

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) has prepared a Facilities Master Plan Update (hereafter referred to as the “proposed project”) for improvements to East Los Angeles College (ELAC), located in the City of Monterey Park, California. The proposed project includes New Facilities, Proposed Modernizations and Revised Project Elements. The New Facilities consist of the addition of approximately 126,093 net gross square feet (gsf) of new facilities, the demolition of existing buildings not originally proposed for demolition, and the addition of three campus marquees (large lighted signs). The Proposed Modernizations include the retention and modernization of buildings that were proposed to be demolished under the 2004 Facilities Master Plan Update (2004 FMPU). The Revised Project Elements include a reduction in the gsf of the proposed Math and Science Complex, changes to Building F5 (English and Math Lab), including demolition of the existing building and the addition of 32,306 gsf, reintroduction of the proposed athletic fields that were originally proposed in the 1998 Facilities Master Plan (1998 FMP) and eliminated in the 2004 FMPU, located west of the Men’s Gymnasium and east of the Women’s Gymnasium, a minor reduction in the number of parking spaces proposed for the Northeast Parking Structure, and elimination of the proposed 300-space parking structure that was to be located north of the Swim Stadium.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as defined in Section 15121 (a) of the State Guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 “Guidelines,” is to “inform public agency decision-makers and the public generally of the potential significant environmental effects of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effect and describe reasonable alternatives to the project.” This document assesses the potential significant environmental impacts, including unavoidable adverse impacts and cumulative impacts, related to the adoption of the proposed project. Where there is potential for a significant adverse effect, this report identifies mitigation measures that would either eliminate the impact or reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level. This report also identifies those significant effects that may be unavoidable even after the implementation of mitigation or policies.

1.2 AUTHORIZATION AND FOCUS

This Supplemental EIR has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 and the Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (the “State CEQA Guidelines”), as amended to date. This Supplemental EIR contains only the information necessary to make the previously approved Facilities Master Plan Final EIR (Final EIR) adequate for the proposed project, as revised in the 2009 Facilities Master Plan Update (2009 FMPU). This focus meets the requirements for supplemental analysis under Section 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines, which requires that only changes to the 1998 FMP that may result in significant impacts and that were not evaluated and disclosed in the Final EIR be included in this Supplemental EIR. Specifically, this document evaluates the environmental effects of any changes from the 1998 FMP which may result from the implementation of the proposed project.

In certain instances, a proposed project may have possible environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. In accordance with Section 15130 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Supplemental EIR identifies the cumulative effects of the proposed project when combined with other probable future development within the project vicinity. This Supplemental EIR also assesses the potential for the proposed project to result in growth-inducing impacts and irreversible environmental change.

Because this Supplemental EIR is intended to serve as a supplement to the previous EIR, impacts and conditions presented in the previous EIR will serve as the primary base of comparison for analysis. Not all of the environmental topics included in the CEQA Guidelines Initial Study Checklist are addressed in this Supplemental EIR. The topics that are not addressed in this Supplemental EIR are not included because the previous EIR concluded that there were no significant impacts associated with those topics, that the mitigation measures formerly proposed in the Final EIR would be feasible and would mitigate impacts of the proposed project to a less-than-significant level, or for which level of significance is unchanged from that described in the Final EIR.

1.3 LEAD AGENCY

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is the Lead Agency in accordance with Section 15367 of the CEQA Guidelines, that defines the lead agency as “the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the project.” The project proponent as well as CEQA Lead Agency for the 2009 FMPU is:

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Larry Eisenberg, Executive Director
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1.4 INTENDED USES OF THE EIR

This Supplemental EIR is prepared at the direction and under the supervision of LACCD. As discussed above, LACCD is both the project proponent and also the Lead Agency under CEQA. The intended use of this EIR is to assist the LACCD in making decisions with regards to the approval of the proposed project. This document may also be used by other public 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. Section 21096 for the CEQA Guidelines defines a “responsible agency” as a public agency, other than the Lead Agency, which has responsibility for carrying out or approving a project.

1.5 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this EIR was issued on October 21, 2009, by the Lead Agency. Information, data, and observations resulting from these contacts are included where relevant. This Draft Supplemental EIR will be circulated for a 45-day public review period. The public is invited to comment in writing on the information contained in this document. Persons and agencies commenting are encouraged to provide information that they believe is missing from the Draft Supplemental EIR, or to identify where the information can be obtained. All comment letters received will be responded to in writing, and the comment letters, together with the responses to those comments, will be included in the Final Supplemental EIR.