Los Angeles Mission College

2009 Facilities Master Plan

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Public Scoping Meeting

Los Angeles Mission College
Main Campus Center
13356 Eldridge Avenue
Sylmar, California 91342
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REPORTED BY:
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SYLMAR, CALIFORNIA; TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009

7:10 P.M.

JUDITH VALLES,

MS. VALLES: Hello there. Thank you for coming this evening. I will introduce myself to all of you. I think I've met most of you. I haven't met this young lady back there. Some of you I've seen before because we had some meetings before.

We're trying to do the meetings in different areas. We've had some for the Hubbard residents. We've had some along at Eldridge. And today, the meeting today is going to be just a little different. It will be similar to the scoping meeting that we had here on Saturday.

Let me first of all introduce myself, and then I'll introduce the team. And Dr. Hoefel, who is the vice president of administrative services, she'll be making a presentation, and then she'll be giving you all the instructions.

But I wanted to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Judith; my last name is Valles. I started here in April of last year. So I've been here over one year. And I came from another area, and I've been on many college campuses, not only California but throughout
this country.

And when I came here, I was really surprised -- I was impressed with the community, and I was impressed with the students. But I realized that we didn't have the facilities that we needed to be a comprehensive community college and yet we were.

And as I looked at the other campuses in Los Angeles, I thought, well, okay, let me understand the history here. And then I learned some of the history; that we were a college, but we had been storefronts for many years. And it was a group of dedicated and committed people that decided we need to build our own campus here, and so that was the beginning. This used to be something else, and now it's a campus.

But then when I tried to visit as many of the classes that we were offering, I was really saddened that we didn't even have a P.E. building for our students, the only college in California that doesn't have a physical education building for our students. We had to farm them out to play on a soccer field 15 miles away. And yet we have a very active student body that want to participate in soccer. We also have state championship baseball and softball teams that we have to lease spaces so that they can play ball.

And then I heard the history of the past of the
land with the county that didn't work out. I heard that story, but I was -- I feel, probably as you do, that this community -- I think Kelly -- where are you Ellie? You said something, and you're absolutely right, this is becoming a college town. The enrollment at Mission has grown. And it's been growing because we have a lot of young people coming here.

We have the high school students that are preferring to stay home and come here at the local community college, which is the way it should be. But it wasn't that way because we had to farm everybody out.

And now, thanks to all of you and the bonds that you all passed, first with Measure A and AA, and then the last one was Measure J, so that this college could, in fact, become the comprehensive college that our students and our residents really deserve.

Now, with it comes a little pain, a little growing pain. And I think you all probably -- I've heard from many of you already, some have written to me. And all I can say to all of you is not much comfort, is that I'm sorry for any inconveniences of the past, but I think we need to move forward, and I think our students and you all deserve a community college that involves you in what goes on in this campus.

When I moved to this area, I realized that there
was no center, there was no real community involvement on
this campus and there should be. Not only that, but I
realize we don't even have a theater in this area. We
don't have a movie house for crying out loud. We don't
even have a Target.

Well, but think about that. I came here, rented
my little apartment. Okay, I've got to go buy some
sheets and I've got to buy some towels. So... Then I'd
have to go to Topanga Canyon, I'd have to go to Pasadena.
There's got to be something here. So I went to -- what
is it?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Anna's Linens.

MS. VALLES: Not even Anna's Linens. I didn't know
where it was. Big Lots. Yes, I scored. And don't put
it down because they've got some pretty good stuff there.

So I see things that are missing, and I see the
potential in this community. And I also know that some
of you moved here because it was nice and quiet. That's
the story with this lady over here who's been here 20
years, and that was before the college. And we can't do
anything about that; change is coming and it is coming.
And I'm glad that you're all here.

Now the format for today is going to be a little
different than it has been for some of you with whom I
have met, like this couple here and this gentleman here
and this gentleman here. Some of you I've met before. So the format tonight is going to be different. I'm going to turn the microphone over to Dr. Karen Hoefel who will introduce the team. And you'll notice that we've got setups all around the room so that we can listen to all of you. Feel free to come down.

Remember, we're having a Spring Fest, so I want you all to come and enjoy it and be a part of it, May the 9th. You all come.

DR. KAREN HOEFEL,

DR. HOEFEL: Good evening. Saturday when we introduced this project, I wanted to just make a point of clarification regarding this project compared to the project that many of you recall was the swap of the land with the county park. And the college was working on behalf of Los Angeles County to relocate the ball fields that are on the land that we were interested in into the wash area. And those would be county facilities run by the county, rented out the way the county rents them out on a day-in and day-out basis.

These athletic fields that we're proposing in this new project are really for the college athletics program. And so the use will be fundamentally different than it would have been had those fields become county
ball fields.

Our athletic programs, we currently have a men's baseball team, a women's softball team, and a men and women's soccer team. We tear our hair out every year looking for soccer facilities for our soccer program because the only fields that are available are the high school's that's being used by the high school teams.

This year we're at Hansen Dam, but going through a lot of pain and expense to lease those fields from Hansen Dam. We rent fields from the county for our softball and baseball programs, but those fields do not meet NCAA regulations.

And as the president indicated, we have some pretty decent athletic programs and athletic teams here, and we would really like the chance to have our own fields that we control, that we maintain to our standards and that aren't open to other clubs that will come in and just tear them up, even though we try as hard as we can on the county fields to keep and maintain them. We spend a lot of money doing that every year, and they still get torn up.

So as an alternative, we are looking at this project. We're looking to lease property from the Army Corps. They've accepted our application. As you will find out, there is a Lopez Dam Basin Master Plan --
that's the order of the words -- that does call for
recreational use of the property along those watershed
areas and washes, frankly, all over the country.

So we're proposing to lease that property from
the Army Corps and then combine them with the property
owned by the district and build a baseball field, a
soccer field, and women's softball field. And we'll get
into the details of that project in just a minute.

But I just wanted to give you -- I would hope
that you would focus on the college's use of that field,
those fields as far as the environmental impacts go
because it's just not going to be as intense as it would
have been had the county been managing those fields and
leasing them seven days a week.

The purpose of the meeting tonight is an EIR
scoping meeting. And it has a regulated, if you will,
format. And you will hear tonight from our consultants.
You'll here from Dev Vrat from URS who is our EIR
consultant, and he will explain to you the EIR process
and why we are doing this tonight and what we are hoping
to come away with from your comments.

Mia Martinez from Leo A. Daly who is our master
planner will give you an overview of our master plan and
some of the details in the plan. And then Annette Cortez
will give you some instructions about how to visit the
individual stations and either provide comments to those folks that are at those stations, ask questions, or provide written comments. Or you can also dictate your comments to our court reporter.

And then, also, I'd like to introduce Nick Quintanilla of Gateway Science and Engineering. They are our college project manager, and many of you I'm sure know of him and the folks who work for them.

The meeting objectives tonight are really to provide you a summary of the EIR process. It's a process that's required by the California Environmental Quality Act. We want to review the current master plan. We're not going to focus a lot on that because that's already been approved and largely under construction. And then we'll describe the new development areas in the 2009 proposed master plan.

We're looking to solicit your input on the environmental impacts of the development in the new areas, methods that would minimize those impacts as well as any alternatives that you may be aware of that we're not that we might consider in the EIR study.

And so tonight is sort of the preliminary phase of the EIR process which Dev will go into the details, and then we will break you into the various stations so you can provide your comments.
This meeting is not a dialogue. It's really just to give you some information and then allow you to provide information to our various stations. Before we get started, though, you have a question?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Since this is a repeat of the Saturday meeting, why can't you have the comment section first and then go on to your presentation?

DR. HOEFEL: Well, because the people who are here tonight didn't necessarily come to the Saturday meeting, so they really need the benefit. But if you were at the Saturday meeting, you're free to go provide comments if you don't want to sit through the presentation one more time.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

THE REPORTER: I'm sorry, I need to be able to hear. I need his name as well.

DR. HOEFEL: Say that again.

MR. HERNANDEZ: You don't want to listen to the people who are affected by the new construction first?

DR. HOEFEL: No, we're going to listen to them at each one of these stations relative to the issues, and we'll take down... Can we have your name for the record?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Eugene Hernandez. I live across the street.

DR. HOEFEL: So yes, we are interested in your
comments, but we will be soliciting them and recording them at each one of the stations, and you'll all be included in the study.

So with that, I would like to introduce Dev Vrat from URS, and he'll give you all of the information you need to know about the EIR process.

DEV VRAT,

MR. VRAT: Thank you very much, Karen. As the president and Karen indicated, the format of this meeting is a little different. There's a reason why it's different. This is a very formal process under the California Environmental Quality Act. So we do need to record all of your comments because we're very interested in responding to the comments, but it has to be done in the EIR process. And the only way we can get those comments is if you write them down, as Annette will explain later, or you present them to our court reporter here. You know, if we have an open session, we're not able to get all of the comments.

I'm going to go over the entire EIR process so you understand exactly where we are and the steps that we will go through over the next few months.

You probably received a notice -- yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do we get a copy, a printed
copy of the objectives and also --

MR. VRAT: I think there's handouts in the room, and I think those objectives are on the handouts. You can also request a copy of this presentation if you'd like.

The process starts with the Notice of Preparation of an EIR. That notice is sent. We sent that notice to, I think, a 500-foot radius around the project. We posted signs on the project, at the project locations. We published newspaper ads in two newspapers. I believe it was the Daily News or was it the L.A. Times, and La Opinion, in both English and Spanish to let everybody know that we're starting this process.

We prepared what's called an Initial Study which is kind of like our initial judgment of what we think needs to be studied in the EIR. We know that the neighbors are concerned about some of the issues associated with the project. We're very aware of that. And the purpose of the EIR is to study your issues.

So we're at Step 2 here which is the EIR scoping meetings. And at this meeting, as Karen indicated, Mia will give you an overview of the project. We want you to understand what the plans are. So she will present those plans to you. Then you have an opportunity both this evening and during this 30-day period, which closes on May 11, so you have ample time to study the plan which is
available on the website which is listed here, lamission.edu.

All the documents are there, so you have plenty of opportunity to review the conceptual plan, review the initial study, and provide your comments. And so you can give -- you're welcome to give comments tonight. We encourage you to do that. And we have specialists here that you can talk to. But you're also welcome to provide comments either in writing or by email during the 30-day period.

I'd really appreciate it if you could hold your questions until the end.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think it's critical because you talk about the 30-day period there being April the 10th. We didn't receive any notification until April the 17th. So I think --

MR. VRAT: Okay. We'll take your comments until 30 days from April 17th, we'd be happy to take your comments.

MR. HERNANDEZ: I have more questions. (Inaudible.)

MR. VRAT: We are conducting this hearing in a way where you're welcome to make verbal comments after our presentation.

So you can make verbal comments at these comment stations, and we're going to write all your comments
down. You're welcome to write them down, or you're welcome to talk to the court reporter.

After the 30-day period, all your comments will be published and distributed to our environmental analysts. And we've got probably 16 different environmental analysts who will be working to address your issues.

They will -- we will all work together and produce a Draft EIR, and I believe that's coming out -- I think it's scheduled to come out in July. So in July, you'll receive another notice from us. So be sure to give us your contact information. And in that Draft EIR, you can look and see if we did address your comments or not.

Either way, we encourage you to give us written comments on the Draft EIR. Okay, now at this stage it gets even more formal. Because if you give us written comments on the Draft EIR, by law we are required to publish your comments in the final EIR. And we will respond to them point by point. So when you get the final EIR, you will be able to look, you'll see your comments published and the response to the comments.

I'm going to talk about the way for you to be most effective in this process. I will actually help you be effective. We're actually here to help you, believe
it or not.

Okay, in the final EIR, some of the findings will be changed based on the information you provide us. If you give us good information, we will change the EIR. If you give us ideas to improve the project, we will add those to the project if they're reasonable. If you give us reasonable improvements, we will accept them. It's not up to me, it's actually up to the college and the district if they believe your suggestions are reasonable.

MR. HERNANDEZ: (Inaudible.)

MR. VRAT: No questions right now, please. And then there will be a public hearing. And in the public hearing, the district will consider the EIR. And they're required to make findings about all the environmental impacts, and they can approve the project even with significant impacts.

So the purpose of the California Environmental Quality Act is not to deny projects because they have environmental impacts. It's about letting the decision makers know what the impacts are. So we can help you let the decision makers know what the impacts are and how the decision makers can reduce the impacts.

But I can tell you that the decision makers are only going to do things that are reasonable. Their objective is to develop this campus for the community.
That's their goal. And so anything we do has to help the district develop the campus for the community.

So I'm going to be very clear, there's no requirement that the district deny the project. The only thing we can do is improve it. They can deny it if they want to, but I don't believe that's what the community and the voters wanted when they passed those bonds.

So before I leave this slide, I want to remind you to write this website down, lamission.edu/planning, because that's where all these documents are.

Okay. Now, how can you be most effective? It's not by getting up and saying you don't like this project or you really love this project. That doesn't help at all.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We need the website. Can you bring it back?

MR. VRAT: I'm sorry, the website, I'm sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.


So at this stage in the process, it's not about do you like the project, do you like it or not. That's not effective. The you can be effective this evening and during this 30-day public comment period is to focus on the project and let us know what you think the
environmental impacts are. That is what the CEQA process is about. It's about identifying environmental impacts. The second step is give us your ideas, workable ideas on how to reduce the environmental impacts. If they're good ideas, we'll put them in the EIR. And you can suggest plan alternatives. If you can think of a better way for the college to reach its objectives...

You know, one of the objectives is to provide athletic fields for the athletics department. If you can think of a better way to do that, let us know. By law we're required to look for that.

Okay. So we're here to listen tonight. We're not going to get into responses, we're not going to be talking about the pros and cons of the project.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why did you invite us here?
MR. VRAT: Because I said we're going to listen to you. So what we're going to do --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're not listening to us. You guys are in our backyard --

THE REPORTER: I'm sorry -- I need --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You invite us to these meetings, and we're not allowed to speak up. That's not fair.

MR. VRAT: You're going to be allowed to speak --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, you're saying we're
allowed to speak as we go to each booth. You're here speaking to us and telling us what your plan is, but you're not allowing us to speak. You're in our backyards.

MR. VRAT: I'm not the decision maker. Nobody in this room right now is the decision maker. It will be a waste of time for you to tell us --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Then this is a waste of a meeting.

MR. VRAT: No, it's not. Wait, wait, wait. I'm telling --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: (Inaudible.)

THE REPORTER: Excuse me, excuse me. My job is I have to take one person at a time. And when I have people speaking all at once, I can't do my job effectively.

MR. VRAT: There's nobody in the room right now who is a decision maker. So anything you say about the project other than to talk to the analysts about things you want studied, we're a long way from the decision on the project.

So as I'm saying, the most effective thing you can do, I don't care how you feel about the project, the most effective thing you can do is address these issues. Later on will be a better time for you to talk about
whether you like the project or not. So this is --

MR. HERNANDEZ: (Inaudible.)

MR. VRAT: No more talking, please. This is a
presentation. This stage in the process is very
analytical. What we're doing is we're analyzing the
environmental impacts.

So just to be really clear, at the end of this
presentation, we will be listening to you. We will be
recording what you say, we'll be writing down what you
say, we will be listening but not during the
presentation. At this point we are presenting to you,
and so we would appreciate it if you would listen to us.

Right now I'm going to turn it over to Mia
Martinez who is the master plan architect. She will be
presenting to you what the conceptual plan is. So Mia...

MIA MARTINEZ,

MS. MARTINEZ: We're going to go over the
proposed 2009 Master Plan. Before we get into the
development areas, I'd like to review our approved master
plan from 2007. It was approved by the L.A. Community
College District Board of Trustees.

And since then we have the parking structure
that has been constructed and completed, the Child
Development Center has also been completed. And as you
all know, the construction for the Health, Fitness and Athletics Complex Building is under construction. And that's scheduled for completion in the fall of 2009, this year.

The remaining facilities of the 2007 Master Plan includes the Family and Consumer Studies Building which is also under construction, and it will shortly be followed by the Media Arts Building and the Student Services Building.

So as you can see, the colleges is well on its way to implementing the approved master plan which was two years ago. Now, as some of you can imagine and have probably experienced before, when you do create a plan, sometimes there are interferences or roadblocks. And so as a result, you're forced to deal with the issues as they occur. That is exactly what the college is experiencing too, the first one being -- occurring at this location which is at the corner of Eldridge and Hubbard. There was a 30,000-square-foot educational facility that was to be built there, and due to the site constraints, it no longer can be built there.

So the college is proposing to combine its departments with a facility down at the east campus where a single 30,000-square-foot facility, educational facility is also to be constructed. And so the buildings
together would be used for science and math labs and classes. It's called the Center for Science and Technology.

And the other noticeable area there that has changed is this area here. As some of you might recall from when you were approving or trying to get the 2007 Master Plan approved, Eldridge was supposed to continue through to McClay. But due to geological testing and cost impacts, this is no longer possible.

Other than these two changes, the college is well on its way to completing its campus and providing a comprehensive college to its community.

So that brings us to where we are today. Our college is fully built out, and we are hoping to provide the community and the students with supplemental facilities which do include our Athletic Fields Complex which is to the north of our east campus.

Another area of development would be swing space across from the campus across from Hubbard. And the final area is more of an improvement area than a development area, and that is the streetscape along Eldridge between Harding and Hubbard.

We're going to go into some of the specific areas of development. But before we do, I'd like to get oriented with this aerial here which shows our college
and the east campus, the swing space in this residential area, and then we have the El Cariso Golf Course and park that is surrounding the college. And then we have the Sylmar Independent Baseball League, our development area, the athletic fields, and the east campus which is all along the Pacoima Wash area. And then it's also flanked by additional residential areas.

So I think it's important to note, I think this aerial clearly depicts how the college is landlocked and there are few areas to expand upon.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you stay there for a minute? I have a question.

MS. MARTINEZ: Ma'am, I'm sorry, but we're really supposed to hold questions until afterwards.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, very much.

MS. MARTINEZ: We will very much listen --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sure you want to hear what we have to say.

MS. MARTINEZ: I do. The first area of development are our athletic fields. And the reason why -- there's several reasons why the college is interested in proposing the fields. The first is directly relative to the Health and Athletics Fields Building that's going to be constructed.

When that building is complete, the college will
have the necessary indoor facilities necessary to teach their classes. However, they'll be lacking the outdoor facilities for instruction. And so by developing the athletic fields, they will certainly be able to provide outdoor instruction to their students.

As the president and vice president had mentioned to you before, they have a thriving athletic program; however, they lack competition fields. And so the athletic fields that they are proposing meet NCAA standards which would certainly meet their competition needs.

And the development of the athletic fields is comprised of three areas, three parcels I should say; the first being owned by the college which is the northern parcel, and the second area is the parcel owned by the Army Corps of Engineers. The area in between is referred to as a riparian area, and this area supports the natural drainage pattern and pours out into the Pacoima Wash here, and it also preserves some of the natural wildlife and plant life that exist there as well.

The development area would be accessed off of McClay. It's directly north of the Health, Fitness and P.E. Building. And one of the important parts of this development area is this existing road here which many of the users of the Sylmar Independent Baseball League users
use. And as even some of you residents may recall, the road has washed away. And you know, in the future we'd like to prevent that.

So one of the important parts of this project is to stabilize the road, to keep it from washing away into the Pacoima Wash here. So this pattern here suggests that it will be maintained so the road does not wash away in the future.

The northern parcel of the Athletics Fields Complex includes the development of a men and women's NCAA soccer field, women's NCAA softball field. There's appropriate seating for both fields. There would be parking for about 50 cars which would be shaded by solar canopies. There's also a fire access turnaround all which can be accessed from this road which leads to MacClay.

There would also be support amenities for the fields, including the batting cages and bullpens for both the visiting and home teams. And there's also a structure for concession, storage, and men and women's restrooms.

The south development of the athletic fields includes men's baseball, NCAA baseball fields. It too will have the batting cages and bullpens for the home and visiting teams. There's also seating, concession stands,
again, restrooms and storage. And there will also be parking. So there's parking for about 100 cars, which again will be shaded by solar panel canopies. And this area could be accessed off of this road here which leads to the main access road.

It's important to note that security surveillance lighting as well as P.A. equipment will be included in this project. Also, because the Athletic Fields Complex is directly across from the Health and P.E. Building, there will be consideration for the crosswalk that the college is proposing at that intersection since traffic is pretty fast in that area.

The second area of development is for swing space. And there are several reasons why the college is interested in developing this area. And the first, as you can imagine, as the college continues to be built out, there will be many facilities. And therefore, their academic programming will be expanding, and with that comes the increase in student enrollment.

And as the college does continue to be built out, they lose swing space, which means they lose open area to temporarily locate departments that are waiting for their permanent area to be constructed.

And so by this parcel here, which is currently acting as or serving as commercial nursery, that would
certainly meet the college's need for swing space. And that would be, I guess, more of the short term use for it. Once it does fulfill its need as swing space, it could serve as the area to locate a building for their extension programs.

So as I mentioned before, the college would indeed have to acquire this single acreage property in order to utilize the space as swing space. And what it could do is have parking for about 50 cars. I don't know how many of you are familiar with the campus, but there are several bungalows on campus right now. And specifically the ones that are along Eldridge near this building and between the parking structure, all of those bungalows could move to this area which would free up the space there on the campus so that the construction of the the Student Services Administration Building can start construction.

And the last area that the college is proposing to improve is the streetscape along Eldridge between Harding and Hubbard. And this stretch in here particularly is about a third of a mile away from the main campus. It's probably about a 10 to 15 minute walk. And as most of you probably have experienced before, it can be an unpleasant walk mainly because, as the picture describes here, the sidewalks have cracks in them due to
some of the trees that have uprooted it. And so that's
definitely something that is unsafe for its users.
And there's low fencing which there's some concern with
walking along here and having golf balls go over the
fence. Also, there's poor lighting. And so it becomes
desolate.

And naturally, when the east campus is built out
and the main campus is built out, the users, being the
students, faculty, and the community, they deserve to
have a more pleasant commute between the two. And so the
college does propose to improve this area by
incorporating some rest areas, diagonal parking. These
rest areas would include repaving, some more landscaping,
some pedestrian lighting, and also to incorporate
crosswalks where those rest areas occur so that as
pedestrians do intend to cross the street, it will be
safer for them to cross it at designated areas. Also,
landscaped center medians that would narrow some of the
driving lanes and therefore slow down traffic.

And these are some of the examples of the
characteristics that could occur, those being landscaped
planters with seating, sidewalk paving here, there's some
low fencing with seating areas and trash cans. Over here
we have narrower driving lanes with the landscaped center
medians and the crosswalks, and also an example of how a
bike lane can be incorporated into this area as well.

And so these are some of the developments that the college is proposing, and we certainly do look forward to hearing from you, whether you do visit the court reporter, whether you do send in your comments, and, of course, as you visit each station we do want to hear from you.

So we thank you for your attention. At this time, I'll turn it over to Annette.

ANNETTE CORTEZ,

MS. CORTEZ: Good evening. So at this time we will be concluding the presentation portion of today's meeting. And so now we want to hear your comments. And you all noticed that we have different stations. We have several ways which we are accepting your comments today.

We have a court reporter who will verbally take your comments and record the comments. Also, we have three stations: one for construction comments, and two in the back for general comments on the Environmental Impact Report.

And the forms that are there have several questions, and also you can either fill it out tonight and leave it in the box or take it with you. And there's contact information on the bottom. There's a fax number
and there's an address.

So those are the ways that we will be taking your comments today. There's also flip charts at every station, and the experts that are staffing each station will also be happy to take your comments on the flip charts.

And before we dismiss, we'd like to just remind you of the types of comments that will be useful at this phase of the project. We want you to tell us what environmental impacts of the proposed plan need to be studied because that's what the Environmental Impact Report is about.

The second thing is what are the specific ways to reduce the environmental effects of the plan. The third thing would be can you think of any alternatives for this plan which would allow for the college to develop its plan and also to reduce environmental impacts.

The last useful thing to remember is that we also would like you to tell us if you are aware of any alternative locations where the proposed Athletic Fields Complex can be developed.

So we welcome your comments. Please visit our stations and talk to our experts. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. I think that we
would like to hear at least what each other has to say. If you don't want to hear it, we want to hear what each other has to say. This is why we thought that we came here.

MR. VRAT: This is a formal process. This is not a public hearing. This is a process where we are listening to your comments, and we're going to analyze your comments in the Environmental Impact Report. This is not a public hearing on the project.

So this your opportunity now to express your comments. And I'm very serious, the best and the most effective thing you could do is keep your comments focused to what are the environmental impacts, what are the ways --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

MR. VRAT: Okay. Then if you have concerns about construction right now, you give your comments over to the construction station.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've done that. I lost my brick walls. I've got cracks in my house and cracks in my windows.

MR. VRAT: This is not a public hearing. We invite you to provide your comments at the comment stations. So thank you very much.

LYDIA (Last name withheld),
LYDIA: My name is Lydia. The president said when she came here that there's no Target and no theaters, and as residents, that's the way we like it. That's why we moved here, because it was quiet prior to the college. We like it that way, we want it kept residential.

We also feel -- many of us feel that she's been patronizing to us in the way she -- in her mannerism and the way she speaks to us. We also understand that she was mayor of San Bernardino and that her brother was given a lot of contracting jobs over there. So we're concerned about the building that's going on here, is this because her brother is going to get the contracting jobs.

This man, Dev Vrat, has been very rude with us and condescending. At one of our meetings last week, he was actually yelling at us. He treats us like we're small children.

In regards to Step 1 of the process where he reported that the process would be 30 days starting on April 10th, I never heard about it until the 17th, and apparently another neighbor hadn't either. So I think that they're making us feel that things are being done in a stealth-like manner. We really don't feel that we trust them because they're not being up front with us.

In regards to this being publicized in the
newspapers, not everybody gets the newspaper, so not
everybody knew about it. Because I don't get the
newspaper neither in English or in Spanish, so I was not
aware of it.

Also, in regards to this presentation here
today, I would have considered it very professional had
we received a printed copy of the objectives and also of
the PowerPoint. I've gone to a lot of conferences and
presentations, they always provide a copy. So I thought
that was very inconsiderate.

When he talks about reasonable improvements will
be accepted, you know, we'd like to know what the work
"reasonable" means. And yet we were pretty much being
told to shut up and be quiet during the presentation.

Even one of the neighbors commented, Why are we
here if we have no -- if we can't even ask questions? Me
personally, I had a question about the map, and it was
never clarified. So I don't know where the map is; I
have to go look for it.

Also, we are concerned about what the word
"reasonable" means. When they talk about "reasonable,"
is it reasonable for the college's benefit or is it
reasonable for the residential benefit?

In regards to developing a campus for the
community, as you can hear tonight, many people don't
want an expansion. We moved here because we want a quiet community. Yet, we're told that the decision-makers are not here so we can ask them questions. We'd like to know who those decision-makers are.

Also, on the map I had a question as to the main campus. I was going to ask her, but, again, we were told we are not allowed to speak so I couldn't even ask for clarification.

The part that affects me personally the most is going to be the swing space. I'm on that same block. And when they talk about using it as parking for buildings there, you're talking about bringing in 50 cars is what they quoted us. And with that would come air pollution, more traffic, and more noise as a result of the cars.

That would have a negative environmental impact for me. And I think that all of the traffic, the noise, the trash is ecologically unsound, environmentally unsound for this area. This is a residential area in the foothills, and we like it that way. We want it quiet; we don't want all of this building. We don't want antennas... That's why we're here, to get out of the city. And now they're bringing the city to us. My email is les3287@lausd.net.

Oh, I still have some more comments from the
last time. The first meetings that were held did not provide for any translators. I thought it was insensitive to our community. I was trying to get one of my neighbors several times to come, and she keeps telling me that she doesn't speak English. So I couldn't even get her to come over here.

I think that's pretty much about it.

EUGENE HERNANDEZ,

MR. HERNANDEZ: Eugene Hernandez, 13406 Eldridge Avenue, Sylmar, California 91342. I would like specific answers to the question of traffic mitigation once the — I believe they called it — that escape place that they're going to build on Hubbard Avenue for the child care center.

What are they going to do to mitigate traffic? Are they going to put in a three-way traffic light, for instance, at Sylmar and Hubbard? Are they going to put in speed bumps? Also, what are they doing to mitigate the noise and pollution coming from the construction?

And I would also like to see a reservation of open space in the areas abounding the college. And most of all, I would like to see a detailed plan and effort to purchase the El Cariso Golf Course for the purposes of utilizing their fields for athletic more buildings, and
to alleviate the need to buy residential properties.
   I believe the college should not try to purchase homes other than those surrounding the nursery. They should not buy those homes, only the nursery. That's it.
   One more thing. I think that the specific places that the speed bumps should be, should be after Garrick Street on Hubbard, and coming up on Hubbard to Eldridge, and on both sides of Eldridge Eldridge and Hubbard is where the freeway sign should be.

SHILO KNOLL,

MS. KNOLL: My name is Shilo Knoll, 13024 Cranston Avenue, Sylmar 91342. My first question is how are you going to be effective in your EIR this time versus last time? Because your last EIR was very ineffective due to all the damage to our homes.
   No. 2 is how long before your landlocked again and you take our homes by eminent domain like you obtained the land that you're using now from Comstock Homes?
   No. 3, you say that you're going to help those in this community. Most of the attendees of this college travel to this community and do not live here. In the meantime, you're destroying this community by hurting our homes and hurting us by all the traffic and not doing
anything about the new traffic patterns.

No. 4, what about all the money that you've already spent of the taxpayers by redesigning Eldridge Street, and now you're going to throw all of that away to redesign it again and cause more traffic jam due to less traffic lanes, less street space?

And then this is just a little FYI for you. In the time that it has taken you to do your little design on the corner of Eldridge and Hubbard -- and it's not finished yet -- in San Fernando they built the entire Lowes. That's the end of my comments, thank you.

BONNIE BERNARD,

MS. BERNARD: I need something implemented like a CUP, like a city CUP, Los Angeles City CUP, that the Los Angeles City College District would guarantee the community and the college -- it wouldn't be in the master plan -- but guarantee that only Mission College would be using the fields exclusively, they would be using it exclusively in a written document that the community has access to. Bonnie Bernard, 13691 Gavina Avenue, Sylmar, California 91342.

(Whereupon, the public meeting was concluded at 9:00 P.M.)
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA       
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES     

I, Grace A. Verhoeven, a Certified Shorthand
Reporter within the County of Los Angeles, State of
California, do hereby certify:

That the said hearing was taken down by me in
shorthand at the time and place therein stated and was
thereafter reduced to print by Computer-Aided
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I further certify that I am not of counsel or
attorney for any of the parties hereto or in any way
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related to any of the parties thereto.

Witness my hand this 12th day of

May, 2009

GRACE A. VERHOEVEN
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