

PREFACE TO THE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL EIR

In compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15132, this document serves as the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) Housing Expansion Phase 1 – Housing Administration and Commons Building Project (proposed project) (State Clearinghouse #2007061092). This Final Supplemental EIR has been prepared under the direction of California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees, acting as lead agency, in accordance with the requirements of CEQA (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000, et seq.). In accordance with Sections 15087 and 15105 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Draft Supplemental EIR was circulated for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, from May 6, 2020 through June 19, 2020.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15132 requires that the Final Supplemental EIR consist of the following components:

1. The Draft Supplemental EIR or a revision of the draft;
2. Comments and recommendations received on the Draft Supplemental EIR either verbatim or in summary;
3. A list of persons, organization, and public agencies comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR;
4. The responses of the lead agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process; and
5. Any other information added by the lead agency.

This Final Supplemental EIR contains the public comments received on the Draft Supplemental EIR for the proposed project, as well as written responses to those comments. A list of the persons, organizations, and public agencies who commented on the Draft Supplemental EIR is provided in the “Comments and Responses to Comments” chapter of this document. In addition, this document also contains revisions to the Draft Supplemental EIR with additions shown in underline and deletions shown in ~~strikethrough~~.

INTRODUCTION

This preface, which serves as an introduction to the Final Supplemental EIR, provides a summary of the public review process; an overview of the Final Supplemental EIR contents; and a summary of the changes made to the Draft Supplemental EIR text in response to comments and community input received during the public comment period as well as editorial changes to correct typographical errors. None of the revisions made to the Draft Supplemental EIR constitute significant new information, nor do they change any of the conclusions of the document.

Public Review Process

The CSU Board of Trustees, acting as lead agency, prepared the Draft Supplemental EIR to inform decisionmakers and the public of the potential significant environmental effects associated with the proposed project. The Draft Supplemental EIR was circulated for public review and comment for 45 days, from May 6, 2020 through June 19, 2020. A Public Notice of Availability of

the Draft Supplemental EIR was mailed to all organizations and individuals previously requesting notice and was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram. CSULB provided copies of the complete Draft Supplemental EIR with appendices to the State Clearinghouse, and distributed the Draft Supplemental EIR to all interested state agencies for review and comment. In addition, a narrated video presentation was prepared and made available online as CSULB could not host a public meeting due to the circumstances associated with COVID-19. The video presentation provided an overview of the CEQA process, proposed project, identified environmental impacts, required mitigation measures, and alternatives to the project that were evaluated. The Draft Supplemental EIR, video presentation, Final Supplemental EIR, and associated appendices were made available for review online at: <https://www.csulb.edu/beach-building-services/supplemental-eir-2020> and a limited number of flash drives and hard copies of the Draft Supplemental EIR were available per telephone request.

Interested persons and organizations had the opportunity to submit their written comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR during the public review period. Comment letters received on the Draft Supplemental EIR, reproduced in their entirety, and responses to those comments are provided in the “Comments and Responses to Comments” chapter following this preface.

Section 15088(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines specifies that the focus of the responses to comments shall be on the disposition of significant environmental issues. Responses are not required for comments regarding the merits of the proposed project or on issues not related to potential physical environmental impacts and/or the Draft Supplemental EIR’s analysis of such impacts. Comments on the merits of the proposed project or other comments that do not raise environmental issues are nevertheless included within the record for consideration as part of the proposed project approval process. The responses address environmental issues and indicate where issues raised do not pertain to environmental impacts, analysis, or address the merits of the proposed project. In the latter instance, no further response is provided.

Only minor changes to the text of the Draft Supplemental EIR have occurred since public circulation, and none of the changes constitute “significant new information,” which would require its recirculation. “Significant new information” is defined in Section 15088.5(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines as follows:

- (1) A new significant environmental impact would result from the project or from a new mitigation measure proposed to be implemented.
- (2) A substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact would result unless mitigation measures are adopted that reduce the impact to a level of insignificance.
- (3) A feasible project alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed would clearly lessen the environmental impacts of the project, but the project’s proponents decline to adopt it.
- (4) The Draft EIR was so fundamentally and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.

None of these circumstances has arisen from comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR; therefore, recirculation is not required.

As required by CEQA Section 21092.5 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(b), at least 10 days before consideration of the Final Supplemental EIR for certification, CSULB provided a

written proposed response (hard or electronic copy) to each public agency that submitted written comments on the Draft Supplemental EIR.

Overview of the Final Supplemental EIR

The Final Supplemental EIR consists of the following components, in the following order:

1. List of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft Supplemental EIR;
2. Comments and Responses from persons, organizations, and public agencies;
3. The Draft Supplemental EIR (May 2020) with additions shown in underline and deletions shown in strikethrough; and
4. Additional Appendices, as integrated into the Draft Supplemental EIR Appendices.

Revisions to the Draft Supplemental EIR

The following list summarizes the substantive changes made to the Draft Supplemental EIR since public review. These changes are reflected with additions shown in underline and deletions shown in strikethrough.

Executive Summary

- An editorial change has been made on page ES-9 to the significance determination and significance after mitigation in Table ES-1, under threshold Energy-2, which was incorrectly listed as “Less than Significant” in this table instead of “No Impact.” The impact determination itself has not changed.
- An editorial change has been made on page ES-10 to the significance determination and significance after mitigation in Table ES-1, under threshold GHG-2, which was incorrectly listed as “No Impact” in this table instead of “Less than Significant.” The impact determination itself has not changed.
- A revision has been made on page ES-3 to reflect that the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program has been prepared and is available for public review.

Section 3.1, Cultural Resources

- A revision has been made to Section 3.1.1.1, Built Historical Resources, on page 3.1-2, to clarify that the Hillside College residential complex comprises eleven buildings.
- An editorial change has been made on page 3.1-23 to the significance determination under threshold CR-3, which was incorrectly listed as “Less than Significant” instead of “Less than Significant with Mitigation.” The impact determination itself has not changed.
- An editorial change has been made to include Mitigation Measure CR-7 under the “Built Historical Resources” in Section 3.1.5, Level of Significance After Mitigation, on page 3.1-26. The level of significance after mitigation itself has not changed.

Section 3.2, Energy

- An editorial change has been made to the headers on pages 3.2-1 to 3.2-10, which were incorrectly listed as “3.3 Energy” instead of “3.2 Energy.”

Section 3.4, Tribal Cultural Resources

- An editorial change has been made to the headers on pages 3.4-1 to 3.4-14, which were incorrectly listed as “3.3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions” instead of “3.4 Tribal Cultural Resources.”
- An editorial change has been made on page 3.4-8 to the Sacred Land Files Search and AB 52 Consultation subsection in Section 3.4.3, Environmental Impact Analysis, to remove the tilde in Gabrielino.

Chapter 4, Other CEQA Topics

- The California State University Sustainability Policy was revised on February 5, 2020 requiring that all new construction, remodeling, renovation, and repair projects be designed to exceed Title 24, Part 6 energy codes by ten percent. Based on the policy revision, the Findings under Air Quality in Table 4-1, Project Consistency with the 2008 EIR, have been revised to reflect the latest sustainability policy.
- As discussed above, the California State University Sustainability Policy was revised on February 5, 2020 requiring that all new construction, remodeling, renovation, and repair projects be designed to exceed Title 24, Part 6 energy codes by ten percent. Based on the policy revision, mitigation measure number 17 under Air Quality in Section 4.5 has been revised to reflect the latest sustainability policy.
- An editorial change has been made to mitigation measure number 1 under Geology and Soils in Section 4.5 to reflect the mitigation measure text verbatim from the 2008 EIR.
- An editorial change has been made to mitigation measure number 2 under Hydrology and Water Quality in Section 4.5 to reflect the mitigation measure text verbatim from the 2008 EIR.

PROJECT DECISION PROCESS

This Final Supplemental EIR will be considered by the CSU Board of Trustees prior to a decision on whether to approve the proposed project. If the CSU Board of Trustees decide to approve the proposed project, the CSU Board of Trustees, as required by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15090, must first certify that the Final Supplemental EIR was completed in compliance with CEQA’s requirements, was reviewed and considered by the CSU Board of Trustees, and reflects its independent judgment and analysis. The CSU Board of Trustees would then be required to adopt findings of fact on the disposition of each significant environmental impact, as required by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091. If significant and unavoidable impacts (those that cannot feasibly be mitigated to less-than-significant levels) would result from implementing the proposed project, the proposed project can still be approved, but the CSU Board of Trustees must issue a “statement of overriding considerations” explaining in writing the specific economic, social, or other considerations that it believes, based on substantial evidence, make those significant effects acceptable (PRC Section 21002; State CEQA Guidelines Section 15093). A mitigation monitoring program, which is required by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(d) would be considered and adopted by the CSU Board of Trustees in conjunction with any project approval.