

Addendum

to

Final Environmental Impact Report for North Campus Project

SCH#2016111038

California State University
Los Angeles



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Lead Agency

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ROLE OF THE ADDENDUM

A Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the North Campus project was certified in July 2017. The Final EIR evaluated the development and construction of new student housing facilities, new sport and recreation fields, and a parking structure within the northern portion of the California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA) campus.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15164 provide for the preparation of an addendum to the EIR “if some changes or additions are necessary” that do not require major revisions to the previous EIR “due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects”.

The CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 also indicates that the addendum needs not to be circulated for public review, but can be included in, or attached to the Final EIR, and that the decision-making body shall consider the addendum together with the Final EIR prior to making a decision on the project.

This addendum to the Final EIR is appropriate because a change in configuration of the student housing facility component of the North Campus project necessitates only some additions to the EIR, and none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 have occurred that will require the preparation of a subsequent EIR. This conclusion is supported by substantial evidence identified within the Final EIR and this addendum.

ADDITIONS TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

This addendum provides additional information about the on-site configuration of the Student Housing East facility component of the project.

The student housing facility providing 1,500 beds for the University’s freshmen and sophomore students, as well as an associated dining facility, was anticipated to be a winged five-story building with internal courtyards, and with the adjacent dining hall in a separate single-story facility. Since then, the configuration of the facility has been refined within a smaller footprint, as illustrated in Figure 1, designed as an eight-story building with the dining facility that is integrated into the building, as illustrated in Figure 2, and with a large internal courtyard/garden along the frontage, as illustrated in Figure 3.

Figure 1. Student Housing East Facility Layout



Figure 2. Student Housing East Perspective



Figure 3. Central Courtyard Perspective



FINDINGS OF NO NEW OR SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

There will be no change in the location of Student Housing East facility, no change in the use of the facility for student housing, and no change in the number of beds provided for the University’s freshmen and sophomore students.

Aesthetics: The northern portion of the Cal State LA campus, including the project site, is located in a developed urban area that does not provide scenic vistas, and the campus is not located within a State scenic highway. The Student Housing East will be developed at the same location along the site’s eastern boundary, with the building facing into the campus interior and away from the Long Beach freeway which is situated below the campus to the east. The refined configuration with an eight-story building will continue to result in a beneficial effect of improving the visual character of the site by replacing existing surface parking with student residence halls, and resulting in an improved visual character of the north campus area that complements and is compatible with the existing student housing clustered immediately west of the proposed new South Fields sport and recreation fields. With the refined configuration, merging the new student housing with the existing student residence halls will continue to create a larger campus residential community that includes housing, dining, and recreation. It will also continue to create a visual character and an overall image representing the student residential community. Variations in height between the existing two to three-story student residence halls to the northwest, six-story school buildings to the south, and the Student Housing East eight-story residence halls together with variations in architectural styles, and provision of open

space in form of a large internal courtyard/garden along the frontage and new soccer fields immediately to the north will provide visual articulation and enrich the visual character and image of this greater student community within the north campus area, and improve the overall visual character of the site. Therefore, the change in configuration of the Student Housing East component of the project will not degrade the existing visual character of the site and its surroundings and no new or substantially increased significant impact will result.

Fire Protection Services: The refined configuration includes all fire lanes, emergency access, and connections to existing fire lanes required by the City of Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) for an eight-story building. The network of fire lanes provided for the Student Housing East facility is illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Student Housing East Fire Lanes



Construction Effects: The refined configuration of Student Housing East will result in construction of an approximately 395,000 square-foot building. The building comprises less square footage and will be constructed within a smaller footprint than the previously anticipated construction of a 450,000 square-foot building within a larger footprint. Therefore, no new or substantially increased significant impact will result.

Other Issues: With no change in use, number of student beds provided, location, vehicular access, and on-site building's orientation, the refined configuration of the Student Housing East facility has no potential to affect other environmental issues evaluated in the Final EIR, such traffic and circulation; air quality and greenhouse gases; cultural and tribal resources; public services, utilities and service systems, or cumulative and long-term effects.

CONCLUSION

Based on the evaluation of environmental effects contained in the Final EIR and this Addendum, the refined configuration of the Student Housing East facility has no potential to result in either new significant impacts or in substantially increased previously identified significant environmental impacts.