1.0 INTRODUCTION (REVISED)

This Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) has been prepared for the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD or District) to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) Facilities Master Plan (Master Plan). When individual projects are proposed subsequent to the adoption of the Master Plan, the District will examine the individual activities to determine whether their impacts were fully analyzed in this Program EIR. If the activities would have no impacts beyond those analyzed in the Program EIR, the District can assert that the activities are part of the program of projects approved earlier under the Master Plan, and no further CEQA compliance will be required.¹

1.1 CEQA Compliance

The LACCD is the Lead Agency² for approval of the Master Plan and its subsequent projects. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)³ and the Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA⁴ (State 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 (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064). The District completed an Initial Study for the Master Plan on July 6, 2006, and determined that a Program EIR should be prepared (Volume 2, Appendix A, Notice of Preparation, Initial Study, and Scoping Comment Letters).

An EIR is an informational document prepared to:

- Inform public agency decision makers and the public generally 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, which would substantially reduce environmental impacts (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15121).

Preparation of a Program EIR is an alternative to preparing a Project EIR for the Master Plan and forms the basis for later decision making (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15168). A

² California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Section 15050. The Lead Agency is responsible for preparing the EIR and taking the first action for project approval.
Program EIR is intended to streamline the later environmental review of projects or approvals included within the Master Plan analyzed in the Program EIR. Accordingly, this Program EIR, to the greatest extent feasible, evaluates the direct and indirect impacts, cumulative impacts, growth-inducing impacts, and irreversible significant impacts on the environment of subsequent projects that would be developed under the Master Plan. It also provides mitigation measures to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts of subsequent projects. Upon certification of this Program EIR by the District, subsequent projects described in the Master Plan and Program EIR will be examined in the light of the Program EIR to determine whether additional environmental documents must be prepared.

- If a later activity would have impacts that were not examined in the Program EIR, a new Initial Study will 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 the Program EIR, and no new environmental document will be required.

- The District will incorporate feasible mitigation measures and alternatives developed in the Program 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 public objectives, including technical, economic, environmental, timing, social, and legal issues.

The District must respond to each significant effect identified in the Program EIR by making findings (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15091) and, if necessary, by making a Statement of Overriding Considerations (CEQA Guidelines Section 15093).

The information in the Program EIR constitutes substantial evidence in the record to support the District’s action on the Master Plan and subsequent projects. The District is required to consider the information in the Program EIR with any other relevant information in making final decisions on the Master Plan and subsequent projects (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15121).

1.2 Incorporation by Reference

Section 15150 of the State 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.
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into an EIR. Of particular relevance to this EIR are the following documents, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference into this EIR. They are available for public review at the Mission College Library.


- **Draft Facilities Master Plan for Los Angeles Mission College, 2006.** The Master Plan is the proposed project for the new Program EIR. The Master Plan provides detailed project-related information. The Master Plan will continue to be refined by the LACCD and the LAMC throughout the planning process.

- **Initial Study for the Los Angeles Mission College Facilities Master Plan, 2006.** This initial study addresses the environmental impacts of the proposed LAMC Facilities Master Plan. The Initial Study and comments received on the Initial Study were used in the scoping of the new Program EIR.

- **Draft EIR for the Los Angeles Mission College Facilities Master Plan and Public Recreation Improvement Program, October 2005.** This Draft EIR analyzes the environmental impacts of a previously proposed version of the LAMC Facilities Master Plan. This Master Plan involved the expansion of the existing LAMC onto the adjacent County of Los Angeles Cariso Regional Park and the development of regional park facilities on Army Corps of Engineers property in the Pacoima Wash. Much of the analysis in the October 2005 Draft EIR relates directly to development on the LAMC Campus. This document is used extensively in the new Draft EIR, consistent with the provisions of CEQA to reduce the volume of EIRs and to avoid redundant analysis.

- **Final EIR for Mission College Master Plan, May 1983.** This EIR addresses the environmental impacts of the existing Mission College Plan. The Master Plan provides for development projects to accommodate a projected enrollment of 10,700 by 1995.

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The Addendum evaluates changes to the Mission College Master Plan and provides non-substantial updates to the EIR analyses to reflect current circumstances as of February 2005.

- **Sylmar Community Plan, 1997.** 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 state agency, the LACCD is not bound by local land-use plans, courtesy consistency analysis with the Sylmar Community Plan is provided throughout this new Program EIR.

### 1.3 Environmental Review Process

An Initial Study was prepared to focus the Program 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 Program EIR. A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Program EIR for the Master Plan and subsequent projects was prepared and circulated along with the Initial Study for a 30-day review period that began on July 3, 2006, and closed on August 1, 2006. The public outreach and involvement program for the Draft EIR scoping process is presented in Volume 1, Draft EIR, Appendix A.

Following the EIR scoping process, the Draft Program 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 October 19, 2006, and closing on December 4, 2006 (see Appendix I, Public Outreach). A Notice of Completion and 15 copies of the Draft Program EIR were provided to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to responsible agencies. The Notice of Availability of the Draft Program EIR and an Invitation to Attend Public Meetings was published in three local newspapers, including Hoy!, a Spanish newspaper, and was hand-delivered to property owners within 1,000 feet of the project sites. The Notice and Invitation also were mailed to all who had attended the EIR scoping meetings, all who had provided scoping comments, and all interested parties requesting notification of the availability of

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the document. The Draft Program EIR also was made available during the public review period at local libraries and published on the Internet at: www.lamission.edu. The Notice and Invitation also were posted on large signs at both project sites at the start of the 45-day public review and comment period. Finally, a reminder notice of the public meetings was mailed to all property owners within 1,000 feet of the project sites.

During the 45-day public review period, two public comment meetings were conducted on November 8, 2006, and November 28, 2006. During each public meeting, the Master Plan and a summary of the Draft EIR were presented in a PowerPoint presentation. Printed hand-outs summarizing the Master Plan were made available to the public. Copies of the Draft EIR were made available on CD-ROM, and printed copies of the Executive Summary were provided. Master Plan architects from Leo A. Daly were present to answer public questions about the Master Plan, and staff from URS Corporation, the EIR consultant, were available to discuss the Draft Program EIR. Written comments on the Draft EIR were accepted during the meetings, both on flip charts and on written comment sheets. The comment sheets indicated that they also could be turned in later to the College, before the close of the comment period, December 4, 2006. A Spanish translator 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 H).

Written comments on this Draft Program EIR were invited and received by LAMC. Written comments provided by the public and public agencies have been evaluated, and written responses have been prepared for all comments received during the designated 45-day comment period. During this period, two public meetings were held to facilitate public outreach and provide the public with additional opportunities to comment on the DEIR. These public meetings were held on November 8, 2006, and November 28, 2006.

One state agency and seven regional or local public agencies provided comments on the Draft EIR. Fourteen comment letters from individuals were received during the public review period. Additional public comments were collected and oral comments recorded at the two public comment meetings.

Subsequent to the close of the 45-day public comment period, the Master Plan, Draft EIR, and a summary of all comments were presented in a December 14 public hearing before the LACCD Board of Trustees. Several members of the public addressed the Board of Trustees, providing testimony consistent with their previous comments on the Draft EIR.

All comments on the Draft Program EIR are published, and written responses to each substantial comment are provided in Section 10.0, Responses to Comments. Where appropriate, non-substantial changes have been made to the Draft EIR and are documented in Section 9.0, Clarifications and Revisions.
This Final Program EIR, including the comments received on the Draft EIR and written responses, was provided via overnight express delivery on January 4 to all public agencies who commented on the Draft Program.

1.4 Organization and Content
Sections 15122 through 15132 of the State 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 Program EIR consists of Volumes 1, 2, and 3:

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

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

Section ES, Executive Summary, summarizes the LAMC Facilities Master Plan and subsequent projects, identifies significant impacts of the Master Plan and subsequent projects, and describes mitigation measures and project alternatives that were considered to avoid the significant impacts of the Facilities Master Plan. In addition, the Executive Summary identifies areas of controversy known to the District, considering 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 Master Plan.

Section 1, Introduction, provides information related to the purpose and scope of the Program EIR, environmental review process, environmental impacts not found to be significant, and the organization and content of the Program EIR (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15128).

Section 2, Project Description, provides the location and boundaries of the proposed Master Plan and subsequent projects; the purpose and statement of objectives of the Master Plan and subsequent projects; and a description of the technical, economic, and environmental characteristics of the Master Plan and subsequent projects. The project description identifies:
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- The intended uses of the Program EIR, including the list of public agencies that are expected to use the Program EIR in their respective decision-making processes;
- The related discretionary actions (permits and approvals) required to implement the 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 Sections 15124).

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

- Identifies the “significance thresholds” used to assess the potential for the Master Plan and subsequent projects to result in significant impacts;
- Evaluates the potential impacts to environmental resources that may be generated by subsequent 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 section 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).

Section 4, 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 Section15126.6).
Section 5, Organizations and Persons Consulted, provides a list of all governmental agencies, community groups, other organizations and persons consulted during the preparation of this Program EIR.

Section 6, Report Preparation Personnel, provides a list of all personnel who provided technical input or review in the preparation of this Program EIR.

Section 7, References, lists all sources, communications, and correspondence used in the preparation of this Program EIR.

Section 8, Acronyms, provides full names and explanations of acronyms used in the preparation of the Program EIR.

1.4.2 Volume 2

Technical appendices include the following:

- Appendix A, Notice of Preparation, Initial Study, and Scoping Comment Letters. The comment letters received in response to the NOP and oral comments received during the two scoping meetings provide input to the analysis in the Program EIR. All comments were considered during the preparation of the Draft and Final Program EIR.

- Appendix B, Biological Technical Report

- Appendix C, Cultural Resources Assessment

- Appendix D, Geotechnical Evaluation

- Appendix E, Traffic Impact Analysis

- Appendix F, Noise Information

- Appendix G, Water Technical Report

1.4.3 Volume 3

This volume includes comments on the Draft EIR, written responses, and clarifications and revisions.

Following public review and comment on the Draft Program EIR (Volume 1), the College prepared this Final Master EIR (Volume 3), consisting of letters of comments on the Draft Program 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 also is included, reflecting, in underline/strikeout, the revisions and clarifications to the Draft EIR resulting from the Responses to Comments.

Section 1, Introduction (Revised), updates the Introduction from the Draft Program EIR with information describing the public review process for the Draft Master EIR and describing in more detail the organization of Volume 3.

Section 9, Clarifications and Revisions to the Draft Program EIR, includes the clarifications and revisions to the Master EIR provided in light of the substantive environmental comments received on the Draft Program EIR (Volumes 1 and 2).

Section 10, Comments on the Draft EIR and Responses to Comments, provides a list of public agencies and individuals commenting on the Draft Program EIR (Volume 1 and 2), a written record of all comments received on the Draft Program EIR, either verbatim or in summary, and written responses to all substantive environmental points raised during the public review and consultation process (CEQA Guidelines Section 15132).

- Appendix H. This appendix consists of transcripts from the November 8 and November 28, 2006, Public Meetings.
- Appendix I. This appendix consists of documentation of the public outreach efforts made by LAMC during the public review of the Draft Program EIR.
- Appendix J. This appendix provides the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan.
- Appendix K. URBEMIS Air Quality Model Output