

**LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED
FEDERAL ACTION**

Civil Works Branch, Asset Management Division

Public Notice Comment Period: **September 8 through October 13, 2009**

(The deadline has been extended from 10/08/09 to 10/13/09)

**Los Angeles Community College District
PROPOSED RECREATION OUTGRANT AT LOPEZ DEBRIS BASIN
LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE ATHLETIC FIELD
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

This Public Notice is issued by the Chief, Asset Management Division and accompanies the project's *Draft Environmental Assessment (dEA)*, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Environmental issues relating to the proposed action are discussed in the *dEA* which has been prepared and is available for public review. The public is invited to review and provide written comments on this document for a proposed Athletic Field, by Los Angeles Mission College, on lands at Lopez Debris Basin operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). For additional information please contact: Carvel Bass, ACOE, at (213) 452.3392.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Los Angeles Mission College (*LAMC* or *College*) has submitted a request to use 8.2 acres of ACOE land located in the Lopez Basin to develop a collegiate-standard athletic field for intramural ball sports and physical education activities.

It is the Land Management policy of the United States (*U.S.*) to promote the "efficient and economical use of America's real property assets" (Executive Order 13327). Under this policy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (*ACOE*) operates an outgrant program that provides procedures to permit third parties to use U.S.-owned land for purposes that do not conflict with the needs of a federal project or a Department of Defense mission. The *ACOE Lopez Basin Master Plan (2005)* indicates that parcels located at the west side of the Pacoima Wash and north of the intersection of Harding Street and Maclay Street in Sylmar, California, are available for purposes secondary to Flood Control, including that of recreation development. The *dEA* was completed to evaluate the impacts of using the ACOE property for the purpose, as proposed by LAMC.

ACOE has fully considered the impacts of the proposed development on Lopez Dam operations and determined that development of the ACOE land parcels, as proposed, would occur at an elevation that would not affect dam storage or other operations.

The athletic field would conform to National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) standards. Planned site amenities for the Athletic Field include parking, concession, and restroom facilities, and a walking path with fitness stations (parcourse). Other features to be incorporated include: press boxes, batting cages, bull pens, scoreboards, state-of-the art field and parking lighting systems with carefully directed and shielded lights to minimize off-field lighting, and directed, amplified sound systems. While one athletic field is here proposed for the ACOE site, **note** that *per* the *LAMC Facilities Master Plan (2009)*, a second Athletic field is also proposed for College land just north of the ACOE site and is **not** described in this public notice. While specific design for the two sites is still underway, one site would house a baseball field while the other would house a softball/soccer field. Final use and design choices for the two sites are not yet complete, but either field would be used for baseball or soccer/softball as well as for general Physical Education activity.

To accommodate the proposed development, an existing access road off Maclay Street and now serving the Sylmar Independent Baseball League (SIBL) would be hardened, widened, and realigned along the east side of the site. To protect the proposed development and roadway, the west bank of Pacoima Wash would be stabilized where needed with rock rip-rap layered to prevent erosion of the site terrain and sliding of the road into the Pacoima Wash.

PROJECT LOCATION: Please see attached figure. The proposed ACOE site of approximately 8.2 acres is located north of the intersection of Harding Street and Maclay Street, adjacent to and directly across from the Health, Fitness, & Athletics Building now under construction on the existing LAMC East Campus, and approximately one-third mile east of the LAMC Main Campus. The site is bordered by a riparian area to the north, by Pacoima Wash to the east, by the intersection of Harding Street and Maclay Street to the south, and by El Cariso Golf Course to the west.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure the "efficient and economical use" of

Federal Land by outgranting Federal land for approved purposes compatible with the Federal Project, laws, regulations and policies. Presently, LAMC has no such ball fields and utilizes the ball fields of other agencies for their athletic program. In addition, LAMC officials project that future student enrollment will exceed the facilities' current capacity. These needs require that LAMC acquire additional land for ball fields. LAMC has identified that outdoor athletic facilities and open spaces, as described in the Proposed Action are necessary for ongoing health, physical education and fitness programs, particularly for collegiate intramural baseball, softball, and soccer activities.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: Environmental documentation for the proposed Athletic Fields at LAMC consists of a draft Environmental Assessment. This document will be circulated for a 30-day public review period, to begin on **September 8, 2009 and end on October 13, 2009**. Copies of the document are available for review at the following locations:

- Los Angeles Mission College Library: 13356 Eldridge Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342
- LA Public Library – Sylmar Branch: 14561 Polk Street, Sylmar, CA 91342
- LA Public Library – Pacoima Branch: 13605 Van Nuys Boulevard, Pacoima, CA 91331
- LA Public Library – Sunland-Tujunga Branch: 7771 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, CA 91042
- LA Public Library – Mid-San Fernando Valley Branch: 16244 Nordhoff Street, North Hills, CA 91343

A copy of the document will also be posted online at www.lamission.edu/planning.

All comments must be submitted in writing to the address provided below. Comment letters must be postmarked by **October 13, 2009** and sent to:

Carvel Bass, Ecologist
Civil Works Branch, Asset Management Division
US Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 11098
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Evaluation Factors: The ACOE decision whether or not to proceed with this action will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed action on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit(s) which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that will be considered include: conservation, economics, general environmental concerns, aesthetics, cultural resources, biological resources, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, soil erosion, recreation, water quality, safety, and the general needs and welfare of the public.

