1.0 INTRODUCTION (REVISED)

1.1 CEQA Compliance

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is an informational document prepared to:

- Inform public agency decision makers and the public of the significant environmental impacts of a project;
- Identify possible ways to minimize the significant environmental impacts through mitigation measures; and
- Describe reasonable alternatives to the project that would substantially reduce environmental impacts (California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines, Section 15121).

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD or District) is the Lead Agency for approval of the proposed 2009 Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) Facilities Master Plan (2009 Master Plan) and its implemented projects.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines) require that an EIR be prepared where the Lead Agency has determined that a project may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064). On April 10, 2009, the District circulated a Notice of Preparation of an EIR and included an Initial Study for a 30-day public review period. The Initial Study determined that the 2009 Master Plan may have a significant effect on the environment and that a Subsequent EIR is required.

A Subsequent EIR has been prepared because a previous Program EIR was prepared for the 2007 LAMC Facilities Master Plan (2007 Master Plan). The 2007 Master Plan EIR addressed the environmental impacts of LAMC facilities on both the Main Campus and on the East Campus (Harding Street) sites. The 2007 Master Plan EIR determined that development pursuant to that plan would result in unavoidable significant impacts to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Noise, and Transportation/Traffic. On January 24, 2007, the LACCD Board of Trustees certified the 2007 Master Plan EIR adopted Findings of Fact, a Statement of Overriding Consideration, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. The Board of Trustees also declared a zoning exemption pursuant to Government Code, Section 53094, and approved the 2007 Master Plan. Projects contained in the approved 2007 Master Plan are now in various stages of construction, and may proceed independent of District decisions regarding the proposed 2009 Master Plan that is the subject of this Subsequent EIR.

1 California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Section 15050. The Lead Agency is responsible for preparing the EIR and taking the first action for project approval.
A Program EIR is intended to streamline the later environmental review or approvals of projects included within a master plan. It is a more efficient approach to complying with CEQA than preparing individual Project EIRs for each master plan project. Accordingly, this EIR evaluates the direct and indirect impacts, cumulative impacts, growth-inducing impacts, and irreversible significant impacts on the environment of: (1) the 2009 Master Plan in a programmatic manner; and (2) the facilities projects that would be developed under the 2009 Master Plan in a project level of detail. It also provides mitigation measures and evaluates project alternatives to reduce potentially significant environmental impacts of the 2009 Master Plan and its projects. The additions to the 2007 Master Plan are the projects analyzed in this EIR.

This EIR will form the basis for later decision-making regarding activities at each site (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15168). Upon certification of this EIR by the District, subsequent projects described in the 2009 Master Plan were examined in this Subsequent EIR to determine whether additional environmental review must be conducted.

- If a later activity would have impacts that were not examined in this 2009 Master Plan EIR, a new Initial Study would be prepared leading to either an EIR or a Negative Declaration.
- If the District finds that, pursuant to Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines, no new impacts could occur or no new mitigation measures would be required, the District can approve the activity as being within the scope of the project covered by this EIR, and no new environmental document would be required.
- The District will incorporate feasible mitigation measures and alternatives developed in this EIR into subsequent actions in the program.

Public agencies are charged with the duty to avoid or minimize environmental damage where feasible (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15021). In discharging this duty, the District has an obligation to balance a variety of objectives, including technical, economic, environmental, timing, social, and legal issues. Although the information in this EIR does not control the District’s ultimate decision on the 2009 Master Plan, the District must respond to each significant effect identified in the EIR by making findings (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15091) and, if necessary, by making a Statement of Overriding Considerations (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15093).

The District is required to consider the information in the EIR with any other relevant information in making final decisions on the 2009 Master Plan and its projects (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15121). The information in this EIR may constitute substantial evidence in the record to support the District’s action on the 2009 Master Plan and its projects if its decisions are later challenged in court.

### 1.2 Incorporation by Reference

Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines encourages incorporation by reference of previous environmental documents that are readily available to the public. Incorporation by reference is a necessary device for reducing the size of EIRs and to eliminate the need for the inclusion and repetition of copious technical and other background information into an EIR. Of particular relevance to this EIR are the following documents, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference into this EIR as if they were published herein. They are available for public review at the LAMC Library.
1.0 Introduction

- **Los Angeles Mission College Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Volumes 1-3), January, 2007.** The Environmental Impact Report analyzed the impacts related to approval and implementation of the 2007 Master Plan for the long-term development of the LAMC Campus, composed of the Main Campus and the Harding Street site.

- **Los Angeles Mission College Final Program EIR Addendum, September 2009.** The Addendum was prepared to document that no substantial changes in environmental impacts and/or mitigation measures would occur as a result of the minor project revisions to the 2007 Master Plan.

- **Army Corps of Engineers, Lopez Dam Basin Master Plan and Environmental Assessment, July, 2005.** The Lopez Dam Basin Master Plan presents an overall view of the present and proposed uses planned for the land owned by the ACOE in the Lopez Dam Basin.

- **City of Los Angeles, Sylmar Community Plan.** The Sylmar Community Plan is a part of the City of Los Angeles General Plan and provides planning policies for the incorporated area of the Sylmar Community within the City of Los Angeles. Although, as a political subdivision of the State of California, the LACCD is not bound by local land-use plans; courtesy consistency analysis with the Sylmar Community Plan has been provided throughout this EIR.

- **Army Corps of Engineers, Recreation Outgrant at Lopez Debris Basin for LAMC Athletic Fields Draft Environmental Assessment, September 2009.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) pursuant to the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate that portion of the proposed 2009 Master Plan involving development on 8.2 acres of federal land under the jurisdiction of the ACOE located in the Lopez Basin and requiring federal permits from the ACOE for development. The proposed action considered in the Draft EA is approval of LACCD’s request for a 25-year term lease with a 25-year renewable term option for development and use by LAMC of ACOE property along the west side of the Pacoima Wash for athletic fields. The Draft EA analyzes effects on property owned by the ACOE, effects on waters of the United States from cut and fill activities, effects on potentially endangered and threatened species from development and use of the site, and effects related to other federal, state, and local regulations and policies. The public review period for the Draft EA ended on October 13, 2009. Analyses and content within the Draft EA were incorporated in some clarifications and revisions made to the Draft EIR, reflected in this Final EIR.

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6 Los Angeles Community College District, September 2009, Final Program EIR Addendum, prepared by URS Corporation, 915 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, California 90017.


8 City of Los Angeles, August 1997, Sylmar Community Plan, A Part of the General Plan.

1.3 Environmental Review Process

An Initial Study was prepared to focus the 2009 Master Plan EIR on those environmental issues that are expected to have a significant impact on the environment and to eliminate further analysis of those issue areas that are not expected to result in significant impacts to the environment (see Volume 2, Appendix A). The Initial Study also was used to facilitate early responsible agency and public participation in the scoping and preparation of the EIR. A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the EIR for the 2009 Master Plan was prepared and circulated along with the Initial Study for a 30-day review period that began on April 10, 2009, and closed on May 11, 2009 (written comments were accepted until May 20, 2009). The public outreach and involvement program for the Draft EIR is presented in Volume 2, Appendix A.

Following the EIR scoping process, the Draft EIR was prepared and distributed to various state, regional, and local government agencies and interested organizations and individuals for a 45-day public review and comment period beginning on July 16, 2009, and closing on September 1, 2009 (extended through September 5, 2009; see Appendix J, Public Participation Program). A Notice of Completion, 15 hard copies of Executive Summary and 15 electronic copies of the Draft EIR were provided to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to responsible agencies. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIR including an invitation to attend public comment meetings was published in three local newspapers, and was mailed to property owners within 5,000 feet of the project sites, to all who attended the EIR scoping meetings, all who provided scoping comments, and all interested parties requesting notification of the availability of the document. The Draft EIR was also available during the public review period at local libraries and published on the internet at www.lamission.edu. The Notice of Availability and Invitation also were posted on large signs at the project sites at the start of the 45-day public review and comment period.

During the 45-day public review period, two public comment meetings were conducted on August 13 and August 15, 2009. During each public meeting, the proposed Master Plan and a summary of the Draft EIR were presented in a PowerPoint presentation. The 2009 Master Plan team from Leo A. Daly (Master Plan and Design Consultant) and URS (EIR Consultant) were present to answer public questions about the 2009 Master Plan design and Draft EIR. Written comments on the Draft EIR were accepted during the meetings, both on flip charts and on written comment forms. The comment forms indicated that comments could also be submitted later to the College before the close of the comment period on September 1, 2009 (extended through September 5, 2009). A Spanish interpreter was present at both meetings to receive comments, and a court reporter transcribed all oral comments made at the two public comment meetings (see Appendix K, Public Comment Meeting Transcripts).

Written comments on the Draft EIR were invited and received by LAMC. Written comments provided by individuals and public agencies have been evaluated, and written responses have been prepared for all comments received during the extended designated 45-day comment period. All comments on the Draft EIR are published in this Final EIR and written responses to each substantial comment are provided in Chapter 10.0, Responses to Comments. Where appropriate, non-substantial changes have been made to the Draft EIR and are documented in Chapter 9.0, Clarifications and Revisions.

A summary of the Draft EIR and issues to be resolved were presented in an October 7, 2009 public hearing before the LACCD Board of Trustees (see Appendix J, Public Participation Program for the PowerPoint presentation).
The Final Subsequent EIR, including the comments received on the Draft EIR and written responses, was made available to the public on November 4, 2009. The Final EIR was made available at the libraries listed below and published on the LAMC website. Notices were mailed to all persons who commented on the Draft EIR.

Los Angeles Mission College Library: 13356 Eldridge Avenue, Sylmar, California 91342

LA Public Library – Sylmar Branch: 14561 Polk Street, Sylmar, California 91342

LA Public Library – Pacoima Branch: 13605 Van Nuys Boulevard, Pacoima, California 91331

LA Public Library – Sunland-Tujunga Branch: 7771 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, California 91042

LA Public Library – Mid-San Fernando Valley Branch: 16244 Nordhoff Street, North Hills, California 91343

1.4 Organization and Content

Sections 15122 through 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines describe the required content of an EIR to be: a description of the proposed project and the environmental setting (existing conditions); an environmental impact analysis; mitigation measures; alternatives; significant irreversible environmental changes; growth-inducing impacts; and cumulative impacts.

This Final EIR consists of Volumes 1, 2, and 3:

- Volume 1 – Draft Subsequent EIR;
- Volume 2 – Technical Appendices; and
- Volume 3 – Final Subsequent EIR.

1.4.1 Volume 1

Volume 1 of the EIR consists of a Draft EIR that describes the proposed project, environmental setting, impacts, mitigations, and alternatives considered.

Section ES, Executive Summary, summarizes the 2009 Master Plan and subsequent projects, identifies significant impacts of the 2009 Master Plan and subsequent projects, and describes mitigation measures and project alternatives that were considered to avoid the significant impacts of the 2009 Master Plan. In addition, the Executive Summary identifies areas of controversy known to the District, including issues raised by public agencies and the public. The Executive Summary includes a list of the issues to be resolved, including the recommended choice among alternatives, and whether or how to mitigate significant impacts of the 2009 Master Plan. (Note: The Executive Summary is updated in Volume 3 of the Final EIR.)

Chapter 1.0, Introduction, provides information related to the purpose and scope of the EIR, environmental review process, environmental impacts not found to be significant, and the organization and content of the EIR (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15128).
Chapter 2.0, Project Description, provides the location and boundaries of the proposed 2009 Master Plan and subsequent projects, the purpose and statement of objectives of the 2009 Master Plan and subsequent projects, and a description of the technical, economic, and environmental characteristics of the 2009 Master Plan and subsequent projects. The project description identifies:

- The intended uses of the EIR, including the list of public agencies that are expected to use the EIR in their respective decision-making processes;
- The related discretionary actions (permits and approvals) required to implement the 2009 Master Plan; and
- Any related environmental review and consultation requirements required by federal, state, or local laws, regulations, or policies.

The project description identifies the related projects that were considered in the evaluation of cumulative impacts (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15124).

Chapter 3.0, Environmental Setting, Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Level of Significance after Mitigation, describes existing conditions found regionally and at the proposed project site. Chapter 3:

- Provides a summary of the environmental setting by environmental resource area;
- Identifies the “significance thresholds” used to assess the potential for the 2009 Master Plan and subsequent projects to result in significant impacts;
- Evaluates the potential impacts to environmental resources that may be generated by subsequent 2009 Master Plan projects, including the cumulative impacts of the proposed projects in conjunction with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area;
- Identifies feasible mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts; and
- Assesses the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures in reducing identified impacts to below the level of significance.

This chapter also evaluates potential uses of nonrenewable resources, potential irreversible changes that may occur during the course of the proposed subsequent projects, and the potential for the proposed project to foster economic growth or population growth, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment (CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15125 and 15126).

Chapter 4.0, Alternatives to the Proposed Project, describes feasible alternatives to the proposed project that would attain most of the basic objectives of the District and simultaneously avoid, or substantially lessen, any of the significant impacts of the proposed project. A no project alternative also is evaluated. CEQA requires an evaluation of the comparative impacts of the proposed project, alternatives to the proposed project, and the no project alternative (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.6).

Chapter 5.0, Individuals and Agencies Consulted, provides a list of governmental agencies, community groups, other organizations, and persons consulted during the preparation of this EIR.
Chapter 6.0, Report Preparation Personnel, provides a list of personnel who provided technical input or review in the preparation of this EIR.

Chapter 7.0, References, lists sources, communications, and correspondence used in the preparation of this EIR.

Chapter 8.0, Acronyms, provides full names and explanations of acronyms used in the preparation of the EIR.

1.4.2 Volume 2

Volume 2 of the Draft EIR includes supporting material and technical appendices. Technical appendices include the following:

- Appendix A, Public Involvement – NOP, Initial Study, and Scoping Comment Letters. The comment letters received in response to the NOP and oral comments received during the public scoping meetings provide input to the analysis in the EIR. These comments were considered during the preparation of this EIR.
- Appendix B, Aesthetics
- Appendix C, Air Quality Report
- Appendix D, Biological Resources Supporting Data and Technical Report
- Appendix E, Cultural Resources Assessment
- Appendix F, Hazardous Materials
- Appendix G, Noise Technical Report
- Appendix H, Traffic Impact Analysis
- Appendix I, Baseline LEED Credit Reference List

1.4.3 Volume 3

This volume includes public comments on the Draft EIR, written responses, clarifications and revisions to the analysis in the EIR, and additional appendices.

Following public review and comment on the Draft EIR (Volume 1), the College prepared this Final EIR (Volume 3), consisting of letters of comments on the Draft EIR, responses to all substantive environmental comments, and any necessary clarifications and revisions that the College believes are appropriate, in light of the public comments.

Executive Summary (Revised), provides a copy of the Executive Summary reflecting the revisions and clarifications to the Draft EIR in response to comments on the Draft EIR (Volume 1). An updated Environmental Impact Summary Table (see Table ES-3) is also included, reflecting in underline/strikeout the revisions and clarifications to the Draft EIR resulting from the Responses to Comments.

Chapter 1.0, Introduction (Revised), updates the Introduction from the Draft EIR with information describing the public review process for the Draft Subsequent EIR, and describing in more detail the organization of Volume 3.
Chapter 9.0, Clarifications and Revisions, includes the clarifications and revisions to the Draft EIR provided in light of the substantive environmental comments received on the Draft EIR (Volumes 1 and 2).

Chapter 10.0, Responses to Comments, provides a list of individuals and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR (Volume 1 and 2), a written record of all comments received on the Draft EIR, either verbatim or summarized, and written responses to all substantive environmental points raised during the public review and consultation process (CEQA Guidelines Section 15132).

- **Appendix J, Public Participation Program.** This appendix consists of documentation of the public outreach and participation efforts made by LAMC during the public review of the Draft EIR.

- **Appendix K, Public Comment Meeting Transcripts.** This appendix consists of transcripts from the August 13, 2009 and August 15, 2009 public comment meetings.

- **Appendix L, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.** This appendix provides the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

- **Appendix M, Clarifications and Revisions to Appendices.** This appendix contains clarifications and revisions made to Appendices included in Volume 2, Technical Appendices, of the Draft EIR.