

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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### PURPOSE

This Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 2017111002) has been prepared by the Compton Unified School District (CUSD or District), in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the Compton High School Reconstruction Project (proposed Project). This Draft EIR contains a project-level environmental review that examines all phases of proposed Project planning, construction, and operation. As defined by Section 15161 of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project-level EIR examines the environmental impacts of a specific development project and focuses primarily on the changes in the environment that would result from the development project.

This Draft EIR evaluates the proposed Project, which would consist of the demolition of existing buildings, facilities, and athletic fields, and the construction of new modern buildings, facilities, and athletic fields with a design that supports a free-flowing campus. Implementation of the proposed Project would provide CUSD with the range of updated and modern school facilities for CHS to meet current standards, as well as both the immediate and long-term educational needs of the community. Implementation of the proposed Project would also involve the acquisition of 10 additional parcels southeast of the existing CHS campus to facilitate the construction of the new high school facilities, as well as the relocation of the District's Facilities Department and Pupil Services, Enrollment Center, and Special Education offices. The reconstructed CHS campus would accommodate a total of 2,500 seats. The anticipated opening of the reconstructed Compton High School campus is by the 2023–2024 school year.

The principal use of this EIR is to provide input into and information about the comprehensive planning analysis undertaken for this proposed Project. This EIR identifies and discusses potential project-specific and cumulative environmental impacts that may occur should the proposed Project be implemented. The intent of this EIR is to (1) be an informational document that serves to inform public agency decision makers and the general public of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project; (2) identify possible ways to minimize or avoid any potential significant impacts, either through mitigation or the adoption of alternatives; and (3) disclose to the public required agency approvals.

### LEAD AGENCY

The public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project is designated as the "Lead Agency" under CEQA.

For the proposed Project, the District is the primary approving agency and, therefore, for CEQA purposes is known as the Lead Agency. As such, the District is responsible for ensuring that the EIR satisfies the procedural and substantive requirements of CEQA, and for considering and certifying the adequacy and completeness of the EIR prior to making any decision regarding the proposed Project. During preparation of the EIR, agencies, organizations, and persons the District believed might have an interest in the proposed Project were specifically contacted.

“Responsible Agency” refers to a public agency that proposes to carry out or approve a project for which the Lead Agency is preparing or has prepared an EIR or Negative Declaration. For purposes of CEQA, the term “Responsible Agency” includes all public agencies other than the Lead Agency having discretionary approval authority over the Project. During the review period following circulation of the Notice of Preparation (NOP), no other public agency identified itself as a Responsible Agency.

“Trustee Agency” refers to a State agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project that are held in trust for the people of the State of California (e.g., California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Lands Commission). During the NOP review period, no public agency identified itself as a Trustee Agency.

## **STANDARDS FOR ADEQUACY**

Given the important role of the EIR in this planning and decision-making process, it is essential that the information presented in the EIR be factual, adequate, and complete. The standards for adequacy of an EIR, defined in Section 15151 of the State CEQA Guidelines, are as follows:

*An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in light of what is reasonably feasible. Disagreement among experts does not make an EIR inadequate, but the EIR should summarize the main points of disagreement among the experts. The courts have looked not for perfection but for adequacy, completeness, and a good faith effort at full disclosure.*

This EIR has been prepared in accordance with these standards with respect to adequacy under CEQA.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

The CEQA Guidelines define a process for environmental review that includes a series of steps that must be completed prior to the Lead Agency’s taking action on a project.

## Project Scoping Process

On November 1, 2017, the District circulated an NOP for review and comment by public, responsible agencies, and reviewing agencies indicating that an EIR should be prepared for the proposed Project. The 30-day NOP review period ended on November 30, 2017.

During the NOP comment period, written comments were received from four public agencies: the Native American Heritage Commission, California Department of Transportation, South Coast Air Quality Management District, and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency. A written comment was also received from Southern California Edison and two individual members of the community.

The NOP and received comments are contained in **Appendix A** of this Draft EIR. Agencies or interested persons who did not respond during the public review period of the NOP will have an opportunity to comment on the EIR during the public review period or during subsequent hearings for EIR approval.

Additionally, the District held a public scoping meeting at 6:00 PM on November 16, 2017, in the Compton High School auditorium, located in the administration building at 601 S. Acacia Avenue. A summary of comments made at the scoping meeting is also provided in **Appendix A**.

## Review and Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report

CEQA requires that the Lead Agency provide the public and agencies the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EIR. The District is providing a 45-day period for review and comment on this Draft EIR, starting October 15, 2018, and ending November 28, 2018.

Copies of this Draft EIR have been sent to the State Clearinghouse, responsible agencies, other agencies that have commented on the NOP, as well as to all interested parties that have requested notice and copies of the Draft EIR. A complete distribution list is included in **Appendix B** of this Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR is also available for review at the following locations:

Compton Unified School District  
Facilities Department  
429 S. Oleander Avenue  
Compton, CA 90220

Compton Library  
240 W. Compton Boulevard  
Compton, CA 90220

In addition, the Draft EIR is available at the District's website at:

[www.compton.k12.ca.us](http://www.compton.k12.ca.us)

Interested individuals, organizations, responsible agencies, and other agencies can provide written comments about the Draft EIR addressed to:

Compton Unified School District  
Facilities Department  
429 S. Oleander Avenue  
Compton, CA 90220  
Contact: Nathaniel Holt, Chief Facilities Officer

Comments may also be sent by facsimile to (310) 631-9871 or by email to [eroaro@compton.k12.ca.us](mailto:eroaro@compton.k12.ca.us).

When submitting comments, please note "**Compton High School Reconstruction Project**" in the subject line and include the name of the contact person within the commenting agency (if applicable).

After completion of the 45-day review period, a Final EIR will be prepared that includes responses to comments submitted on the Draft EIR and any necessary corrections or additions to the Draft EIR. The Final EIR will be made available to agencies and the public prior to the District's determination on the proposed Project. Once the Final EIR is complete, the District may certify the Final EIR, prepare Findings, and issue a Notice of Determination, the final step in the CEQA process.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE EIR**

As stated, a principal objective of CEQA is to ensure that the environmental review process be a public one. In meeting this objective, an EIR informs members of the public, reviewing agencies, and decision makers of the physical impacts associated with a project. To this end, specific features have been incorporated into this EIR to make it more understandable for non-technically oriented reviewers while providing the technical information necessary for the City to proceed with processing the proposed Project. Sections of the Draft EIR are organized as follows:

The **Executive Summary** contains a brief summary of the proposed Project; necessary actions; potential significant effects with proposed mitigation measures; alternatives; areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public; and issues to be resolved.

**Section 1.0: Introduction** contains information on the CEQA process and organization of the EIR.

**Section 2.0: Project Description** presents a detailed description of the proposed Project, including identification of all discretionary actions requiring approval to allow the implementation of the Project.

**Section 3.0: Environmental Setting** describes the environmental setting of the Project site and surrounding areas, including a brief description of existing land uses and zoning.

**Section 4.0: Consideration and Discussion of Environmental Impacts** contains analysis of the Project-related impacts, cumulative impacts, and mitigation measures, if necessary, for environmental topics addressed in the EIR.

**Section 5.0: Alternatives** discusses alternatives to the proposed Project that have been developed and analyzed to provide additional information on ways to avoid or lessen the impacts of the Project.

**Section 6.0: Other CEQA Considerations** includes discussion of potential impacts determined not to be significant, as well as a discussion of significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the proposed Project should it be implemented, with a brief description of potentially irreversible uses of nonrenewable resources that would result from the Project. This section also includes a discussion of growth-inducing impacts and the potential for the proposed Project to remove impediments to growth, foster economic growth, result in a precedent-setting action, and develop or encroach on isolated open space.

**Section 7.0: Organizations and Persons Consulted** lists persons involved in the preparation of this Draft EIR or who contributed information incorporated into this Draft EIR.

**Section 8.0: References** lists the principal documents, reports, maps, and other information sources reviewed or referenced in the preparation of this EIR.

**Appendices** include technical information and other materials used in the preparation of this EIR.