8 and H8 were originally proposed to be demolished to accommodate the Math and Science Complex (see below). The modernization, which will be integrated into the Math / Science Complex would modernize Classrooms G8 and H8 which were originally constructed in 1963 and 1961 respectively. This modernization will bring the existing buildings up to current code and life safety standard and provide modernized classroom space to meet current and future enrollment.

Revised Project Descriptions in the 2009 Facilities Master Plan Update

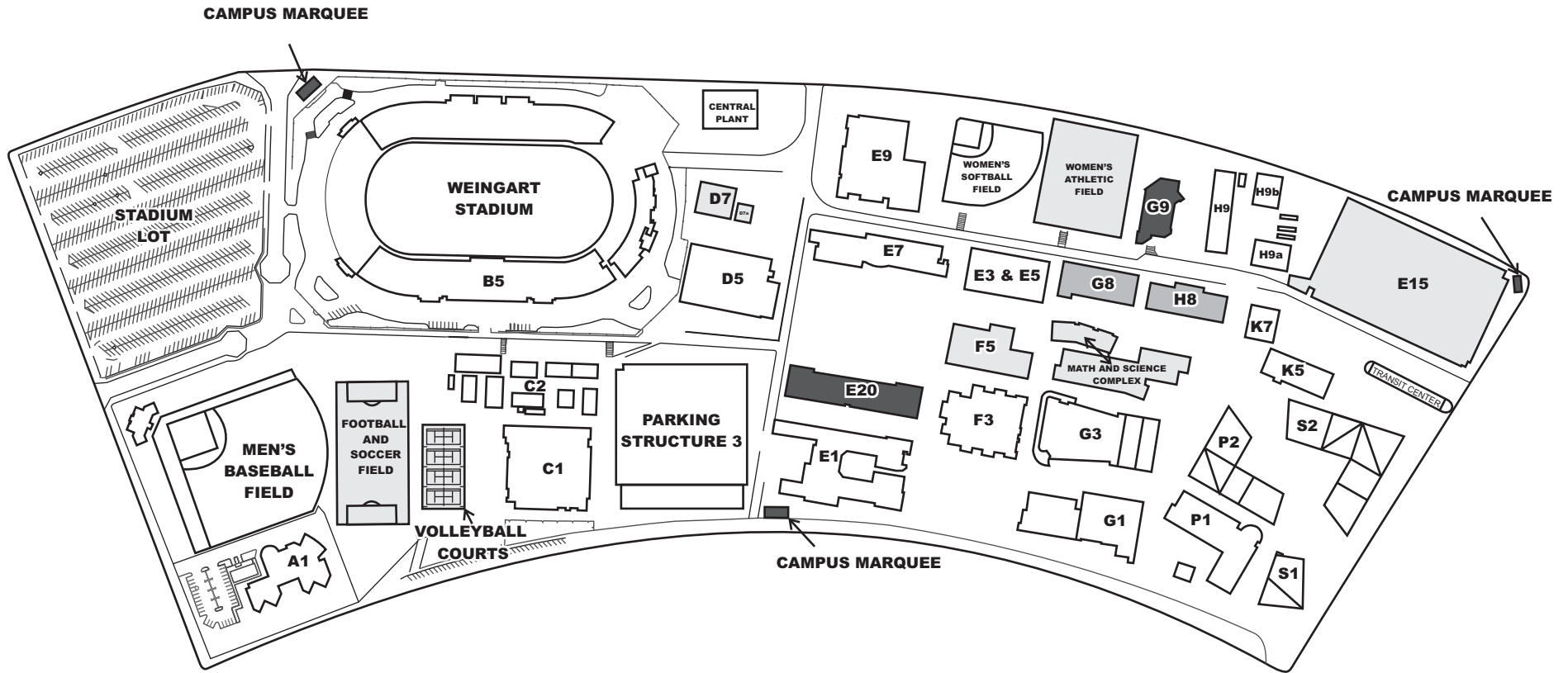
Math and Science Complex – The Original Facilities Master Plan proposed the consolidation of math and science facilities, seven buildings were to be demolished to accommodate this 140,000-gsf facility. The 2004 Facilities Master Plan Update proposed to incorporate the Health Care Careers Building in this facility, the Health Care Careers Building is now being accommodated at a satellite location which will undergo separate review. The revised project description reduces the number of buildings being demolished from seven to five and proposes a reduction in size, from 140,000 to 118,334 gsf.

Campus Student Center / Bookstore Complex – A LEED certified, 55,000-gsf multi-story building, which would include a food court, bookstore, student activities center, student government offices, international student office, health services, Cal-Works, multi-purpose room, meeting rooms and faculty lounge. The proposed building would replace the existing Student Services Building F5.

Volleyball Courts, Football and Soccer Fields – The Original Facilities Master Plan proposed volleyball courts and one full-sized field (football or soccer). The volleyball courts were not proposed as part of the 2004 Facilities Master Plan Update. The 2009 Facilities Master Plan Update proposes to reincorporate the athletic fields. The B2 Bungalow Complex will be removed to accommodate the new athletic fields.

Women's Athletic Field – The Original Facilities Master Plan proposed a new women's athletic field. The athletic field was not proposed as part of the 2004 Facilities Master Plan Update. The 2009 Facilities Master Plan Update proposes to reincorporate the athletic field. The F9 Bungalow Complex will be removed to accommodate the new athletic field.

Lot #4 – The Original Facilities Master Plan proposed a 1,000-car, five-level (one below ground) parking structure. In the 2004 Facilities Master Plan Update the parking structure was revised to accommodate a 1,600-car, four-level parking structure with an expanded footprint. The 2009 Facilities Master Plan Update reduces the number of parking spaces from 1,600 to 1,574 spaces.



LEGEND: Proposed New Facilities Proposed Modernizations Revised Project Descriptions Existing Buildings

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|-------|---|----|-------------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| A1 | Child Development Center | E3/E5 | Classrooms | G1 | Administration | K7 | Classrooms |
| B5 | Weingart Stadium/Sheriffs Office | E7 | Technology Center | G3 | Ingalls Auditorium | P1 | Auto Technology |
| C1 | Men's Gym/Fitness Center | E9 | Women's Gym | G8 | Classrooms | P2 | Performing Arts Complex |
| C2 | Classrooms | E15 | Parking Lot 4 | G9 | Vocational/General Classrooms | S1 | Vincent Price Art Gallery |
| D5 | Swim Stadium | E20 | Student Success & Retention Center | H8 | Classrooms | S2 | Fine Arts Complex |
| D7 | Faculty Office | F3 | Bailey Library | H9 | Plant Facilities | | |
| E1 | Student Services Center | F5 | Campus Student Center/Bookstore Complex | K5 | Classrooms | | |

SOURCE: 2009 East Los Angeles College Facilities Master Plan Update



Areas of Project Impact: Environmental effects are anticipated in the following categories: Aesthetics and Lighting; Air Quality; Cultural Resources; Geology; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Land Use and Planning; Noise; Population and Housing; Public Services; Transportation and Traffic; and Utilities and Service Systems. An Initial Study was not prepared for this project as preliminary review of the project scope indicated the necessity to prepare a Supplemental EIR. Therefore, all topics included in the CEQA Initial Study Checklist will be analyzed in the Supplemental EIR.

The SEIR will seek to identify and analyze the significant impacts of the proposed project and recommend possible mitigation measures, when necessary, to eliminate or substantially reduce any identified significant impacts.

How to Comment: When submitting a comment, please include the name of a contact person in your agency or organization. Comments regarding the scope of the environmental analysis to be conducted for the proposed project may be submitted by mail, e-mail, or fax to the address below:

Larry Eisenberg, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Development
Los Angeles Community College District
770 Wilshire Boulevard, 6th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Fax: 213-891-2145
E-mail: EisenLH@email.laccd.edu

In addition, comments may be submitted at the public scoping meeting to be held on November 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium Foyer at the East Los Angeles College, 1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, CA 91754

Please send comments at the earliest possible date. All comments must be received by November 20th, 2009 for consideration.