

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN PHASE 1 IMPLEMENTATION (SCH# 2008111064)

Date: January 26, 2012

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP) Master Development Plan Phase I Implementation (proposed project), in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. The CDPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

PROJECT LOCATION: The 32-acre project site is located at 1245 North Spring Street in the eastern portion of the City of Los Angeles, approximately 1.5 miles north of the downtown Los Angeles financial district and directly east of the Chinatown district. The project site comprises an elongated, grass-covered area that is currently primarily used for picnicking, jogging, walking, informal play, and other activities requiring large open areas. The southwestern 13 acres of the project site are currently developed with an interim public use (IPU) park consisting of curvilinear walkways, trees, and open grass play areas.

<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT</u>: The proposed project would include various park improvements to the project site. These improvements include: three event spaces; one-story Welcome Station and operations buildings; a 14-foot-tall elevated walkway including the Roundhouse Observation Deck, which would rise above exposed archaeological reveal space; hard surface walkways and/or plazas; jogging and interpretive trail loops, a Children's Interpretive Play Area/Exploration Zone and a "Storytelling Circle" amphitheater; unstructured play, work-out, and group gathering areas; two 75-parking space surface lots; new pedestrian pathways, parking lot and security lighting; bioswales, constructed/demonstration wetlands, and habitat area; new trees, landscaping, and turf areas; fire access and services road(s); and new automated irrigation systems. Overall park attendance figures are expected to exceed 180,000 annually upon opening. Special events and concerts held at the project site may include concerts, fireworks displays, and the use of public address systems.

The proposed project represents the design footprint of the long-term vision of LASHP as detailed in the LASHP General Plan/EIR, which was adopted on June 10, 2005. The full LASHP Master Development Plan would be implemented in at least three phases. The full development of all phases of the proposed project is anticipated to occur by 2035. Due to the long-term nature of the project, the components included within future phases of the project may change over time and would be subject to the availability of funding. At this time, the components of Phase I of the proposed project have been detailed and the implementation would be funded primarily by Proposition 84, a bond measure approved by voters in 2006. The Draft EIR primarily analyzes the potential impacts related to the implementation of Phase I of the LASHP Master Development Plan. Only a limited number of components of future phases are conceptually known at this time. These are addressed in this EIR as appropriate. Subsequent CEQA review will be required for a majority of the future improvements implemented after Phase I.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: As presented in the Draft EIR, the proposed project would result in no impacts to agriculture and forest resources, and mineral resources. The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts in the areas of aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, paleontological resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, population and housing, public services and utilities, and transportation and traffic. In addition, the proposed project would result in significant unavoidable adverse impacts related to noise from occasional fireworks displays at the proposed project.

<u>PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD</u>: The Draft EIR is being circulated for a 45-day public review and comment period, starting **January 27**, **2012** and ending on **March 12**, **2012**.

This Notice of Availability and the Draft EIR may be viewed online at the following website address:

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26953

Your comments on the environmental analysis presented in the Draft EIR are welcomed. Written comments should be submitted via mail, email, or fax not later than **March 12**, **2012** to the following:

Luke Serna, Park & Recreation Specialist California State Parks Southern Service Center 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270 San Diego, CA 92108

Fax: (619) 220-5400

E-Mail: enviro@parks.ca.gov

Copies of the Draft EIR may be reviewed at the following locations during normal business hours:

California State Parks Angeles District Office 1925 Las Virgenes Road Calabasas, CA 91302	Little Tokyo Library 203 S. Los Angeles St. Los Angeles, CA 90012	Los Angeles Central Library 630 W 5th St. Los Angeles, CA 90071
California State Parks Southern Service Center 8885 Rio San Diego Dr., Suite 270 San Diego, CA 92108	Chinatown Library 639 North Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012	Echo Park Library 1410 West Temple St. Los Angeles, CA 90026
Benjamin Franklin Library	Cypress Park Library	Edendale Library
220 E. First St.	1150 Cypress Ave.	2011 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90012	Los Angeles, CA 90065	Los Angeles, CA 90026
Lincoln Heights Library	Malabar Library	Silver Lake Library
2530 Workman St.	2801 Wabash Ave	2411 Glendale Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90031	Los Angeles, CA 90033	Los Angeles, CA 90039

PUBLIC MEETING: A public meeting will be held on Thursday February 16, 2012 from 7-8pm at the

Los Angeles Conservation Corps North East LA Center 1400 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please join us to receive information about the project including an overview of its scope, the current schedule for its implementation, information regarding the CEQA process, how you can comment on the Draft EIR and an overview of the findings of the Draft EIR.