

SDSU/Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences Building Project IS/MND -- Responses to Comments Report

Comment Letter 1	Comments from San Diego County Archaeological Society, Inc., 3/1/2015	Response
<p>I have reviewed the cultural resources aspects of the subject DMND on behalf of this committee of the San Diego County Archaeological Society. Based on the information contained in the DMND and its Appendix D, we concur with the impact analysis and mitigation measures as proposed. Thank you for including SDCAS in the public review of this environmental document.</p>	<p>California State University/San Diego State University acknowledges your comments. The comments will be made part of the record and made available to the decision maker prior to a final decision on the project.</p>	
Comment Letter 2	Comments from The City of San Diego, 3/25/2015	Response
<p>The City of San Diego ("City") has received and reviewed the MND for the above project and appreciates this opportunity to provide comments. The City identified potential environmental issues that may result in a significant impact to the environment. Continued coordinated planning between the City, San Diego State University, and other local, regional, state, and federal agencies will be essential in order to implement this project.</p> <p>Staff from the following City departments has reviewed the MND and can provide the following comments regarding the content of the MND:</p>	<p>The comment is an introduction to specific comments that follow. California State University/San Diego State University (CSU/SDSU) acknowledges the comments, which will be made a part of the record and made available to the decision maker prior to a final decision on the project. Responses to the specific individual comments are provided below.</p>	
<p>Development Services Department:</p> <p>Anne Gonsalves Senior Traffic Engineer (619) 446-5294 AGONSLAVES@SANDEIGO.GOV</p> <p>Jim Lundquist Associate Traffic Engineer (619) 446-5396 JLUNDQUIST@SANDIEOGO.GOV</p> <p>1. Transportation analysis in this Draft MND is inadequate if it relies on information from the 2005 SDSU Master Plan EIR. That EIR prepared for the Master Plan did not appropriately mitigate direct impacts and additional significant impacts were not acknowledged. The same inadequacies in analysis were</p>	<p>Analysis of the proposed project's Transportation/Traffic impacts for the SDSU Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences Building Project is presented in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) at pages 145-159. The analysis addresses impacts attributable to project and cumulative traffic, and is based on the Traffic Impact Analysis technical report prepared by Linscott Law & Greenspan and included as Appendix M to the IS/MND. The analysis presented in the IS/MND is an independent, stand-alone analysis that did not rely on information from the 2005 SDSU Master Plan EIR.</p>	

<p>noted in the City of San Diego's November 24, 2010 comment letter on the Plaza Linda Verde Draft EIR, incorporated here by reference.</p>	
<p>Planning Department:</p> <p>Benjamin Hafertepe City of San Diego- Facilities Financing Section (Planning Department) (619) 533-3913 Bhafertepe@sandiego.gov</p> <p>The current FY 2014 College Area Public Facilities Financing Plan was approved by the City Council on February 25, 2014. Per the City of San Diego's Municipal Code, [t]he payment of Development Impact Fees (as defined in California Government Code Section 66000) shall be required before the issuance of any Building Permit in areas where Development Impact Fees have been established by Resolution of the City Council.</p>	<p>The IS/MND was prepared pursuant to and consistent with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As such, in each case in which a potentially significant impact is identified, appropriate mitigation compliant with the requirements of CEQA is identified that will reduce the identified impact to less than significant. Accordingly, no further mitigation, including the payment of development impact fees, is required under CEQA.</p>
<p>PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES TECHNICAL REPORT</p> <p><i>Fire Protection</i></p> <p>The proposed project would create additional demand for Fire-Rescue services by accommodating a 224-student enrollment headcount increase and up to 80 additional research staff members over current levels. The City of San Diego will be the primary responder to fires on the SDSU campus, therefore, a fair share contribution may be required in addition to the College Area Development Impact Fees. Facilities Financing will defer to the Fire-Rescue Department.</p>	<p>The IS/MND addresses the potential impacts of the proposed project relative to fire protection at pages 135-137. The analysis is based on a technical report prepared by Dudek and included as Appendix L to the IS/MND. As to the increase in student enrollment and research staff, the analysis determined that based on existing call rates, the proposed project would result in an increase of less than one Fire-Rescue Department Priority 1 call over the course of an academic year. (IS/MND p. 136; Appendix L pp. 28-30 and 45-46.) As to the new building facility, because the proposed project would consist of new/expanded instructional and support space where such space currently exists on campus, new firefighting processes or expanded service demand outside of the marginal increase identified above would not occur. (IS/MND p. 137; Appendix L p. 46.) Therefore, the proposed project would not result in potentially significant impacts relative to fire protection and no mitigation is required under CEQA. (Id.)</p>
<p><i>Transportation/Traffic</i></p> <p>Proposed project would result in significant short term impacts at the intersection of College Avenue and Canyon Crest Drive during peak hours (7:00am-9:00am and 4:00pm-6:00pm). In addition, the new building would accommodate up to 80 additional research staff and</p>	<p>The significant short-term impacts identified at the intersection of College Avenue and Canyon Crest Drive are temporary impacts caused by construction-related vehicle trips. (IS/MND pp. 147-148; Appendix M pp. 18, 26.) To mitigate the identified impacts, SDSU will implement an alternative transportation program to reduce the number of construction trade vehicles commuting to the Project site, such as the establishment</p>

<p>increase the student population to 224 full-time equivalent students (FTE). The proposed project may be required to pay a fair-share contribution for transportation improvement(s). Facilities Financing will defer to the Development Services Department.</p>	<p>of a shuttle service to provide project construction workers with transportation between an off-campus parking facility and the campus worksite. (IS/MND pp. 157-159; Appendix M pp. 40-41.) Implementation of such program would reduce the identified impacts to less than significant. (Id.) No further mitigation is required.</p> <p>As to the additional staff and students, the IS/MND traffic impact analysis included vehicle trips as part of the analysis to account for the increase in staff and students. (Appendix M pp. 19-20.) The resulting analysis determined that any increase in traffic attributable to the increased vehicle trips would not result in a significant impact under the City's significance criteria. (IS/MND pp. 146-156; Appendix M pp. 11-12, 26-39.) Therefore, no mitigation is required.</p>
<p>DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES</p> <p>Fees are subject to change upon Council approval of an update to the College Area Public Facilities Financing Plan and/or at the beginning of the new fiscal year (July 1), requiring developer's verification of fees prior to finalization of the building permit process (if applicable).</p>	<p>CSU/SDSU acknowledges the comment. The comment will be part of the record and made available to the decision maker prior to a final decision on the project. No further response is required.</p>
<p>Please contact the appropriate above-named individual(s) if you have any questions on the submitted comments. The City respectfully requests that you please address the above comments in the MND and provide CD copies of the document for distribution to the commenting department(s). If you have any additional questions regarding the City's review of the MND, please contact Jeffrey Szymanski, Senior Planner at 619-446-5324 or via email at jszymanski@sandiego.gov.</p>	<p>CSU/SDSU acknowledges the comment and will provide the City with a copy of the university's responses to the comments.</p>