

## 3L. Effects Found Not to be Significant

This chapter presents the evaluation of other types of environmental impacts required by CEQA that are not covered within the other chapters of this EIR. CEQA Guidelines Section 15128 requires that an EIR contain a brief statement disclosing the reasons why various possible significant effects of a proposed project were found not to be significant and, therefore, would not be discussed in detail within the EIR. The following impacts were deemed less than significant based on the results of the Initial Study in **Appendix A**, which was made available for public review at the time of the Notice of Preparation (NOP): agricultural resources, hazards/hazardous materials, mineral resources, population and housing, and recreational resources. The basis for the non-significant conclusions is provided below with a discussion of each topic. Additionally, various topics within some of the chapters in Chapter 3.0 Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures were also eliminated. Please see Chapter 3.0 and the Initial Study (Appendix A) for details.

### Agricultural Resources

The proposed would not result in the conversion of prime farmland, unique farmland or farmland of statewide importance to non-agricultural uses. Nor would implementation of the proposed conflict with existing zoning for agricultural uses or a Williamson Act contract, or involve other changes in the existing environment which could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. The Art Center College of Design moved to its current Pasadena location in 1974. Under the Pasadena General Plan, the campus is designated as Institutional (which is the designation used for libraries, fire stations, police stations, convention centers and other public or semi-public institutions), and is zoned PS, Public / Semi-Public Zone District.<sup>1</sup> The project lies in a developed, suburban area that does not have a recent history of use as farmland. The western portion of the City contains the Arroyo Seco, which runs from north to south through the City. It has commercial recreation, park, natural and open space. The City contains no prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance, as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than a significant impact to agricultural resources.

### Hazards/Hazardous Materials

The Art Center Hillside campus' current and proposed activities include the use of hazardous materials generally associated with maintenance as well as art and design activities (e.g., paints, cleansers, solvents, and grease for mechanical equipment). These materials are utilized in generally small quantities and are not stored in large quantities on-site. The use of these materials would not create a significant impact given that, only small quantities would be used, usage is regulated by appropriate labeling as required by federal and state laws, and that sufficient

<sup>1</sup> Zoning information from the City of Pasadena Planning Division, Current Planning/ Zoning accessed at <http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/planning/deptorg/curplng/homezcod.asp> on June 26, 2007. Land use information for the City of Pasadena On-line Zoning Code, Title 17, Article 2 Zoning Districts, Allowable Land Uses, and Zone-Specific Standards, accessed at <http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/zoning/P-2.html#17.21.020> on June 26, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Information from City of Pasadena Initial Study template with Citywide data, provided by Planner Robert Avila June 2007.

emergency plans are in place to assure appropriate responses to emergencies, and these could be applied in the very unlikely event that a hazardous materials issue arose on campus. These plans are described further below.<sup>3</sup> In addition, appropriate fire service and brush clearance or thinning requirements must also be adhered to, as discussed further in **Chapter 3L, Public Services**. The Art Center's fire abatement efforts and requirements are also detailed below.

## Emergency Plans

The Art Center College of Design has a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Plan to handle various kinds of disasters, accidents and crimes. As part of the plan, the Art Center coordinates with local and state emergency response agencies, in particular, maintaining a mutual aid agreement with the City of Pasadena.

The Art Center also maintains an Emergency Response Manual and an Emergency Evacuation Plan (both on file with the City Department of Planning and Development). The Emergency Response Manual provides specific procedures to be used in case of an emergency. The manual includes emergency contact information, checklists, reports, resources and maps. The Emergency Evacuation Plan addresses evacuation of the campus and its buildings. In the event the campus needs to be evacuated, specific emergency exit routes and staging areas are identified.

## Fire Abatement

Art Center College of Design works with the City of Pasadena Fire Department to meet fire abatement requirements for the hillside campus. Appropriate brush clearance or thinning of vegetation, as well as fire abatement landscaping around buildings are major means towards achieving fire safety on the hillside campus. In addition, all buildings must meet the fire safety requirements of the building code.

## Mineral Resources

The proposed project would not result in the loss of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the loss of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site. Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) are areas identified by the State of California relative to their known or anticipated mineral resources. MRZs have classifications to determine their potential mineral resource significance. Under the Pasadena General Plan, the campus is designated as Institutional (which is the designation used for libraries, fire stations, police stations, convention centers and other public or semi-public institutions), and is zoned PS, Public / Semi-Public Zone District. No active mining operations exist in the City of Pasadena. However, there are two areas in Pasadena that may contain mineral resources. These two areas are Eaton Wash, which, was formerly mined for sand and gravel, and Devils Gate Reservoir, which was formerly mined for cement concrete aggregate.<sup>4</sup> The project lies in a developed, suburban area that does not have a history of mineral

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<sup>3</sup> Correspondence from the Art Center College of Design to John Poindexter, Planning Manager, City of Pasadena Planning and Development Department, August 9, 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Information from City of Pasadena Initial Study template with Citywide data, provided by Planner Robert Avila June 2007.

excavation. Therefore, the proposed project would have less than a significant impact on mineral resources.

## Population and Housing

The proposed project would not directly impact population growth in the surrounding community, nor does the project contain any residential or business components. Student information demonstrates that a number of current students reside in Pasadena, with the remainder residing in several communities in the surrounding area or region. A significant indirect increase in population or housing is not anticipated, as discussed in Chapter 5, Other CEQA Considerations, Section 5.5, Growth Inducing Impacts.

The proposed project's location would not displace housing or people. The project involves the expansion of the campus structures, which is consistent with the land use designation and zoning for the site (i.e., Institutional and Public/Semi-Public). Therefore, the proposed project is consistent with the growth anticipated and accommodated by the City's General Plan. Furthermore, the project is located in a developed suburban area with an established roadway network and in-place infrastructure.

The proposed project does not contain a residential component. No residential units would be removed in order to construct the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would not displace existing housing or people, or necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Thus, development of the proposed project would not require extending or improving infrastructure in a manner that would facilitate off-site growth. Therefore, the proposed project would have less than a significant impact on population and housing.

## Recreational Resources

The proposed project would not substantially increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or any other recreational facilities. The proposed project does not contain a residential component and therefore would not need to construct or expand recreational facilities in the area. The proposed project is a non-residential project, and on-site passive recreation areas are provided on-site for students and employees. The Art Center Master Plan would provide on-site passive recreation, by way of landscaped courtyard areas, pedestrian walkways, outdoor seating areas, as well as indoor spaces for passive recreational activities. The project itself would not lead to substantial physical deterioration of any recreational facilities. Therefore, the proposed project would not adversely affect recreation resources areas.