

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

---

## A. PURPOSE OF THE FINAL EIR

The County of Los Angeles (County), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared this Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the proposed Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Campus Master Plan Project (Master Plan Project or Project). This document, in conjunction with the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR), comprises the Final EIR.

As described in Sections 15088, 15089, 15090 and 15132 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Lead Agency must evaluate comments received on the Draft EIR and prepare written responses and consider the information contained in a Final EIR before approving a project. Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15132, a Final EIR consists of: a) the Draft EIR or a revision of the Draft; b) comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary; c) a list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR; d) the responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process; and e) any other information added by the Lead Agency.

Accordingly, the Final EIR for the Project comprises two parts as follows:

### Part 1: Draft EIR and Technical Appendices

Volume 1: Draft Environmental Impact Report (Chapters 1 to 9 and Appendices A to J)

### Part 2: Final EIR and Technical Appendices

Volume 2: Final Environmental Impact Report (described in more detail below.)

## B. PROJECT SUMMARY

The Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Campus Master Plan Project would be developed on the 72-acre Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Campus (Harbor-UCLA or Medical Center Campus) located in the unincorporated County of Los Angeles community of West Carson, which roughly encompasses the 2.3-square-mile area between the Harbor Freeway (I-110) on the east and Normandie Avenue on the west, and Del Amo Boulevard on the north and Lomita Boulevard on the south. The existing Medical Center Campus contains approximately 1,279,284 square feet of developed floor area, including the recently completed Surgery and Emergency Room Replacement Project (Replacement Project). The Master Plan Project encompasses construction of a new Hospital tower (New Hospital Tower) on schedule to meet increasing state law seismic requirements for acute care facilities, renovation of the existing Hospital building (Existing Hospital Tower) to house non-acute care support uses, replacement of aging facilities, reconfigured vehicular and pedestrian access to and circulation within the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Campus, and implementation of a cohesive site design that enhances the experience of staff, patients, and visitors. The Campus-wide floor area would increase from approximately 1,279,284 square feet to approximately 2,457,355 square feet.

The redesigned Medical Center Campus would consolidate outpatient facilities and locate them in proximity to the New Hospital Tower in the north-central portion of the Medical Center Campus. It would also engage Carson Street by orienting hospital-related services used by the community along this major thoroughfare. Courtyards, landscaped areas, and paths and sidewalks for pedestrian circulation would form the core of the Medical Center Campus and connect the New Hospital Tower and outpatient facilities with the other major tenants on the Medical Center Campus, including Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute (LA BioMed) in the south-central portion of the Medical Center Campus and the Children's Institute International (CII) Burton E. Green Campus in the northwest portion of the Medical Center Campus. Patient and visitor vehicle access and parking would be realigned off Carson Street and staff vehicle access would be concentrated in the eastern and southeastern Medical Center Campus off Vermont Avenue and 220<sup>th</sup> Street.

The western side of the Medical Center Campus would be used for the development of a new up to 250,000-square-foot biotechnical research campus (Bioscience Tech Park). A bioscience hub at the Medical Center Campus would provide the potential to grow the bioscience industry in the County and take advantage of relationships and research opportunities between the Bioscience Tech Park, the public hospital, and LA BioMed. Implementation of the Master Plan Project is expected to meet short-term needs of the communities served by the Existing Hospital Tower, associated facilities, and other tenants of the Medical Center Campus, as well as long-term needs beyond 2030.

Vehicular access to the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Campus is provided by a primary driveway on Carson Street, near the Existing Hospital Tower and a second driveway west of the primary driveway; two driveways on Vermont Avenue; five driveways along 220<sup>th</sup> Street; and one driveway on Normandie Avenue. Only the Carson Street driveways are signalized. Internal circulation on-site follows the original grid layout established on the property, with four east-west roadways and numerous short north-south connector roadways. Most interior intersections of two roadways or drive aisles are stop-sign controlled. To aid wayfinding, most of the internal roadways are named and display street name signs at intersections. In addition, most buildings or modular structures have a building number (consisting of a letter and a number) or a building name, or both, visible to drivers.

## **C. OVERVIEW OF THE CEQA PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE DRAFT EIR**

In compliance with the CEQA Guidelines, the County, as the Lead Agency for the Project, has provided opportunities for the public to participate in the environmental review process. As described below, throughout the environmental review process, an effort was made to inform, contact and solicit input from the public and various Federal, State, regional, and local government agencies and other interested parties on the Project.

### **Initial Study/Notice of Preparation**

At the onset of the environmental review process and pursuant to the provisions of Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the County Department Public Works circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to State, regional, and local agencies, and members of the public for a 30-day scoping period, commencing November 3, 2014 and ending December 2, 2014 and for a second 30-day period commencing June 29, 2015 and ending July 29, 2015. Early input was sought from other County departments prior to public circulation of the NOP. The purpose of the NOP was to formally convey that the County was preparing a Draft EIR for the proposed Project, and to solicit input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft EIR. Both NOPs included notification that public scoping meetings would be held in

an open house format to inform public agencies and other interested parties of the Project and to solicit input regarding the Draft EIR. The meeting was held November 12, 2014 between 5:30 P.M. and 7:30 P.M. and on July 15, 2015, from P.M. and 7:30 P.M. at the Parlow Library on the Harbor- UCLA Medical Center Campus. The meeting provided interested individuals, groups, and public agencies the opportunity to provide oral and written comments to the Lead Agency regarding the scope and focus of the Draft EIR, as described in the NOPs and Initial Study. The NOPs, public comments on the NOPs, and Scoping Meetings materials are provided in Appendix A, Notice of Preparations (NOPs), Initial Study, Scoping Meetings Materials, and NOPs and Scoping Meetings Comments, of the Draft EIR (Volume 1).

## **Draft Environmental Impact Report**

In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15085, upon completion of the Draft EIR and publication on August 16, 2016, a Notice of Availability (NOA) as well as CD copies of the Draft EIR were submitted to the State Clearinghouse, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, for distribution to State Agencies. The Draft EIR was circulated for a 45-day public review period between August 17, 2016 and October 3, 2016, in compliance with Section 15105(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines. As required under Section 15086 of the State CEQA Guidelines, a NOA requesting comments on the Draft EIR and CDs of the Draft EIR were distributed to approximately 37 public agencies, utilities, and other organizations. In addition, copies of the NOA were mailed to organizations or individuals who had previously requested notice or expressed an interest in the Project, commented on the Project during the public review period, or attended the public scoping meeting conducted for preparation of the Draft EIR. Furthermore, copies of the NOA were mailed to approximately 1,350 property owners and occupants within a 500-foot radius of the site. Newspaper advertisements of the NOA and Draft EIR comment period and information regarding the public meeting were placed in the Daily Breeze and La Opinión and ran on August 17, 2016.

Hard copies of the Draft EIR were placed at the following locations:

- Carson Library  
151 E. Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745
- Harbor Gateway Library  
24000 S. Western Avenue, Harbor City, CA 90710
- Southeast Branch Library  
23115 Arlington Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501
- Wilmington Library  
1300 N. Avalon Boulevard, Wilmington, CA 90744
- Lomita Library  
24200 Narbonne Avenue, Lomita, CA 90717
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library  
17906 S. Avalon Boulevard, Carson, CA 90746
- Katy Geissert Civic Center Library  
3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90503

- Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Inpatient Tower Information Desk  
1000 Carson Street, Torrance, CA 90509

During the Draft EIR public review period, the Department of Public Works received eight (8) comment letters on the Draft EIR from agencies, organizations, and individuals through written correspondence and emails. A public meeting was held on September 8, 2016 from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Parlow Library to present Project information, provide a summary of the Draft EIR's analysis and findings regarding the Project, give an overview of the CEQA public review process, and provide instructions on how to submit written comments on the Draft EIR. All written comments received during the public review period are presented and responses provided in Chapter 2.0, Comments and Responses, of this Final EIR.

## **D. ORGANIZATION OF FINAL EIR**

The Final EIR (Volume 6 of the EIR) consists of the following four chapters:

**Chapter 1.0. Introduction.** This chapter describes the purpose of the Final EIR, provides a summary of the proposed Project, summarizes the Final EIR public review process, and presents the contents of this Final EIR.

**Chapter 2.0. Comments and Responses.** This chapter presents all comments received by the County during the 45-day public review period of the Draft EIR (August 17, 2016 through October 3, 2016) as well as the responses to those comments.

**Chapter 3.0. Revisions, Clarifications and Corrections to the Draft EIR.** This chapter includes revisions to the Draft EIR that represent minor changes or additions in response to some of the comments received on the Draft EIR and additional edits to provide clarification. Changes to the Draft EIR are shown with ~~striketrough~~ text for deletions and double underline text for additions. These changes are minor and do not add significant new information that would affect the analysis or conclusions presented in the Draft EIR.

**Chapter 4.0. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.** The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) is the document that will be used by the enforcement and monitoring agencies responsible for the implementation of the Project's mitigation measures and Project Design Features. Mitigation measures and Project Design Features are listed by environmental topic.