

January 22, 2020

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

From: Office of Exposition Park Management
Attn: Ana M. Lasso, General Manager
700 Exposition Park Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90037
Phone: (213) 744-2450

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Exposition Park Master Plan

The State of California Office of Exposition Park Management (OEPM), as the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), intends to prepare a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) to the certified 2003 Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Renovation Project Environmental Impact Report (2003 EIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 1990011065) for the proposed Exposition Park Master Plan (proposed project). An SEIR is needed to address changes to the project not discussed in the certified EIR. The 2003 EIR has been amended four times as the use has evolved to address architectural modifications, parking and pedestrian circulation improvements, and relocation of a soccer field. As the use of the park has evolved, improvements to open spaces need further refinement to accommodate a level of use not anticipated at the time of the EIR and amendments. The improvements to the Coliseum have been largely completed but have created an unforeseen impact on the surrounding open space and pedestrian and vehicular areas that are best addressed in a Master Plan. An SEIR would expand the extent of the project site for the Coliseum renovation project within its overall context of Exposition Park. The proposed Exposition Park Master Plan would overlap with the original Coliseum renovation project site and the Coliseum District Specific Plan established in Addendum No. 1 to the 2003 EIR. Furthermore, it would relocate existing VIP Game Day parking spaces for Coliseum events to within the Coliseum District Specific Plan boundaries.

In accordance with §15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, OEPM has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide Responsible Agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposed project and to identify its potential environmental effects pursuant to State requirements. The NOP and related documents can be reviewed on the Exposition Park website at: <http://expositionpark.ca.gov/Public-Notices/>.

Project Location:

The proposed project is located on a 152-acre site located approximately 2 miles southwest of the Los Angeles Civic Center at 700 Exposition Park Drive in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. The Master Plan Area is bordered by the University of Southern California (USC) and Exposition Boulevard to the north, Figueroa Street and the Harbor Freeway (Interstate 110) to the east, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the south, and South Vermont Avenue to the west. The proposed project is located within a High Quality Transit Area (HQTA) in an urbanized location and is in close proximity to high-density urban development. Regional access to Exposition Park is provided by Interstate 110, located approximately 0.1 mile east of the park.

The southwestern and southern portions of Exposition Park are located within the Coliseum District Specific Plan, which was established in 2006 under Addendum No. 1 to the 2003 EIR to provide regulatory controls and incentives; ensure orderly development by establishing general procedures for development within the Specific Plan Area; provide for the preservation and upgrade of the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum stadium and associated development and enhancements to the site in conformance with the goals and objectives of local and regional plans and policies; and provide for the development of the approximately 15-acre Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena site (Banc of California Stadium) with a state-of-the-art professional soccer stadium and ancillary uses.

Project Description

The proposed project would guide the development of Exposition Park during a 25-year period to link Exposition Park to the City of Los Angeles around it; connect the park's segments to one another; and encourage the community members and visitors to linger with the inclusion of more plentiful pathways, plantings, and visitor amenities. The proposed project is composed of nine elements:

1. Threshold and Gateway
2. Expo Festival Plaza
3. Solar Garden
4. Festival Park and Community Promenade
5. Bill Robertson Lane
6. Museum Walk
7. California African American Museum Sculpture Garden
8. Zanja Madre
9. Olympic Ring Walk

The proposed project would connect the park's segments by improving pedestrian and recreational use of the spaces between its buildings and moving surface parking spaces underground.

A State zoning designation has not been assigned to Exposition Park due to its location within an incorporated city. Although the State is not subject to city zoning, the City's zoning designations have been provided to inform OEPM's decision-making process and because portions of the Master Plan Area are owned or operated by the City of Los Angeles. There are three City zoning designations for the Master Plan Area: PF-1, PF-1-SN, and OS-1XL. Allowable uses within the "PF" Public Facilities Zone include any joint public and private development uses permitted in the most restrictive adjoining zones if approved by the Director utilizing the procedures described in Section 16.05 to H of the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code. Allowable uses within the "OS" Open Space Zone include parks and recreation facilities, including bicycle trails, equestrian trails, walking trails, nature trails, parkland/lawn areas, children's play areas, child care facilities, picnic facilities, and athletic fields (not to exceed 200 seats in park) used for park and recreation purposes.

The proposed project would be consistent with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) goals to provide opportunities of recreational and open spaces accessible through public transit. The proposed project is located within a SCAG-mapped HQT in an urbanized location and is in close proximity to high-density urban development.

Project Approvals:

- California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
- County of Los Angeles (joint-powers authority)
- Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
- City of Los Angeles (joint-powers authority)
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Probable Environmental Effects: In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(a), the State of California Office of Exposition Park Management determined that an SEIR would be required for this project. The Initial Study prepared for the project identified the following 19 environmental issue areas that are anticipated to have less than significant impacts based on the existing information, or could be reduced to a less than significant level with mitigation:

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| 1. Aesthetics | 11. Land Use and Planning |
| 2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources | 12. Mineral Resources |
| 3. Air Quality | 13. Noise |
| 4. Biological Resources | 14. Population / Housing |
| 5. Cultural Resources | 15. Public Services |
| 6. Energy | 16. Recreation |
| 7. Geology / Soils | 17. Tribal Cultural Resources |
| 8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions | 18. Utilities / Service Systems |
| 9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials | 19. Wildfire |
| 10. Hydrology / Water Quality | |

The Initial Study found that one environmental issue area would have the potential to result in significant impacts requiring further analysis: Transportation.

Scoping Meeting: OEPM will host one public scoping meeting to review the various project elements and solicit information in relation to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis for the proposed Initiative. The scoping meeting will take place from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the following location on Tuesday, February 4, 2020:

Administration East Building
Conference Room
Exposition Park
700 Exposition Park Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90037

The NOP and Initial Study are available for review online, at Exposition Park, and at three area libraries:

Exposition Park
Wallis Annenberg Building
1st Floor (basement level) Suite
700 Exposition Park Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90037
Open to the Public Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

On-line: <http://expositionpark.ca.gov/Public-Notices/> and www.expositionparktogether.org

Libraries:

Exposition Park – Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Library
3900 S. Western Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90062
Phone: 323-290-3113
Open Mon: 10–8, Tue: 10–8, Wed: 10–8, Thu: 10–8, Fri: 9:30–5:30
Sat: 9:30–5:30, Sun: 1–5

Vermont Square Branch Library
1201 W. 48th. Street
Los Angeles, CA 90037
Phone: 323-290-7405
Open Mon: 10–8, Tue: 12–8, Wed: 10–8, Thu: 12–8, Fri: 9:30–5:30
Sat: 9:30–5:30, Sun: Closed

Junipero Serra Branch Library
4607 S. Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90037
Phone: 323-234-1685
Open Mon: 10–8, Tue: 12–8, Wed: 10–8, Thu: 12–8, Fri: 9:30–5:30
Sat: 9:30–5:30, Sun: Closed

Responses: The State of California Office of Exposition Park Management requests interested parties provide written or verbal comments as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft Subsequent EIR, in connection with the proposed project. **The 30-day NOP review period starts on January 22, 2020, and ends on February 21, 2020.** Due to the time limits mandated by State law, please send your written response to OEPM at the address below at the earliest possible date but no later than **February 21, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.** Please include your name and address for all written correspondence.

Ana M. Lasso, General Manager
700 Exposition Park Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90037

Responses may also be submitted via email to Ana.lasso@expositionpark.ca.gov.