

ORIGINAL FILED

JAN 04 2005

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK




NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF EIR

To:

County of Los Angeles (by hand delivery)
Registrar Recorder/ County Clerk
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

From:


Dr. Andy Howard, Director
Planning & Development
Rio Hondo College
3600 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601-1699
E-mail: ahoward@riohondo.edu

Date: January 4, 2005

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Master Environmental Impact Report for the Rio Hondo College Master Plan

The Rio Hondo Community College District Board of Trustees, as Lead Agency, will prepare a Master Environmental Impact Report for the Rio Hondo College Master Plan. The College needs to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by the College when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

Pursuant to Section 21080.4 of CEQA, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not received by the College later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. We will also need the name of the contact person in your agency. Please send your response to Dr. Andy Howard, Dean of Planning & Development, at the address above.

A copy of the Initial Study (is is not) attached. The Initial Study and related Rio Hondo Master Plan documents are available online at: www.riohondo.edu/planning/.

All parties who comment on the scope of the EIR will be added to the project notification list and be notified of future CEQA documents and public hearings on the Rio Hondo Master Plan.

A public scoping meeting will be conducted:

January 24, 2005
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Administration Building - Board Room
Rio Hondo College
3600 Workman Road
Whittier, CA 90601

A map with parking instructions will be available at the parking kiosk and can be downloaded at: www.riohondo.edu/planning/.

Project Title: Rio Hondo College Master Plan

Project Proponent: Rio Hondo College District Board of Trustees

Project Location: Rio Hondo College, 3600 Workman Mill Road, Whittier (unincorporated area of the County of Los Angeles) approximately one mile southwest of the intersection of the Pomona Freeway (SR-60) and the San Gabriel Freeway (I-605).

Project Description:

In order to meet the education needs of the Rio Hondo Community College District to the year 2012, a combination of new facilities, renovated facilities, parking and circulation improvements, and infrastructure is proposed by the District's Board of Trustees in the Rio Hondo College Master Plan. At build-out of the Master Plan approximately 186,000 gross square feet of existing building would be demolished, 109,700 square feet would be renovated and approximately 513,000 gross square feet of new facilities would be constructed.

The Master Plan is a planning document and as such many of the future capital projects in the plan are conceptual at this time. The Master Plan will continue to evolve as the Board of Trustees, community and campus constituencies interact. Escalating construction costs will affect the choice of capital projects and the timing of their construction. The Draft Master Plan builds on previous planning efforts including as Educational Facilities Master Plan, the Principles Guiding Campus Master Planning, the 2002 Draft Facilities Master Plan and a Draft Vision Plan dated November 2003.

Please refer to the Initial Study for maps and further project detail:
www.riohondo.edu/planning/.

Probable Environmental Effects:

Based on the preliminary analysis in this Initial Study, future development and construction pursuant to the Rio Hondo Master Plan has the potential to result in significant effects on the

environment. The Board of Trustees finds that a Master Environmental Impact Report is the appropriate environmental document per the requirements of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15175-15179.5). Upon certification of the Master EIR by the Rio Hondo College District Board, subsequent projects described in the Master Plan and Master EIR will be subject to only limited environmental review (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177).

Effects Found to be Potentially Significant

The impacts of the Rio Hondo Master Plan are examined in the Initial Study to identify potential effects on the environment. Some project specific and some cumulative impacts have been determined to be potentially significant and will be analyzed in the Master EIR. These include impacts to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Hydrology / Water Quality, Transportation / Traffic and Utilities / Service Systems. The Master EIR will provide a detailed assessment of the effects identified as potentially significant in the Initial Study and will identify ways to mitigate these impacts.

Effects Not Found to be Potentially Significant

The following potential impacts were determined either to be not significant or to be mitigated through measures included in the project: Agricultural Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology / Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Land Use / Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population / Housing, Public Services, and Recreation. These issues require no further environmental analysis in the Master EIR.

Please refer to the Initial Study for a discussion of these conclusions.
www.riohondo.edu/planning/.