

**LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Los Angeles Valley College is a 2-year community college accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and one of nine community colleges that form the Los Angeles Community College District (District). Valley College is located in the Valley Glen area of the San Fernando Valley in the city and county of Los Angeles (see Figure 1).

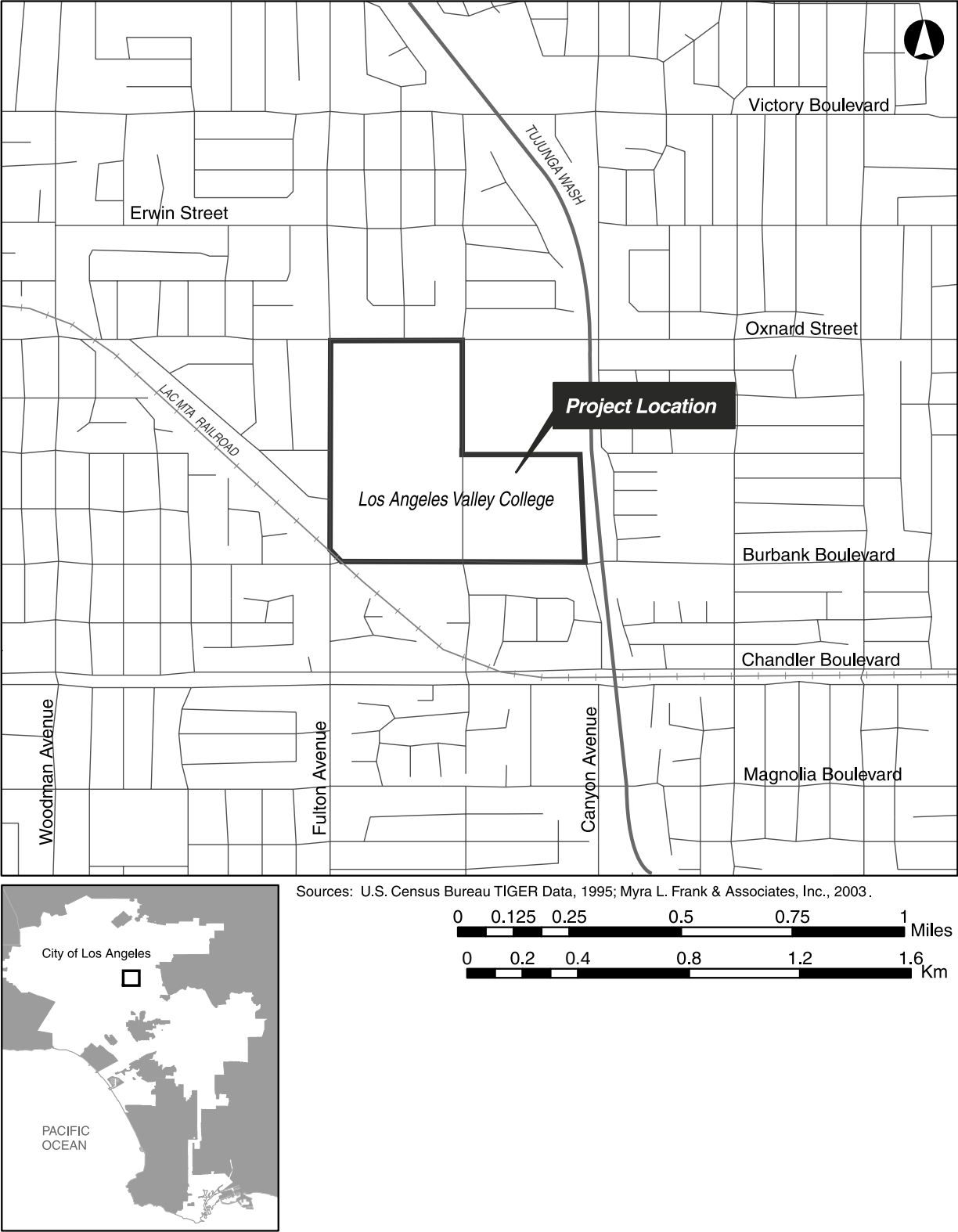
On April 10, 2001, Los Angeles voters approved Proposition A, a \$1.245 billion facilities bond that would provide funding to repair, rehabilitate, and modernize facilities at all nine of District's campuses. Valley College was allocated \$165 million of the \$1.245 billion bond measure. Valley College has developed a Facilities Master Plan that identifies the vision and objectives of the College and specific projects that could be constructed over the next 5 to 6 years using Proposition A bond money and other future funding to achieve the goals of the College.

The Master Plan proposes the construction of new facilities and renovation and modernization of and additions to existing facilities, demolition of a number of existing buildings, and the development of new surface parking and landscaping. Completion of the projects proposed under the Master Plan would result in an increase of approximately 291,5000 gross square feet (gsf) and would provide 4,170 parking spaces. Currently, there are approximately 600,000 gsf of floor space and 3,863 parking spaces on the campus. The Master Plan would provide enough space in new and modernized facilities to accommodate an estimated total enrollment of approximately 23,000 students or 15,693 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students and 381 FTE employees by the 2008-2009 academic year. There were an estimated 19,309 students enrolled at Valley College in the fall 2002 semester and the anticipated number of FTE students for the 2002-2003 academic year is 13,393.

The District has directed the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to evaluate the environmental effects of the Master Plan. In accordance with CEQA requirements, on January 23, 2003, approximately 110 copies of a Notice of Preparation (NOP) were distributed to various agencies, organizations, and individuals that might have an interest in the project. The NOP announced that an EIR would be prepared and requested comments on issues or impacts that should be addressed in the environmental document. A public scoping workshop was also held on February 6, 2003, to provide an additional opportunity for individuals to submit comments or suggestions on issues to be evaluated in the Draft EIR and to provide information to the public on the Master Plan and EIR process.

A Draft EIR was prepared that evaluated the environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the Facilities Master Plan and identifies measures to mitigate the significant effects of the projects proposed under the Master Plan. According to the analyses in the Draft EIR, the proposed Master Plan could result in significant or potentially significant impacts in the following areas:

Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map



- **Air Quality** – Emissions during construction and operation of the project could exceed South Coast Air Quality Management District significance thresholds.
- **Archaeological Resources** – Construction activities have the potential to disturb, alter, or destroy archaeological resources that may be present in natural sediments underlying the campus.
- **Paleontological Resources** – Construction activities that extend into subsurface Pleistocene older alluvium could result in the destruction of unique fossil resources.
- **Geology/Soils/Seismicity** – Strong groundshaking due to earthquakes on nearby faults could damage structures on the campus. Soils on portions of the campus may have a very high potential for expansion, which could cause unacceptable settlement or heave of structures. Subsurface soils may be subject to liquefaction if groundwater levels rise to historic high levels of approximately 10 feet depth.
- **Hazardous Materials** – Construction activities in areas on campus where hazardous materials are stored or used could result in potentially significant impacts. Contamination could also be encountered in the vicinity of an existing underground storage tank that would be removed as part of relocation of Plant Facilities. Demolition of older buildings on the campus could potentially result in exposure and mobilization of asbestos-containing material and/or lead-based paint contaminants.
- **Noise** – Noise from construction activities could adversely affect on-campus academic facilities, the Child Development Center, and Grant High School students.
- **Public Services** – Fire protection services could be adversely affected during construction if emergency vehicle access is impeded due to street or lane closures within campus boundaries. On-campus academic facilities, the Child Development Center, and Grant High School could be adversely affected by noise and air pollution during construction.
- **Transportation/Traffic & Parking** – Increased enrollment and employment could result in significant impacts in the 2008-2009 academic year at 10 of 40 study intersections.

The impacts in the following areas would remain significant after implementation of proposed mitigation measures: air quality, potential archaeological resources (if any Native American remains are present and disturbed), and transportation/traffic (if agencies with jurisdiction over the affected intersections determine, upon further review, that the mitigation measures at an affected intersection are infeasible, the impact would be significant and unavoidable).

As required by CEQA, a 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR was established, which began on April 29 and ended on June 16, 2003. Comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR and merits of the project that were submitted in writing by the termination of the comment period on June 16 and at the two public workshops held in the Cafeteria Conference Room on the campus on May 7 and May 27, 2003 have been included in the Final EIR. The Final EIR consists of the text of the Draft EIR (changes or corrections to the text of the Draft EIR in response to public comments are shown in strikeout and underline text) and the public comments on the Draft EIR and responses to those comments (see Chapter 9 of the Final EIR).

The District Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing to receive testimony on the Final EIR and Master Plan on August 20 at 3:30 p.m. in the District Office, 770 Wilshire Boulevard, 1st floor. Persons wishing to speak at this hearing must sign up by calling the Board Office, (213) 891-2044, by

10 a.m. on 8/20/03. Those who wish to comment, but cannot attend the hearing, may send written comments to Barbara Chiavelli, Facilities Planning and Development, Los Angeles Community College District, 770 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90017. Comments will be made part of the public record and given to the Board of Trustees for consideration.