

FACILITY PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001



Date **August 16, 2010**

TO: **Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties and Organizations**

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR PASO ROBLES PROPERTY MASTER REUSE PLAN (SCH# 2009101039)**

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is the Lead Agency for the proposed Paso Robles Property Master Reuse Plan. CDCR has directed the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

At the direction of CDCR, the environmental consulting firms of AECOM and Ascent Environmental, Inc. prepared the DEIR for this project. As determined by CEQA, the purpose of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is to provide decision makers, public agencies, and the general public with an objective and informative document that facilitates a basic understanding of the proposed project and fully discloses the potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects. In addition, the EIR process identifies alternatives that would reduce or eliminate the significant effects of the proposed project, feasible measures to mitigate those effects, and any remaining adverse impacts determined to be significant after mitigation. CDCR will also use the EIR to obtain permits, agreements, and approvals from necessary agencies in order to implement the project.

Description of the Proposed Project

The proposed Master Reuse Plan for the 160-acre, State-owned parcel has four principal components as follows:

1. **Estrella Adult Correctional Facility:** This proposed facility would reuse buildings and infrastructure of the former Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) El Paso de Robles Youth Correctional Facility to house up to a maximum of 1,000 adult inmates. Approximately 900 of these inmates would be classified as medium security, or Level II. Some additional new construction would be necessary to provide a full adult facility with an upgraded secure perimeter. The balance of the inmates to be housed at the Estrella facility (approximately 100) would be classified as minimum security, or Level I. All CDCR correctional facilities utilize Level I minimum security inmate crews for maintenance and support activities. These Level I inmates would staff an interim CAL FIRE conservation camp (see Item 3 below).
2. **Central Coast Regional Secure Community Reentry Facility:** CDCR proposes to construct and operate a 500-bed secure reentry facility on this property. These male inmates would be within 6-12 months of parole. The reentry facility would

provide programs to assist in the successful transition of inmates back into their county of last legal residence. The proposed Central Coast Regional Secure Reentry Facility would only serve inmates to be paroled to the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and San Benito.

3. CAL FIRE Los Robles Conservation Camp Reactivation and Construction: The existing CAL FIRE facility would be reactivated to provide wildland fire protection and maintenance services as a result of the implementation of the proposed Paso Robles Property Master Reuse Plan. Reactivation of this former institution-based DJJ camp would be achieved through the use of crews provided from the approximately 100 Level I minimum security inmates to be housed at the proposed adjacent Estrella Adult Correctional Facility. The Master Reuse Plan also identifies an area immediately adjacent to the existing CAL FIRE support complex for the future construction and operation of a permanent stand-alone 130-bed conservation camp. Once constructed, CAL FIRE would no longer need to depend on the use of inmate crews from the Estrella facility. The full stand-alone camp would require the addition of support facilities such as inmate and staff living quarters, food service, training rooms, and administrative buildings.
4. On-site Habitat Restoration Area: Approximately 10-15 acres located in the southwestern portion of the property owned by the State of California is proposed to be used as a habitat restoration area. This area would be evaluated to determine suitable acreage for permanent oak tree replacement plantings for those trees removed from the property owned by the State of California for the Master Reuse Plan and would provide other restored habitat onsite.

A total of 1,630 inmates would be housed at the site. There are currently nine employees at the former DJJ and CAL FIRE facilities. Approximately 998 new staff would be required for the Estrella Adult Correctional Facility, Central Coast Regional Secure Community Reentry Facility, and CAL FIRE Conservation Camp, bringing the total staff at the project site to 1,007. The proposed facilities would operate 24-hours a day year-round, with three 8-hour shifts (watches) and an overlapping administrative shift.

Environmental Effects

The DEIR identifies significant and potentially significant environmental effects from the project related to the following topics or resource areas: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Paleontology, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation, Utilities and Service Systems, and Visual Resources. The DEIR also identifies significant cumulative impacts related to Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Transportation, Utilities and Service Systems, and Visual Resources. The DEIR identified that significant and unavoidable impacts would remain for Transportation (project and cumulative intersection impacts, Air Quality (project and cumulative Greenhouse Gas impacts), Wastewater Treatment (project and cumulative), Water Supply (project and cumulative), and Visual Resources (project and cumulative).

The site is not contained on any of the lists of sites (Cortese List) enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Project Location

The project site consists of an approximately 160-acre parcel situated at 4545 Airport Road, Paso Robles, California. The entire parcel is owned by the State of California, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The parcel is located within the City of Paso Robles in northern San Luis Obispo County.

Public Review Period

The DEIR is available for a 45-day public review period from August 16, 2010 to September 29, 2010. We welcome your comments. To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, written comments are invited from all interested parties. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the DEIR or any other questions regarding the DEIR should be submitted no later than **September 29, 2010**. Comments may be sent via mail, fax, or e-mail to:

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Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Division of Facilities Management
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Responses to comments received during the 45-day public review period will be included in the Final EIR.

Public Hearing

Two public hearings on the DEIR will be held at the following date, times, and location:

Date: Monday, September 20, 2010

Time: 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Place: Council Chambers, City Hall, 1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles CA 93446.

Individuals who require special accommodations (American Sign Language, special seating, documents in alternative formats, etc.) please call Jane Hershberger at (916) 255-2236 at least 10 days prior to the hearing to help ensure availability. **TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at 711.**

What should you do?

Please review the DEIR. If you have questions or comments regarding the environmental analysis provided in the DEIR, please attend the public hearing or send your written comments by the comment deadline via mail, fax, or e-mail. Copies of the DEIR and all documents referenced in the DEIR are available for public review during regular business hours at the office of CDCR identified above.

The DEIR is available online at:

http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/Environmental/index.html

Copies of the DEIR are also available for public review at the following locations:

Paso Robles City Library
Government Reference Desk
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446

San Luis Obispo County
Department of Building and Planning
976 Osos Street, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Paso Robles Community Development
Department
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Santa Barbara County Clerk-Recorder
Hall of Records
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

San Benito County Clerk-Recorder
County Courthouse
440 5th Street, Room 206
Hollister, CA 95023-3843.

Sincerely,



NANCY MACKENZIE, Chief
Environmental Planning Section
Division of Facilities Management
Office of Facility Planning, Construction and Management
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Enclosure

cc: Judy Svoboda-Cummings, CDCR
Nick Giannini, CDCR
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Gary Jakobs, Ascent Environmental
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