

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

On February 1, 2011, Valley College held a community outreach meeting regarding the EIR Addendum for the 2010 Master Plan Update Facilities Master Plan. The meeting was held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room at Campus Center, Valley College. Comment letters were received from the persons listed below before the announced February 4, 2011 deadline for public comments.

No.	Name	Date/Type of Communication
1	David Falk	January 25, 2011, email
2	Deborah Weintraub	February 2, 2011, letter
3	Betty Azzaro	Comment Sheet
4	Abdullah Faridah	Comment Sheet
5	Yadira Garcia	Comment Sheet
6	M. Maltzman	Comment Sheet
7	John Vawter	Comment Sheet
8	Paul Krekorian	February 4, 2011, letter

After the announced February 4, 2011, cut-off date for inclusion of public comments and formal responses to them as part of the EIR Addendum, additional e-mailed comments were received by the College. In addition, the Board of Trustees held a public hearing at its February 23rd meeting. In recognition of the persons who spoke at the February 23, 2011, Board of Trustees public hearing, the College has decided as a courtesy to include all written as well as oral comments that were received through the date of the February 23rd public hearing. Such accommodation is purely voluntary on the part of the College and is not mandated as part of the EIR Addendum process per the provisions of CEQA (Section 15164[c] CEQA Guidelines). The comments from the persons listed below received after February 4th and up through and including February 23rd include:

No.	Name	Date/Type of Communication
9	Traci and Gary Ruebsamen	February 21, 2011, email
10	Gerome Huerta	February 21, 2011, email
11	Susan Daugherty	February 21, 2011, email
12	Delia St. Pierre	February 21, 2011, email
13	Jackie Wollner	February 21, 2011, email
14	Sarah Paula Burns	February 21, 2011, email
15	Donna Lewis	February 21, 2011, email
16	Ellie Kahn	February 21, 2011, email
17	Kathleen Sullivan	February 21, 2011, email
18	Marsha and Burton Roseman, M.D.	February 21, 2011, email
19	Carolyn Hink Wolfstein	February 22, 2011, email
20	David Chilewich (signed Deborah)	February 22, 2011, email
21	Mark M. Stewart, Esq.	February 21, 2011, email
22	Judy Price	February 21, 2011, email
23	A. Reed	February 21, 2011, email

No.	Name	Date/Type of Communication
24	Anita Berkey	February 21, 2011, email
25	Larry Brandenburg	February 21, 2011, email
26	Judy S. Sell	February 21, 2011, email
27	Barry Coates	February 21, 2011, email
28	Robert and Edlyne Lloyd	February 21, 2011, email
29	Elizabeth Colla	February 22, 2011, email
30	Joan and Norton Skorstad Maria and Mike Merzlikina	February 22, 2011, email
31	Carolyn De Mirjian	February 22, 2011, email
32	Sandra Moruzzi	February 22, 2011, email
33	Merryl Webber	February 22, 2011, email
34	Mickey Jannol	February 21, 2011, email
35	Eric Swelstad	Oral comments made at the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees public hearing, February 23, 2011
36	Armen Fentulagian	Same
37	Deborah Weintraub	Same
38	Patrick Clement	Same
39	Robert Reber	Same
40	Kathy Susan Pyles	Same
41	David Chilewich	Same
Letter from Susan Carleo, President, Los Angeles Valley College		

The comment letters are provided beginning on the next page. Responses immediately follow each of the comment letters.

From: Falk, David J.
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 4:02 PM
To: Carleo, Susan
Subject: Comments to EIR report

Hi, Dr. Carleo:

Per your suggestion, I would like to comment on the Initial Study Update/FEIR Addendum to the 2010 Update to the LAVC Facilities Master Plan. (When I clicked on the "Contact" selection on the reVitalizing LAVC web page, your email address came up.)

1

Under the section "Cultural Resources", V-2 (page 43), the recommendation is to replace removed trees with the same species. Further, the recommendation is that the siting be done "consistent with the historic landscape design".

Since trees have negatively impacted our Observational Astronomy classes and programs, I would suggest the impacts on the educational programs be taken into account when considering replacement of trees and their siting. I hope that academic department(s) being affected will have an opportunity to comment on proposed tree replacement.

2

On a historical note, the Planetarium and Observatory were established before the pine and ash trees were planted. Tall trees were then planted around the building, over the objections from the Planetarium Director at that time.

3

Removal of some of the trees in the area that are now dead or sick, or are too close to buildings, would present an opportunity to plant more appropriate trees to allow us to fulfill our educational mission.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,
David Falk
Planetarium Director
Los Angeles Valley College
5800 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401
falkdj@lavc.edu
Phone: (818) 947-2864
Fax: (818) 947-2620

Responses to Comment 1 from David Falk, Planetarium Director, Los Angeles Valley College

Response 1

The comment is noted. We thank the commenter for taking the time to provide input on the 2010 EIR Addendum for the Update to 2003 Facilities Master Plan.

Response 2

The text paraphrased in your comment refers to the legacy designed landscape found within the core campus, particularly in the quadrangle (North Mall) portion of the campus where the Media Arts/Performing Arts building is proposed. As indicated on Page 34 of the Addendum, in order to minimize potential impacts to the campus landscape, proposed tree replacement would consist of similar species when possible. Mitigation Measure V-2 states in part that the siting of any replacement tree will be consistent with the historic landscape design context in which it is proposed. Decisions about appropriate tree species substitutions and tree replacements shall be made under the guidance of a qualified preservation landscape architect but is not meant to preclude the input of faculty and building users about how extant trees affect their programs. Such input will be taken into consideration whenever tree removal and replacement decisions are made.

Response 3

Although not directly germane to the proposed Master Plan Update or its potential environmental impacts, the comment is noted.

Response 4

Please see response 2 above. Under the proposed Master Plan Update, as part of a preliminary campus-wide survey, a number of trees have been identified across the campus that would require replacement, including the 63 trees that are proposed for removal to accommodate the Media Arts/ Performing Arts project.

Comment 2

Deborah Weintraub, AIA, LEED_{AP}
5933 Nagle Avenue
Van Nuys, California 91401
818.786.6122

February 2, 2011

Dr. Susan Carleo
Office of the President
5800 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, California 91401

Dear Dr. Carleo,

Thanks again for making sure that I was aware of the citizen's oversight meeting and the community open house last tonight, and was able to see the more detailed site plans and designs for the Media Arts/Performance Arts Center. Following on my conversations with you over the last couple of months, it was the first time that the designs were shown to me with any level of detail to really assess the impacts of the project on the north end of the quadrangle, and on the existing green open space at this end that is encircled and defined on four sides by mature, heritage Canary Pines and on two sides by mature, heritage Magnolia trees. As I have mentioned in our prior conversations, this space has, in my estimation, significant visual strength, and is enclosed by majestic, mature trees that have many years (approximately 50 years according to an arborist I consulted) of life remaining. I was really hoping that the design plans would have preserved the majority of the trees, and would have honored and preserved the unique and irreplaceable quadrangle defined by these trees. Alas, this is not the case.

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Last night's meeting was to share with the public the "Initial Study Update/FEIR Addendum, December 2010", and to request public input by February 4, 2011 on the changes to the 2003 Facilities Master Plan that are recommended in the December "2010 Update to 2003 Valley College Facilities Master Plan". I am writing as an interested member of the community, and as a professional architect/project manager with extensive experience with large projects similar to yours. I am also writing as someone who walks the campus every week, and who, as a design professional, has come to deeply appreciate the heritage landscaping at Valley College that was clearly the vision of a very talented landscape designer. As an architect, I appreciate new buildings. For Valley College, I feel strongly that it would be tragic to destroy a unique open space legacy at the height of its life when there are good alternatives for locating the new building and preserving the quadrangle next to Lot B.

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Comment 2

I believe there is a viable alternative to the currently proposed siting of the new Media Arts/Performance Arts Center that would allow you to maintain the majority of the features of the elegant design of the proposed building by Erlich Architects, and would maintain almost all of the mature trees I mention above in the area at the north end of the quadrangle. I believe this change would delay the project by at most six months, and would cost approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000 for the design changes that would be required. For a project with a \$78 million total budget, this represents under 1/2 of 1% of the total budget.

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I would like to first review statements made in the 2003 approved EIR, which was a combined project/program EIR, and which did not show any building in the area that concerns me. What this document cleared in terms of CEQA was an "Outdoor Construction" that appears on the 2003 site plan to be an amphitheater, and shows the existing trees preserved. (2003 EIR, pg. 2-8). In addition, the 2006 "Addendum to Valley College Master Plan Program EIR" shows no construction in the northern quadrangle – no building or an amphitheater (pg. 4). This is in keeping with determinations in the 2003 EIR which I have quoted below.

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"For CEQA purposes, the core campus portion of Valley College is considered a significant visual resource. The Quadrangle is one of the College's key visual resources in landscape and architectural design terms, as it is considered vivid and intact, and exhibits a high degree of visual unity (Figure 3-6). The landscape plan appears to be the work of a talented designer. That portion of the campus located west of Campus Drive, comprised of the Quadrangle and its associated landscape design features, and adjacent building placements on the south and on the east and west, may qualify as an historical resource for CEQA purposes as a significant example of college site planning and landscape design from the 1950s. These features embody the history of Valley College as an educational institution in the Van Nuys community at a time during the 1950s and early 1960s when the College was undergoing rapid physical development in which temporary structures were supplanted with permanent buildings. For listing on the California Register of Historical Resources, a resource generally must be 50 years or older. Accordingly, when the Quadrangle and its associated landscape and architectural design features become at least 50 years old they may become eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources." (2003 EIR, pg. 3-8)

In the 2003 EIR, the quadrangle is defined as extending to Parking Lot B on the north end, and "...is the primary focal point around which all the buildings are grouped and strongly associated both in visual and site planning." (2003 EIR, pg. 3-5)

Also please make note of the following statement, "These trees provide shade, and along with other campus vegetation, are considered to be of high visual quality, and important to the College's aesthetic setting. The landscape seems to have been designed as the primary design feature and the buildings as

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complementary elements that recede into it (Figure 3-7)." (2003 EIR, pgs. 3-9 to 3-10)

In addition the 2003 EIR notes the following:

Valley College possesses moderately high visual quality at present due in large measure to the extensive landscape features incorporated as part of the campus, including mature trees on the campus perimeter and bordering the academic buildings that screen views into the campus. The proposed Master Plan will not change these landscape features in any significant way. The project's visual impacts, which are less than significant, are limited to those due to the demolition of existing buildings (e.g., Physics Chemistry, Library, and Cafeteria) and the construction of new buildings in their place. Views of these buildings are generally confined to the campus or immediate surrounding area, and thus they are not prominent visual landmarks that are visible from a wide area within the community. Furthermore, due to the essentially flat topography to the west, north and east, views of the central core campus from the surrounding community are limited.

(2003 EIR, pg. 5-6)

Based on my own impression of the value of the north area of the quadrangle and the existing trees that enclose this green square, and on the 2003 EIR's similar conclusions, I enquired last night as to what other options might have been considered in terms of the siting of the new Media Arts/Performance Arts Center. The EIR lead consultant told me that he was not aware of any alternatives that had been considered, and the project architects told me that they had no option to consider another siting, as the location of the building was dictated to them. The representative of the master plan architects who produced the 2010 Master Plan update informed me that he personally had not been part of any discussions of options. Without this discussion of options (the intent of CEQA law is to look at options), I believe the proposed current siting did not adequately consider the conclusions of the 2003 approved EIR.

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I wholeheartedly support the construction of a new Media Arts/Performance Arts Center at Valley College, but I feel that the current proposed siting is insensitive, would destroy a significant visual and living resource, and misses an opportunity to give Valley College a much improved presence on Oxnard Street. If the building were moved north to align with the implied set back line along Oxnard Street currently established by the front façade of Grant High School and by the new Valley College Child Care Center façade, the existing grove of trees at the north end of the quadrangle could be preserved. Changing the siting by moving the building north and placing the building in what is now a visually impoverished surface parking lot (Lot B) would do a lot to improve Valley's visual presentation to the community and improve its street presence. Also, this change would be a better solution in terms of the District's sustainable design objectives, by maintaining an existing pervious landscaped surface with mature, existing trees, and instead replacing an existing impervious parking lot with a building that is designed to have a partial green roof.

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Comment 2

As noted in the Addendum, "The 2010 Update of the 2003 Master Plan characterizes the quadrangle as being a significant legacy landscape element that is to be preserved. Changes proposed as part of the proposed project include construction of the Media Arts/Performance Arts Center at the northeast corner of the quadrangle and the introduction of a narrow swale (Valley College Creek) along the east border of the walkway defining the eastern perimeter of the quadrangle lawn area. Construction of the Media Arts/Performance Arts Center would require the removal of a number of quadrangle trees; however, comparable replacement landscape features are proposed." (2010 Addendum to the 2003 EIR, pg. 27) After seeing last night's presentation, I do not see how the proposed replacement landscape features are in any way comparable to the loss of the mature trees that form the existing north quadrangle, a loss which would result from construction of the Media Arts/Performance Arts Center as currently proposed.

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The 2010 Addendum notes a total of 63 existing trees that will be lost by its approval, some which are in poor health, but many as a result of the proposed location of the Media Arts/Performance Arts Center (pg. 28). This would, in my mind, be an unnecessary destruction of an existing natural resource that took 50 years to come to maturity, and that has another 50 years of expected life during which to appreciate its grandeur. It is worth noting, that in 50 years from now or sooner, the new Media Arts/Performance Arts Center building will be obsolete and in need of renovation, and the replacement landscaping would only then be approaching the impact of what we now have on the site.

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I feel that the impact of the proposed siting of the Media Arts/Performance Arts Center is a Significant Impact to the "significant legacy landscape" (2010 Addendum to the 2003 EIR, pg. 27), and "substantially degrades the existing visual character of quality of the campus and surroundings", as well as "substantially damages significant visual resources such as trees...", and "would have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista", all standards used in the 2003 EIR to assess significant impacts on visual resources. (2003 EIR, pg. 3-24). I also believe that the proposed mitigation measures are inadequate in light of the option of moving the building north, siting it in the current Parking Lot B, and replacing the parking lost as a result of this change in another area of the campus, potentially with additional parking levels for the planned new parking structure, or a second parking structure in another location.

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I understand from my conversations last night that the Construction Documents are at 95% completion, and that the project is at the Department of the State Architect for review and approval. I believe that this level of project completion is inappropriate, as you are only this week asking for public input on the 2010 Addendum to the EIR that shows the Media Arts/Performance Arts Center at the north end of the quadrangle, eliminating the tree lined green open space. While I know some level of effort would be required to redo drawings to move the building north as I suggest, I feel it is important to preserve the "significant legacy landscape", that it is possible to do so, and that it would improve the campus

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master plan in a number of ways. I believe this can be done at a reasonable cost, and with minimal delay.

I look forward to hearing from you, and to discussing my concerns further. I would be happy to help you bring together a group of outside architects and landscape architects to hold a workshop to discuss siting alternatives. I recently completed a two-year tenure on the American Institute of Architects Los Angeles (AIA/LA) Chapter Board of Directors, and am one of the current AIA/LA representatives to the state of California AIA California Council. Through these organizations, I believe I can identify a group of design professionals who would, pro bono, participate in a design workshop on behalf of Valley College.

16

Sincerely,



Deborah Weintraub

cc: Nancy Pearlman, Board of Trustees, Chair of the Infrastructure Committee

Responses to Comment 2 from Deborah Weintraub

Response 1

Comment noted. The flyover design presentation seen by the commenter on February 1, 2011 actually was shared with the public for the first time at the District Board of Trustees Infrastructure Committee meeting in September 2010. The issue of tree removal within the footprint of the proposed building was raised by the Committee and discussed by the College staff and Ehrlich Architects. The input from the Committee was positive and the plan to replace all trees slated for removal and the extraordinary step the College is taking of harvesting the timber from the trees that are to be removed and reusing that timber in the Media Arts/Performing Arts building was positively received as being consistent with the District's sustainable design policies.

Response 2

The College agrees that the designed landscape in the quadrangle expressing the 1955 campus master plan is noteworthy, and concurs that it is likely the work of a talented designer. The character and quality of the designed landscape features in the quadrangle (North Mall) are discussed in the aesthetics section of Chapter 3 in the 2003 EIR, and mitigation measures were included in both the 2003 EIR and in the 2010 Addendum to the 2003 EIR to ensure that campus design and planning actions are sympathetic in design terms. When the number of trees to be removed for the Media Arts/Performing Arts project became known a mitigation measure was included as part of the 2010 Addendum (this will be referred to as mitigation measure V-2 in the Final EIR Addendum). It calls for a qualified landscape architect specializing in the preservation of historic landscapes to guide the College in directing design and planning actions affecting the campus's legacy landscape features, including tree removals and replacements. It also calls for using the largest caliper replacement trees feasible. The intent of this mitigation measure is to ensure that the design character and related potential historic landscape elements are preserved to the greatest degree that is feasible to do so.

While acknowledging the quadrangle's noteworthy design attributes, it should also be mentioned that the north end of the quadrangle does not function optimally at present. It is relatively under-utilized, and its interface with Parking Lot B is diffuse in design terms, thereby dissipating the potential of the quadrangle as a more inviting outdoor room.

It should also be noted that the site of the proposed Media Arts/Performing Arts building is the product of careful reflection. The bringing together of the media arts and performance arts programs into a single building, and the locating of that facility in close proximity to both the music and art buildings in a kind of architectural and pedagogical capstone to the quadrangle, is intended to promote cross-departmental collaboration in support of the College's cultural arts teaching and learning goals. Were the proposed building to be placed, as the commenter suggests, to the north of the quadrangle within the space of Parking Lot B, and were the walking distances between the academic buildings correspondingly increased, achievement of that goal would be far more difficult.

Response 3

Although it is true that 63 trees will be removed for the Media Arts/Performing Arts building, the College disagrees that the landscape design in the quadrangle will be significantly and adversely affected. The 63 trees are among the 1,837 trees on campus. To address the removal of trees, 81 new trees will be planted under the guidance of a qualified preservation landscape architect. Per the mitigation measure V-2 in the 2010 Final EIR Addendum, trees slated for removal in the quadrangle area would be replaced, either in kind, or with horticulturally suitable species that have similar habit and form. It also calls for using the largest caliper replacement trees feasible. The clear intent is to preserve the legacy design character of the quadrangle.

Response 4

As noted in Comment 1-2, above, the College agrees that the designed landscape within the quadrangle is noteworthy, and concurs that it is likely the work of a talented designer who probably worked closely with Chambers and Hibbard, the architectural team that developed the College's 1955 master plan.

Response 5

The College does not agree that the placement of the Media Arts/Performing Arts building as proposed at the north end of the quadrangle and on parking Lot C would destroy a unique open space. Siting of the proposed building as an architectural/landscape capstone element at the northern border of the quadrangle was the product of a careful deliberative process extending back approximately 35 years. It attempts to strike a balance between the preservation of the quadrangle's design character and mature trees and other design concerns, including sight lines onto campus from the north of the back-of-stage components of the theater(s), and well infrastructure requirements for the building –including siting to minimize costly disruptions to the underground utility loop that rings the campus, and reduce building operational costs associated with the campus' utility service systems. To date, an evaluation of other alternative siting options has not yielded a superior location for the building in terms of meeting key operational and programming requirements.

Response 6

Estimates developed by the College indicate that the siting changes proposed by the commenter would cost considerably more than the \$250,000 to \$300,000 figure that has been provided. Please note that the location of the Media Arts/Performing Arts project as currently proposed, the changes to the setting associated with the siting of the building, and the removal and replanting of new trees, would not result in a significant impact under CEQA.

Response 7

Dating back nearly 35 years, the College has studied various concepts for a performing arts center in the same approximate location at or near the northern northeast edge of the quadrangle, including sites within Parking Lot B, and an amphitheater at the north end of the quadrangle (North Mall) as depicted in the 2003 Facilities Master Plan EIR.

Response 8

Both the EIR consultant and the master plan architect representatives apparently spoke in error, due to the fact that the studies of alternative sites predated the participation of the current 2010 Master Plan Update planning team members and the start of work on the EIR Addendum. An alternatives analysis for the media arts and performing arts programs, both as one building and as two, was performed prior to the development of the Master Plan Update. Prior studies of alternative sites considered options that would have retained the entire current extent of the quadrangle and nearly all the trees bordering it. However, these were rejected after careful consideration. As part of the deliberative process that preceded preparation of the 2010 Addendum, a study was conducted to evaluate the feasibility of retaining and retrofitting the existing Theater Arts Building, and on that basis, it was determined that retention and retrofit of the building to meet ADA requirements would have required an expenditure nearly equally the cost of building a new theater. In addition, the resulting retrofit would still have failed to meet key programming goals. Following that analysis, several siting concepts were developed for combining the Media Arts and Theater Arts programs into a single facility. One siting concept called for placement of the building along Oxnard Street directly across Campus Drive from the Child Development Center. Another concept studied placement at the northwest corner of the campus at Fulton Avenue and Oxnard Street. More recently (mid-2009), the Ehrlich Architects evaluated another siting proposal that called for a north/south-aligned building placement on a site north of the Art Building that would have occupied Parking Lot C and the eastern portion of Parking Lot B running and along the eastern edge of the quadrangle.

There were serious practical drawbacks associated with all of the alternative siting concepts. Placement toward the north border of Parking Lot B would have diffused rather than strengthened the quadrangle concept by adding new distances between the rest of the campus buildings and the new building. Placement of a building with back-of-stage features along or near Oxnard Street would have increased visibility of the building in both positive and negative ways. Negatively, by bringing back-of-stage architectural elements (e.g., three story-tall stage-related fly space) and loading activity-related noise and visual effects closer to residents. The placements within Parking Lot B would have also resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of available campus parking spaces in that location. They would also have called for an expensive and problematic relocation of sections of the campus' underground utility loop, and/or utility interface options that would have been costly to construct and that also would have

substantially increased the operational costs of the building over its lifetime in terms of energy consumption as well as emissions generation. Such an approach would not have been consistent with District sustainable design policies.

The Media Arts/Performing Arts project as it is now conceived is the product of careful consideration about the needs of the theater arts and media arts programs and is a creative response in a time of constrained public funding to achieve economies of scale by combining the functions of what had formerly been two separate buildings into one shared space and one building footprint on the ground. This project also demonstrates the College's desire to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration in teaching and learning.

Response 9

Please see the response to Comment 1-8, above.

Response 10

Please see the response to Comment 1-8, above.

Response 11

As previously stated in the response to Comment 1-3, the removal of trees will be offset by the planting of 81 new trees. That planning and design process will occur under the guidance of a qualified preservation landscape architect. Per the new mitigation measure included as part of the 2010 Addendum, trees slated for removal in the quadrangle area would be replaced, either in kind, or with horticulturally suitable species that have similar habit and form. It also calls for using the largest caliper replacement trees feasible. The clear intent is to preserve the legacy design character of the quadrangle. In instances where trees cannot be preserved they will be harvested and the timber milled for use as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts building.

Response 12

A preliminary tree master plan inspection report was provided to the College in late 2010. It tends to affirm the commenter's assertion that the nearly all Canary Island Pines and Magnolia trees within the footprint of the proposed Media Arts/Performing Arts building are, generally speaking, in an acceptable level of health and merit conservation.

Response 13

The College agrees that the quadrangle (North Mall) constitutes a significant legacy designed landscape space. For that reason, the College was sensitive to maintaining and enhancing the quadrangle through the design approach taken in the Master Plan Update. Additionally, per the 2003 EIR and 2010 Addendum to the 2003 EIR, mitigation measures were included to ensure that campus design and planning actions are sympathetic in design terms. Key is the guidance from qualified landscape architect specializing in the preservation of historic landscapes to guide the College in directing design and planning actions affecting the campus's legacy landscape features, including tree removals and replacements. As stated previously, the intent of this particular mitigation measure is to ensure that the design character and related potential historic landscape elements are preserved to the greatest degree that is feasible to do so.

Response 14

As discussed in the response to Comment 8, the concept of placing the Media Arts/Performing Arts building further north was evaluated and then dropped after careful consideration.

Response 15

The District has not approved or committed to any particular project in the Master Plan at this time and appreciates the input it has received from the community.

Response 16

The College greatly appreciates the commenter's offer of design and project planning assistance through the aegis of the local chapter of the AIA. Although key design decisions regarding the Media Arts/Performing Arts project largely have been made the College invites the commenter and other interested AIA colleagues to confer with Ehrlich Architects and the preservation landscape architect consultant and present your detailed design and landscape preservation recommendations for consideration. While the College cannot guarantee that such input will be implemented, it will consider and assess the feasibility of all timely and detailed proposals that are put forward.



Los Angeles Valley College

Comment Sheet

This is your opportunity to provide your feedback and comments to Valley College on the proposed 2010 Master Plan Update. Please use this page to submit your comments. You may comment on any aspect of the Master Plan Update and the addendum to the 2003 Environmental Impact Report. Comments are due no later than **February 4, 2011**.

Please print clearly.

Name (first and last): Betty Azzaro

Organization (if any): _____

Address (to be added to project mailing list): 12940 Burbank Blvd #2

City, State and Zip Code: Sherman Oaks CA 91401

Phone Number: Home: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail Address: rollalong1@yahoo.com

Comments: ① I see problems with the east side of
 Caldwell Canyon parking as for safety and convenience
 as a neighbor there is not enough parking
 for students so someone like me cannot park
 my own vehicle on the street by my own home

② The way that the parking lines is a severe safety
 issue, when you try to back out you can't see behind
 your car and see another car coming
 There is not enough room for cars to go both directions
 north + south without accidents.

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Please use reverse side if necessary.

You may return your comment sheets to the designated drop box at the community open house

Responses to Comment 3 from Betty Azzaro

Response 1

The commenter calls attention to the current configuration of Coldwater Canyon Extension between Burbank Boulevard and Hatteras Street, stating that the recent introduction of angle parking on both sides of this internal access road has created safety and convenience issues. Currently the posted signage limits the use of parking spaces on the west side of Coldwater Canyon Extension to LAVC permit holders on Mondays-Thursdays between 6 AM and 11 PM, and on Fridays between 6 AM and 4 PM. No restrictions are posted on the east side of Coldwater Canyon Extension. The College acknowledges the need for visitors to park in that location when visiting the campus and when using the county park along Tujunga Wash that borders Coldwater Canyon Extension.

These parking changes along Coldwater Canyon Extension are not a part of the currently-proposed 2010 Master Plan Update project and do not directly relate to the Initial Study Update/FEIR Addendum for the project but are instead a short-term response to the temporary reduction of spaces on campus due to construction. The Initial Study Update/FEIR Addendum parking analysis included the parking spaces that previously existed on Coldwater Canyon Extension (a total of 78 spaces on both sides of the internal access road) as part of the nearby on-street parking supply that serves both the college and other uses, and anticipated no change there. The reconfiguration has increased the number of parking spaces there to 143 (both sides). The parking demand analysis conducted as part of the Master Plan studies shows that this increase is not necessary to accommodate the future College parking demand. Specifically, page 74 of the Initial Study Update/FEIR Addendum and page 30 of Appendix B state that the future on campus parking supply at buildout of the Master Plan in 2014 would be 3,947 spaces, which would be more than adequate to serve the estimated peak daytime parking demand of 3,534 spaces, even without consideration of the nearby on-street supply.

Response 2

The comment states that College-related parking that occurs on streets near the campus sometimes makes it difficult for neighbors to park by their own homes. The intention behind the restriping of Coldwater Canyon Extension (a campus owned street) is to provide overflow parking for students in order to discourage off-campus parking in the adjoining neighborhood.

The College currently charges for all parking on the campus, while the streets surrounding the campus currently allow free parking. Parking fees are regulated by the College, and there are some students who park outside the campus in order to avoid paying for parking. If the affected residents consider it appropriate, a possible remedy would be the creation of a residential permit parking district in affected areas. The City of Los Angeles has a standardized approach to assessing the eligibility of a neighborhood for permit parking and for the approval of such a program by the residents. The College would work with City of Los Angeles and the nearby residents should they choose to adopt a permit parking program.

Response 3

These comments are noted and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for their consideration with a request that the current configuration of Coldwater Canyon Extension be reviewed with respect to relevant design standards.

Los Angeles Valley College

Comment Sheet

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Please print clearly.

Name (first and last): Abdullah Faridah

Organization (if any): Los Angeles Valley College

Address (to be added to project mailing list): 12234 Covello St.

City, State and Zip Code: North Hollywood, Ca 91605.

Phone Number: Home: _____ Cell: (818)-738-6864

E-mail Address: mathocean@hotmail.com

Comments: I am a student of Health science major in LAVC. The most of the classes of Health science is to memorise for learning the stuff. When students become hungry, they starts walking to Cafeteria from AHS. It is really time wasting for the students of HS. I think it will be helpful for students and faculty staff if every building has cafeteria, group-study room with small library. In this way some people will have an opportunity to earn money by opening a business and LAVC will be financially profitable. Students will be able to study peacefully in their own department without being hungry.

1

Please keep the Kosher & Halal food for Jewish and Muslim students in the new cafeteria.

2

Please use reverse side if necessary.

You may return your comment sheets to the designated drop box at the community open house

Responses to Comment 4 from Abdullah Faridah

Response 1

The comment will be taken under consideration. Although outside the scope of the EIR Addendum for the 2010 Update to the Facilities Master Plan, the College acknowledges the commenter's concerns about the provision of satellite food services in other more convenient locations on campus outside a centrally-located Cafeteria facility and recognizes the potential opportunities this might provide for food vendor businesses.

Response 2

Although outside the scope of the EIR Addendum for the 2010 Update to the Facilities Master Plan, the College wishes to acknowledge the commenter's concern about accommodating the dietary needs of Jewish and Muslim students in its on-campus food services. This concern will be taken under consideration at a later date, separate from the EIR Addendum process.



Los Angeles Valley College

1/2

Comment Sheet

This is your opportunity to provide your feedback and comments to Valley College on the proposed 2010 Master Plan Update. Please use this page to submit your comments. You may comment on any aspect of the Master Plan Update and the addendum to the 2003 Environmental Impact Report. Comments are due no later than **February 4, 2011**.

Please print clearly.

Name (first and last): YADIA GARCIA

Organization (if any): _____

Address (to be added to project mailing list): 13012 Burbank Blvd.

City, State and Zip Code: SHERMAN OAKS CA 91901

Phone Number: Home: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail Address: Yadiegarcia818@hotmail.com

Comments: ① Does the east side of the coldwater cym extention really belong to Valley college? Can you show me documentation that shows that you have permission to take away that side of the ~~side~~ ^{side} what is it has been used by the ^{surrounding} community for years.

1

② How do you plan to support your neighbor on Burbank Blvd having to struggle to get into their drive ways? Your current set up for vehicular access along Burbank will create bottle necks all along Burbank Blvd.

2

Please use reverse side if necessary.

You may return your comment sheets to the designated drop box at the community open house



Los Angeles Valley College

2/2

Comment Sheet

This is your opportunity to provide your feedback and comments to Valley College on the proposed 2010 Master Plan Update. Please use this page to submit your comments. You may comment on any aspect of the Master Plan Update and the addendum to the 2003 Environmental Impact Report. Comments are due no later than **February 4, 2011**.

Please print clearly.

Name (first and last): Yadira GARCIA

Organization (if any): _____

Address (to be added to project mailing list): 13012 Burbank Blvd.

City, State and Zip Code: Shearman Oaks, CA 91901

Phone Number: Home: Yadira.garcia 818@ Cell: _____

E-mail Address: hotmail.com

Comments: ③ How will Valley college sustain its academic programs if the funding keeps being cut.

3

④ With all this expansion do you think you will have enough students (income) to support this expansion.

4

Please use reverse side if necessary.

You may return your comment sheets to the designated drop box at the community open house

Responses to Comment 5 from Yadira Garcia

Response 1

The commenter asks if the east side of Coldwater Canyon Extension belongs to the College and asks for documentation to support the “taking away” of parking there as a community resource. As stated in the response to comments from Betty Azzaro, although this road is campus owned, parking on the east side of Coldwater Canyon Extension remains unrestricted and available for all users.

Response 2

The commenter indicates a concern that the proposed vehicular access plan on Burbank Boulevard will create bottlenecks and make it difficult for neighbors to enter their driveways. The location of vehicular access to the College from the surrounding streets will remain unchanged by the 2010 Master Plan Update. The overall distribution of parking on campus will change, however. Because the amount of parking in the southeast area of campus (Lot G) will be reduced considerably, fewer vehicles are expected to enter the driveway between Ethel Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Extension as well as Coldwater Canyon Extension. This would reduce the use of the two-way left turn lane on Burbank Boulevard that serves those driveways and could potentially improve access to driveways on the opposite (south) side of Burbank Boulevard.

Response 3

In response to the commenter’s concerns about reductions in State spending on higher education, the College wishes to clarify that funding for construction of the 2010 Master Plan projects is separate from monies funding College operations.

Like other agencies funded by the State of California, Valley College has experienced major budget cuts. The result has been a reversal of the enrollment growth trends that occurred over the past 5 years. The budget cuts have forced the College to reduce the selection of classes it offered for the current academic year as well as enrollment targets. However, it is important to understand that the projects proposed as part of the 2010 Facilities Master Plan Update and under the prior 2003 Facilities Master Plan Update and 2005 Update are being funded with a combination of Measure J, Proposition A, and Proposition AA monies totaling \$575 million. This funding was approved by the state’s voters in three different installments dating back to 2001. All such funds are in place and have been specifically allocated for the construction and renovation of facilities at Valley College. The funds are completely separate from the State’s monies that fund the operation of its community college system. For that reason then, the expenditures for the master plan projects will not result in a reduction in other funding for operational purposes at the College or other colleges throughout the District.

Response 4

As a point of clarification, the implementation of the Facilities Master Plan and the 2010 Update to it are in response to the actual forecasted facilities needs at the College and are based on careful analysis of the College’s enrollment history and trends, as well as enrollment projection data compiled by the District.

Comment 6



Los Angeles Valley College

Comment Sheet

This is your opportunity to provide your feedback and comments to Valley College on the proposed 2010 Master Plan Update. Please use this page to submit your comments. You may comment on any aspect of the Master Plan Update and the addendum to the 2003 Environmental Impact Report. Comments are due no later than **February 4, 2011**.

Please print clearly.

Name (first and last): M. MALTZMAN

Organization (if any): _____

Address (to be added to project mailing list): 5861 VARNA AVE

City, State and Zip Code: V.G. 91401

Phone Number: Home: 818 980 1911 Cell: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Comments: Need to have more activities | 1
for the community - we
used to receive community
a book every semester | 2
but haven't for several
years

Please use reverse side if necessary.

You may return your comment sheets to the designated drop box at the community open house

Responses to Comment 6 from M. Maltzman

Response 1

Although the commenter's remark is not related to the 2010 Update to the Facilities Master Plan or EIR Addendum the College has taken note of this concern.

Response 2

The commenter is referring to the LAVC Community Services Classes and Programs catalog. Although the concern raised is not directly related to the 2010 Master Plan Update or the EIR Addendum, the contact information you provided on your comment sheet will be forwarded to the College's Community Services Department in order to add you back to the mailing list. Please also note that another eco friendly way to access the same information is to visit the College's website. Navigate to the LAVC homepage, click the "Community" link and scroll down to "Classes for the Community."



Los Angeles Valley College

Comment Sheet

This is your opportunity to provide your feedback and comments to Valley College on the proposed 2010 Master Plan Update. Please use this page to submit your comments. You may comment on any aspect of the Master Plan Update and the addendum to the 2003 Environmental Impact Report. Comments are due no later than **February 4, 2011**.

Please print clearly.

Name (first and last): John Vawter

Organization (if any): _____

Address (to be added to project mailing list): _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: Home: 818-761-7894 Cell: _____

E-mail Address: johnvawter@hotmail.com

Comments: Overall interesting plan but am concerned about financial impact of staffing new facilities.

1

Parking structures seem to be inconvenient and may create bottlenecks.

2

Parking on east side of Coldwater Canyon Extension has always been for the community. Now Valley College has started to take this as their own. Recent restriping by Valley College has now created safety considerations.

3

Please use reverse side if necessary.

You may return your comment sheets to the designated drop box at the community open house

Responses to Comment 7 from John Vawter

Response 1

The commenter states that the “parking structures (sic) seem to be inconvenient and may create bottlenecks.” The 2010 Master Plan Update includes one proposed parking structure, to be located on the east side of Ethel Street north of Hatteras Street. This location was selected in order to isolate it from the surrounding community and to provide maximum convenience for its users by locating it at the center of the campus. The proposed parking structure, including entrances, exits and internal access aisles, will be designed to accommodate the anticipated traffic flows.

Response 2

See Response 1 above.

Response 3

For a response to the comment regarding the current parking restrictions and configuration on Coldwater Canyon Extension, please refer to the response to comments from Betty Azzaro.



PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, Second District

February 4, 2011

President Susan Carleo, Ph.D.
Los Angeles Valley College
5800 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401-2321

Re: Master Plan Update

Dear President Carleo:


I am writing to voice my strong support for the Los Angeles Valley College Master Plan Update. I am confident that the projects outlined in the Master Plan will enhance Valley College's standing and further exemplify its important position as a center of educational excellence and community activities.

The proposed updates include a multipurpose community services center, an athletic training facility, a 100 seat planetarium theater, a student union, a workforce development center, a technologically advanced 450 seat media arts theater, a 1,200 car centrally located parking structure, as well as modernization of classrooms and removal of all bungalow buildings. Taken together, these improvements will offer an excellent educational experience for students and provide state of the art facilities and stunning new architecture for the community. **I commend the college for being a leader in adopting green building standards, and ensuring that all these structures achieve a minimum of a LEED Silver level.**

For more than a decade, students, teachers, and neighbors have waited for these updates to the college. Beginning these projects in a timely manner will also provide a much-needed local economic boost and create new jobs.

For all of these reasons, I provide my full support for the updated master plan of Los Angeles Valley College. Please know that my office looks forward to working with you, the community, and the contractors to make this project a success for the college and its neighbors.

Very truly yours,


PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

City Hall 200 N. Spring St., Room 425, Los Angeles, CA 90012 | (213) 473-7002 | Fax: (213) 978-3092



**Response to Comment 8 from Paul Krekorian, City of Los Angeles,
Councilmember, Second District**

Response 1

The College acknowledges the commenter's letter of support.

From: "Traci" <traci@garydeanandtraci.com>
Date: February 21, 2011 11:44:59 AM PST
To: <JustinCL@email.laccd.edu>, <ttrustees@laccd.edu>, <carleoas@lavc.edu>
Cc: "Gary Ruebsamen" <garydeanr@gmail.com>, "Karo.Torossian@lacity.org." <@smtp115.biz.mail.re2.yahoo.com>, <Judyprice1127@aol.com>
Subject: URGENT: Revised Valley College construction plan will cut down 63 mature trees

As Hillview Park neighborhood residents, and affected by the college, we would like to request that the approval on the cutting down of 63 majestic and possibly irreplaceable trees be postponed until the neighborhood can be a part of the process. We were just informed by a Valley Glen rep of this matter. Even if these mature trees are replaced by young ones, the school will lack the beauty and the lushness that currently makes it a good neighbor. It is not a terribly positive thing to have a college so close to our homes and to make it less attractive and more institutional and concrete will not improve that perception.

1

2

In the event that this matter cannot be postponed, my husband and I would like to object to this destruction of these 50 plus year old trees.

3

Sincerely,

Traci and Gary Ruebsamen

Traci Lynn Gordon/Gary Dean Ruebsamen

Realtors - Prudential California Realty

President's Circle

www.GaryDeanAndTraci.com

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Cell (818) 692-4195

Cell (818) 974-7325

Fax (818) 358-8895

DRE # 01316504 & 01273509

Responses to Comment 9 from Traci and Gary Ruebsamen

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section. The College continues to be committed to preserving the legacy designed landscape that defines the campus. Also, the decision to site the Media Arts/Performing Arts building where it is now proposed, and the decision to remove and replace trees on the project site, were arrived at after careful deliberation extending back over a number of years and reflect a process of lively campus community dialogue that included input from interested community residents. The decision to remove and replace trees was not arrived at hastily or arbitrarily. In addition, as called for in the EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape.

Response 2

As explained in the response to Comment 1, above, the College is taking a number of measures to ensure that such impacts to views are avoided. These include installing replacement trees that have the largest feasible caliper/gallon size tree. For example, the design team is evaluating the feasibility of replanting utilizing 110 box-sized trees (with an initial approximate height of 25 to 30 feet) while also studying how to retain more of the trees as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility.

Response 3

Comment noted. As a point of information, the Board of Trustees held a public hearing on February 23rd but did not approve /certify the 2010 Master Plan Update or the EIR Addendum at that time. Please note that the College has convened several community meetings in order to receive and respond, as appropriate, to community concerns. Such community and campus-wide meetings were held on February 1st, February 22nd, and on March 3rd.

From: Gerome <crepella70@aol.com>
Date: February 21, 2011 10:52:39 AM PST
To: trustees@laccd.edu, JustinCL@email.laccd.edu, carleoas@lavc.edu
Cc: Karo.Torossian@lacity.org
Subject: Valley College Trees

All Concerned:

I'm writing today about the pending destruction and cutting down of so many mature trees on the campus at Valley College to construct a new building; how did this ever get past the community? The work being done at the College is a much needed and welcomed improvement, but already is beginning to lose it's historic look with the two new large buildings and main entrance. In my opinion, regardless of the option to replace every tree you cannot replace the majestic landscape of the 50 year old trees that are already in place. Why is it always at the expense of something that can't speak for itself that everyone is so eager to take advantage of? I've lived in this community for going on 8 years, had I/we known of this possibility from the beginning/planning of this project, I assure you we all would have spoken up and it would have been a different outcome.

I ask that you request and listen to the community response since we are the ones that live here. There simply must be another way, or at least one that **significantly** reduces the loss of tree life...that is the outcome I look forward to.

Sincerely,
Gerome Huerta
Grid B - Valley Glen

Responses to Comment 10 from Gerome Huerta

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section. The components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration. Also, open house-format public meetings were held at the College on February 1st and March 3rd at Campus Center to provide information about the Master Plan Update to the community and to hear public concerns. Information regarding the campus revitalization effort has also been available on the College's website.

Response 2

As called for in the EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape. Replacement trees would be of the largest feasible caliper/gallon size tree. For example, the design team is evaluating the feasibility of replanting utilizing 110 box-sized trees (with an initial approximate height of 25 to 30 feet) while also studying how to retain more of the trees as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility.

Response 3

As stated previously, the College has convened several community meetings in order to receive and respond, as appropriate, to community concerns. Such community and campus-wide meetings were held on February 1st, February 22nd, and on March 3rd.

Comment 11

From: susanvalleyglen@aol.com
Date: February 21, 2011 10:40:33 AM PST
To: trustees@laccd.edu, JustinCL@email.laccd.edu, carleoas@lavc.edu,
Karo.Torossian@lacity.org
Cc: astjkc@att.net, Judyprice1127@aol.com
Subject: Revised Valley College construction plan to eliminate 63 mature trees

To board members and all others,

I just received word that plans for Valley College construction of the new Media Arts/Performance Art Center have been revised and will now require removal of 63 mature trees at the northeast corner of the quadrangle.

While I understand they will be replacing these with more trees than are being removed, I believe doing so could never replace the beauty these older trees have offered our community. I believe that given their tenure, removal of these lovely trees deserves more notice to the surrounding neighborhood.

1

Since this appears to have come about quickly and with no community notification, I respectfully request this revision to the plan be postponed in order to gather more information and community input.

2

Sincerely,

Susan Daugherty
13358 Friar Street
Valley Glen, CA 91401

Responses to Comment 11 from Susan Daugherty

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

Response 2

The Board of Trustees conducted a public hearing on February 23rd and did not vote to approve/certify the 2010 Master Plan Update and EIR Addendum. As stated in the response to Comment 10, the components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration. Open house-format public meetings were held at the College on February 1st and March 3rd at Campus Center to provide information about the Master Plan Update to the community and to hear public concerns. Information regarding the campus revitalization effort has also been available on the College's website.

Comment 12

From: Delia <delia.stpierre@gmail.com>
Date: February 21, 2011 11:10:05 AM PST
To: trustees@laccd.edu
Cc: JustinCL@email.laccd.edu, carleoas@lavc.edu, Karo.Torossian@lacity.org
Subject: Valley College's Revised Construction Plans

Regarding Valley College's revised construction plans that call for **cutting down 63 mature trees** in order to make room for a new Media Arts/Performance Art Center at the northeast corner of the quadrangle. Why is this necessary? New trees they claim will be planted will take over 10 years to get anywhere near the size of these existing trees. Surely these beautiful trees can be incorporated into the design. **1**

Oxnard St is ugly enough as it is without ripping out the few remaining bright spots. These trees do more than look pretty, they offer shade and consume a lot of the exhaust fumes emitted by traffic, or would the students of Valley College rather be breathing in lots more carbon dioxide? **2**

PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THIS REVISED PLAN. **3**

Tell the construction company to try revising their plan in a thoughtful manner, instead of bulldozing everything in sight.

Delia St. Pierre
Valley Glen Home Owner.

Responses to Comment 12 from Delia St. Pierre

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

As stated previously in the response to Comment 10 EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, stipulates that tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape. Replacement trees would be of the largest feasible caliper/gallon size tree. For example, the design team is evaluating the feasibility of replanting utilizing 110 box-sized trees (with an initial approximate height of 25 to 30 feet) while also studying how to retain more of the trees as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility.

Response 2

The College continues to be committed to preserving the legacy designed landscape that defines the campus. As an expression of that commitment, both a comprehensive inventory of campus landscape and a landscape master plan are currently being undertaken by the College.

Response 3

The Board of Trustees held a public hearing on February 23rd and did not approve /certify the 2010 Master Plan Update or the EIR Addendum at that time. Please note that the College has convened several community meetings in order to receive and respond, as appropriate, to community concerns. Such community and campus-wide meetings were held on February 1st, February 22nd, and on March 3rd.

From: "Jackie Wollner" <jackiewollner@roadrunner.com>
Date: February 21, 2011 10:34:59 AM PST
To: <ttrustees@laccd.edu>, <JustinCL@email.laccd.edu>, <Karo.Torossian@lacity.org>, <carleas@lavc.edu>
Cc: <judyprice1127@aol.com>
Subject: Valley College Tree Cutting: NO!

I have just learned that the revised construction plan calls for the cutting of 63 mature trees. I am strongly opposed to the cutting of the trees. The fact that this was not disclosed until the publication of the revised construction plan strikes as more than a little sneaky.

1

Jackie Wollner

Valley Glen, CA

jackiewollner@roadrunner.com

www.jackiewollner.com

Response to Comment 13 from Jackie Wollner

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

From: Sarahpburns@aol.com
Date: February 21, 2011 10:46:13 AM PST
To: trustees@laccd.edu
Cc: JustinCL@email.laccd.edu, carleoas@lavc.edu, karo.Torossian@lacity.org
Subject: LAVC Neighbors

Dear Friends,

I just learned of Valley College's **revised** construction plans that call for cutting down **63 mature trees** in order to make room for a new Media Arts/Performance Art Center at the northeast corner of the LAVC quadrangle. It would be constructed on what is currently Parking Lot C., and would extend west to **close off the north end of the quadrangle** (Parallel to Oxnard St.). **YOU CAN LEARN TO BUILD WITH THE TREES - WE CANNOT LEARN TO LIVE WITHOUT THEM!!! THEY REDUCE HEATING AND AIR CONDITINIONG COSTS - DO NOT CUT THEM DOWN!**

1

On **Wednesday, Feb. 23**, at your meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Community College District, when these plans are on the agenda for approval, I beg you for a delay in approval so that there can be more community input. I am also writing to you as members of the Board of Trustees to please stop item XVII and stop cutting down these trees!

2

We cannot allow these 63 majestic 50-year-old trees to be replaced with 81 young ones. Some of these trees are rare and probably can't be replaced. Although your own plan indicates that every tree will be replaced 1:1, it is hardly a consolation for the community! Grant High School and the community volunteers just spent countless hours having to put in new trees to stop the blight at the very next intersection (Oxnard and Ethel)! How can LAVC do this to the community? We have put up with the on-going and unattractive construction on Fulton for all these months and now you add insult to injury? PLEASE!

3

4

Thank you.

Sarah Paula Burns
SarahPBurns@aol.com
(818) 786-6887

Responses to Comment 14 from Sarah Paula Burns

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section. The College continues to be committed to preserving the legacy designed landscape that defines the campus. Also, the decision to site the Media Arts/Performing Arts building where it is now proposed, and the decision to remove and replace trees on the project site, were arrived at after careful deliberation extending back over a number of years and reflect a process of lively campus community dialogue that included input from interested community residents. The decision to remove and replace trees was not arrived at hastily or arbitrarily. In addition, as called for in the EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape.

Response 2

The Board of Trustees conducted a public hearing on February 23rd, listening to public comments and presentations from the College and its design and planning consultants. It did not vote to approve/certify the 2010 Master Plan Update or the EIR Addendum. Instead, it is expected that the Board will take up the matter again on March 23, 2011. This has afforded the College the opportunity to do additional outreach to the community. Such actions have included the hosting of an additional open house public meeting on March 3rd.

Response 3

Comment noted. Please see Response 1 above, and refer to the detailed responses to Letter 2.

Response 4

The College remains conscious of the potential community impact of its revitalization program. To date, actions taken to minimize such impacts are consistent with the conditions of approval required under the environmental review process, and are consistent with District sustainable building policy. An array of safeguards is in place to reduce noise impacts, control construction-related dust, direct traffic, and to address stormwater outputs during the construction process. Please note also that the Citizens Oversight Committee serves to bring the concerns of community residents about the College's development activities to the attention of the College so that those concerns might be addressed. The minutes for all such meetings are available online through the College's website. In addition, when specific impacts are anticipated that are broader in scope than day-to-day construction activities the College makes every effort to alert the community about them via its web page.

From: "Donna Lewis" <dlewis@agfmedia.com>
Date: February 21, 2011 10:59:01 AM PST
To: <JustinCL@email.laccd.edu>, <trustees@laccd.edu>
Cc: <carleoas@lavc.edu>, <Karo.Torossian@lacity.org>
Subject: Destruction of 63 mature Trees
Reply-To: <dlewis@agfmedia.com>

Dear All,

I have been a valley residence for many years and have seen construction going on at Valley College for many years. It seems never ending.

The proposals that you are trying to approve should be open to the public for community input and not rushed.

1

Under item XVII, the tearing down of 63 beautiful old trees makes no sense and not cost efficient. And knowing that they will eventually be replaced with new ones is not comforting.

2

Taking away the park patrons parking on the city owned Coldwater Extension due to the parking garage not being finished should also have further community input.

3

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donna Lewis

Responses to Comment 15 from Donna Lewis

Response 1

As stated in the prior responses, the components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration. Open house-format public meetings were held at the College on February 1st and March 3rd at Campus Center to provide information about the Master Plan Update to the community and to hear public concerns. Information regarding the campus revitalization effort has also been continuously available on the College's website. Please also note that although the Board of Trustees conducted a public hearing on February 23rd that it did not vote at that time to approve/certify the 2010 Master Plan Update and EIR Addendum. This provided additional opportunities for the College to do further outreach to the community, including convening the above referenced open house meeting on March 3rd.

Response 2

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

Response 3

For a more detailed discussion of this matter please refer to the responses provided to Letter 3. The recent introduction of angle parking on both sides of this Coldwater Canyon Extension, an internal access road, has created safety and convenience issues. Currently the posted signage limits the use of parking spaces on the west side of Coldwater Canyon Extension to LAVC permit holders on Mondays-Thursdays between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. and on Fridays between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. The College wishes to emphasize however that no such restrictions are posted on the east side of Coldwater Canyon Extension. The College acknowledges the need for visitors to park in that location when visiting the campus and when using the county park along Tujunga Wash that borders Coldwater Canyon Extension.

Please note that these parking changes along Coldwater Canyon Extension are not a part of the currently-proposed 2010 Master Plan Update project and do not directly relate to the Initial Study Update/FEIR Addendum for the project but are instead a short-term response to the temporary reduction of spaces on campus due to construction.

From: ellie <ekzmail@gmail.com>
Date: February 21, 2011 12:47:38 PM PST
To: trustees@laccd.edu, carleoas@lavc.edu, Karo.Torossian@lacity.org,
JustinCL@email.laccd.edu
Subject: URGENT REQUEST FROM RESIDENT OF VALLEY GLEN

TO ALL CONCERNED:

I am a Valley Glen constituent and supporter of Councilman Paul Krekorian . I have lived in the SFV for most of the past 45 years. One of the things that makes the Valley more livable than other parts of Los Angeles are the huge trees we enjoy.

Therefore, I am extremely concerned about the bond construction plans/process at LAValley College which includes the cutting down of old growth trees (over 50!!) in order to make space for a much-needed arts/performance building. The design/location of the building project violates the shared governance agreement that the maintenance and protection of old growth trees was to be one of the primary values of the campus in the construction process.

1

2

The college is the steward for those trees for our local community, not the owner of them. From what I understand, these trees require no watering and little, if any, maintenance. They provide shade, green scape, oxygen, noise reduction, and house raptors and other life-forms that enrich our community.

3

The campus, bordered by 4 wide, busy streets that are increasingly high in traffic, provides a park-like environment that was to be part of the design and plans for the college. Many students commute to the college from apartments and low cost housing where there aren't trees or shade or nature to enjoy. Just walk on the campus during a school day to see how the students are benefiting from the shade and some time in natural beauty. Local residents walk on the campus on weekends and enjoy the same beauty.

4

Comment 16

My next door neighbor, Deborah Weintraub, has sent letters based on her professional opinion as an architect, that suggest alternatives to the current plan. I request that all the powers that be look seriously at her suggestions, and make your decisions with the best intentions for the college, the community, the environment of the Valley and the wildlife that lives in those trees.

5

I urge the LACCD and LAVC to respect the initial shared governance committee decisions ratified by the College Council and the College President (at that time) which highlighted the preservation of the old growth trees as a guiding principle of the planning process.

Thank you,

Ellie Kahn, M.A.

Responses to Comment 16 from Ellie Kahn

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub. The College continues to be committed to preserving the legacy designed landscape that defines the campus.

Response 2

The College remains committed to the shared governance agreement and has adhered to engagement and review/approval process called for under that agreement. Under the shared governance agreement all buildings/projects are proposed by the builder user group and submitted to the campus for approval through the bond work group committee before the College's president makes a final recommendation. The projects are also shared with the Citizen's Oversight Committee as informational items, and all comments are taken under consideration. These proceedings are open to the community and the decisions made as part of the governance process are all recorded in committee meeting minutes that are available for public review on the College's web page. A review of these minutes show how often the park- like setting on campus featured in such discussions and document the careful effort made to preserve that character.

Response 3

The College has not proposed the removal and replacement of trees as a maintenance measure and acknowledges the positive role the trees play in providing nesting sites for raptors and other birds, enhancing air quality, and providing shade during warm weather. However, as a point of information, it should be noted that the trees do not provide a significant degree of noise reduction. Buildings and walls perform a much more important role in attenuating noise.

Please note per EIR Addendum mitigation measure BR-1 that a bird nesting survey by a qualified biologist is required before project-related construction may proceed. Consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), neither tree removal nor construction activities proposed within 300 to 500 feet of nesting birds can occur until such MBTA nesting birds have fledged their young and these birds have vacated the site.

Response 4

Comment noted.

Response 5

The College and the design team for the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility are evaluating a number of options for reducing the number of trees that would be removed and replaced due to the project. These include revisiting garden court landscape/hardscape placements, and efforts to assess the feasibility of retaining some trees and transplanting them onsite as part of the project. The College is also in discussions with Tree People to identify other potential solutions that entail moving and transplanting the affected trees. Also, please refer to the response provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub about the decision-making process that led to the current siting and programming of the building.

From: "Sullivan, Kathleen M." <sullivkm@lavc.edu>
Date: February 21, 2011 12:42:29 PM PST
To: "Carleo, Susan" <carleoas@lavc.edu>
Subject: FW: construction plans at LAVC

> Date: February 21, 2011 12:18:33 PM PST
> To: Karo.Torossian@lacity.org
> Cc: ttrustees@laccd.edu
> Subject: construction plans at LAVC

> Hello Ms. Torossian:

> I am a Valley Glen constituent and supporter of Councilman Paul
Krekorian and an employee of LAVC. I urge you to ask Mr.
Krekorian to intercede or mediate, if at all possible, in the
bond construction plans/process at LAValley College which
includes the cutting down of old growth trees (over 50??!!) in
order to make space for a much-needed arts/performance building.
The design/location of the building project violates the shared
governance agreement that the maintenance and protection of old
growth trees was to be one of the primary values of the campus in
the construction process.

1

> The college is the steward for those trees for our local
community, not the owner of them. Although the college is moving
towards a xeriscape, those trees are never watered anyway and
have survived many decades without maintenance. So water prices
really cannot be the argument for razing them. They function to
provide shade, green scape, oxygen, noise reduction, and house
raptors and other life-forms that enrich our community.

2

3

> I was a faculty member of the shared governance college
committee that interviewed the prospective supervising companies.
I was also present during the development and agreement of the
guidelines for the construction project planning process, which
were based on input from all campus constituencies, the

4

Comment 17

environmental impact report, and the local community. The most emphasized value was that of maintaining the park-like environment and preserving the old growth trees. This was supposed to be one of the primary guiding values of the college construction projects. The notes from many of the preliminary planning committee meetings of that era demonstrate this.

4
(cont'd.)

>

> In truth, the importance of the existing trees in the master plan has been largely ignored in practice. The College Space and Work Committee has made numerous attempts to remind the UPS and successive "supervising" companies to require the subcontractors to protect and water trees, such as old Magnolias, fenced off during construction. Even so, the subs (bottom bidders, as required by LACCD) have killed countless trees on the LAVC campus. Many of them were maimed by construction vehicles or improper chopping, or lost to drought due to the negligence of the subcontractors and the College Administrative Services unit that was supposed to be supervising the work. Also, the newly planted trees and green scape planted in many areas of xeriscape are not being maintained adequately, thus wasting precious taxpayer investment dollars.

5

6

>

> I urge the LACCD and LAVC to respect the initial shared governance committee decisions ratified by the College Council and the College President (at that time) which highlighted the preservation of the old growth trees as a guiding principle of the planning process.

>

> Thank you,

>

> Kathleen Sullivan, Ph.D.

>

>

>

Responses to Comment 17 from Kathleen Sullivan

Response 1

As explained in the response to Comment 16, the College remains committed to the shared governance agreement and has adhered to the engagement and review/approval processes called for under that agreement. Under the shared governance agreement all buildings/projects are proposed by the builder user group, and are then submitted to the campus for approval through the bond work group committee before the College's president makes a final recommendation. The projects are also shared with the Citizen's Oversight, and all comments are taken under consideration. These proceedings are open to the community and the decisions made as part of the governance process are all recorded in committee meeting minutes that are available for public review on the College's web page. A review of these minutes show how often the park- like setting on campus featured in such discussions and document the careful effort made to preserve that character.

Response 2

As part of the 2010 Master Plan Update, the College has not proposed the removal and replacement of trees as a response to maintenance concerns. Rather, it acknowledges the positive role the trees play in providing nesting sites for raptors and other birds, enhancing air quality, and providing shade during warm weather. However, as a point of information, it should be noted that the trees do not provide a significant degree of noise reduction. Buildings and walls perform a much more important role in attenuating noise.

Response 3

As referenced in the response to Comment 16, please note per EIR Addendum mitigation measure BR-1 regarding the nesting birds-related mitigation measure included in the EIR Addendum.

Response 4

Please refer to Response 1, above.

Response 5

The College takes seriously its commitment to preserving the campus' legacy designed landscape. An example of this commitment is in how it addressed landscape issues associated with the construction of the Student Services building. In that case, trees were marked for preservation but not watered. The matter was brought before the shared governance committee and the College project management team corrected this issue and ensured the trees were watered. Another landscape maintenance issue arose regarding the Monarch Square project but it is the result of budgetary constraints that have constrained the hiring of needed groundskeeping staff and that, accordingly, have significantly strained the capabilities of the gardening supervisor to attend to landscape upkeep. In that and others recent instances, groundskeeping staffing levels are the explaining factor rather than any negligence on the part of construction contractors or lack of concern on the part of the College.

Response 6

Please see Response 5 above. Also, in view of district-wide budgetary constraints for the foreseeable future and substantial staffing-to-space ratio constraints, a proactive effort is being made by the College during the project planning and preliminary design stage to incorporate low maintenance design features into projects.

From: Marsha Roseman <mrose13432@aol.com>
Date: February 21, 2011 3:31:47 PM PST
To: "carleas@lavc.edu" <carleas@lavc.edu>
Subject: Cutting down trees

Dear Ms. Carleo, the last time I met with you it was to condemn the suggested swap meet that you thought would be good for our neighborhood. You bragged how your office would be redecorated with taxpayer funds. Now you want to cut down 63 mature trees that enhance our neighborhood and give sanctuary to large birds like hawks. Large trees take in carbon dioxide
And produce oxygen.

The Valley College MUST learn to coexist with the people that live here, and this action would do damage to our neighborhood, which is residential and reveres it's foliage.

Sincerely,

Marsha Roseman and Burton Roseman M.D.
13432 Tiara Street
Valley Glen, 91401

1

Response to Comment 18 from Marsha and Burton Roseman, M.D.

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

From: CHW3333@aol.com
Date: February 22, 2011 8:38:35 PM PST
To: carleoas@lavc.edu
Subject: trees on Valley College campus

Dear Sirs,

I am very upset with the current plan to cut down 63 mature trees at Valley College. I live across the street on Fulton Avenue and love walking thru the college campus on the weekends. Planting new trees is not the same and the mature trees should not be touched. Please do not do this; those trees are irreplaceable and add tremendously to the ambience of the college campus. All my neighbors feel the same.

1

Sincerely,

Carolyn Hink Wolfstein
Nathan Wolfstein IV
5809 Fulton Avenue

Response to Comment 19 from Carolyn Hink Wolfstein

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

Comment 20

From: "David Chilewich" <david@unforgettablefoods.com>
Date: February 22, 2011 9:01:21 PM PST
To: <carleoas@lavc.edu>
Cc: <chil@roadrunner.com>, <Judyprice1127@aol.com>, <dld829@aol.com>, <trustees@laccd.edu>
Subject: Preparations for Open House and for Board Vote for Valley College FEIR Addendum

Dear Dr. Carleo,

I am writing to follow up on the meeting that was held today at the College. From today's meeting, I understand that the Board will not be voting tomorrow on the 2010 Addendum to the FEIR, but rather will be receiving information, and will schedule a vote 30 days from tomorrow on approving the 2010 Addendum. I also understand that Valley College will be holding another community meeting next Thursday, March 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Campus Center Building to enable more outreach on the new Master Plan, and on the Media Arts/Performance Arts Center. I appreciate the information, and the effort to have the additional community meeting, and I hope that the College moves forward with the intent of working out a solution that meets everyone's concerns.

1
2

I have a couple of suggestions and requests to better enable community input:

1. I would like to request that the College structure the format of the Open House next week as a presentation to all in attendance, followed by questions and answers, so that everyone can hear the same information and can hear each other's thoughts and input. This way we can collectively hear the presentations from the Master Plan architects, from the architects for the Media Art/Performance Arts Center, and for the new Athletic Buildings. I believe this will be a much more productive format than the last open house, where the public attendees had to individually ask questions of each of the consultants.
2. I would like to request that the College post on-line, so that it is publically available, the Erlich Architects design presentation for the new Media Arts/Performance Arts Center. Please post the site plan, the demolition plan, floor plans, and all the exterior elevations. Also please post the phasing presentation that was shown tonight.
3. Lastly, to help us all understand the grassy open space that will be lost with the proposed siting of the Media Arts/Performance Arts Center building, and the tree removals being proposed, I request that the College clearly mark with 3" wide red banding that wraps the trunks at eye level, each of the 63 trees that the Addendum proposes to remove for the Media Arts/Performance Arts Center. I then request that the College schedule a Saturday morning tour for the community, for any interested students, and for your campus advisors (any interested faculty and staff), so we all can clearly understand the space where the building is proposed to be sited, and visualize the space and the trees slated for removal. This tour ideally should happen at least two weeks prior to the Board vote on the Addendum. This will greatly help in the discussion.

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4
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6

Comment 20

Lastly, reflecting on what was said tonight, it was mentioned that other sitings for the building were studied and dismissed. Unfortunately I have not seen these, and would love to see these alternatives. I still feel that the streetscape on Oxnard could be greatly improved by moving the Media Arts Building to the alignment corresponding with the façade of Grant High School. While this would be the rear of the building with the front facing the campus quadrangle, I trust in the abilities of Erlich Architects to design a compelling street façade, and this would enable most of the existing trees and the wonderful grassy quadrangle to be preserved. It would have a similar relationship to Oxnard Street as does the new Student Services Center to Fulton Street, i.e. a rear façade that nevertheless enlivens the streetscape, and gives the College a street presence. I cannot think of a better use to present to the community and to the street than a performance center that the community will be using as well. It is a true civic structure.

7

8

I really appreciate your openness to continuing this dialogue, and to achieving the best possible outcome for all of the interests that you are juggling.

Thanks,

Deborah

Responses to Comment 20 from David Chilewich (signed Deborah)

Response 1

Correct. The Board of Trustees conducted a public hearing on February 23rd, listening to public comments and presentations from the College and its design and planning consultants. It did not vote to approve/certify the 2010 Master Plan Update or the EIR Addendum. Instead, it is expected that the Board will take up the matter again on March 23, 2011. This has afforded the College the opportunity to do additional outreach to the community. As you note, such actions have included the hosting of an additional open house public meeting on March 3rd.

Response 2

Comment noted.

Response 3

An open house format meeting was indeed convened on March 3rd that was led by the College's president and structured in alignment with your suggestions. It included a detailed presentation by the College's design and planning team. This meeting included a lively question and answer period.

Response 4

The College posted the Ehrlich Architects design presentation on the College's website. The posting occurred on March 1st.

Response 5

The College has declined to mark the trees proposed for removal with red banding as it is confident that the presentation prepared by Ehrlich Architects, and that is posted on the College website, is sufficient to address this question.

Response 6

The College also declines to schedule a walking tour of the quadrangle. As stated in Response 5, above, the presentation prepared by Ehrlich Architects adequately addresses this question and has been posted on the College website.

Response 7

As reminder, and as explained in the response to your February 2nd letter, the Media Arts/Performing Arts siting location presented to the Board was not arrived at hastily or arbitrarily. In addition, as called for in the EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape.

Prior studies of alternative sites for the Media Arts/Performing Arts project considered options that would have retained the entire current extent of the quadrangle and nearly all the trees bordering it. However, these were rejected after careful consideration. As part of the deliberative process that preceded preparation of the 2010 Addendum, a study was conducted to evaluate the feasibility of retaining and retrofitting of the existing Theater Arts Building, and on that basis, it was determined that retention and retrofit of the building to meet ADA requirements would have required an expenditure nearly equally the cost of building a new theater. In addition, the resulting retrofit would still have failed to meet key programming goals. Following that analysis, several siting concepts were developed for combining the Media Arts and Theater Arts programs into a single facility. One siting concept called for placement of the building along Oxnard Street directly across Campus Drive from the Child Development Center. Another concept studied placement at the northwest corner of the campus at Fulton Avenue and Oxnard Street. More recently (mid-2009), the Ehrlich Architects evaluated another siting proposal that called for a north/south-aligned building placement on a site north of the Art Building that would have occupied Parking Lot C and the eastern portion of Parking Lot B running and along the eastern edge of the quadrangle.

There were serious practical drawbacks associated with all of the alternative siting concepts. Placement toward the north border of Parking Lot B would have diffused rather than strengthened the quadrangle concept by adding new distances between the rest of the campus buildings and the new building.

Placement of a building with back-of-stage features along or near Oxnard Street would have increased visibility of the building in both positive and negative ways. Negatively, by bringing back-of-stage architectural elements (e.g., three story-tall stage-related fly space) and loading activity-related noise and visual effects closer to residents. It would also subject the Child Development Center and residential properties along the north side of Oxnard Street to significant shade/shadow effects. The placements within Parking Lot B would have also resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of available campus parking spaces in that location. They would also have called for an expensive and problematic relocation of sections of the campus' underground utility loop, and/or utility interface options that would have been costly to construct and that also would have substantially increased the operational costs of the building over its lifetime in terms of energy consumption as well as emissions generation. Such an approach would not have been consistent with District sustainable design policies.

The Media Arts/Performing Arts project as it is now conceived is the product of careful consideration about the needs of the theater arts and media arts programs and is a creative response in a time of constrained public funding to achieve economies of scale by combining the functions of what had formerly been two separate buildings into one shared space and one building footprint on the ground. This project also advances the College's educational objective of promoting cross-disciplinary collaboration in teaching and learning.

Response 8

Please refer to Response 7, above.

Comment 21

From: Mark Stewart [mailto:MStewart@ljdfa.com]
Sent: Mon 2/21/2011 2:32 PM
To: ttrustees@laccd.edu; Justiniano, Carol L.; Carleo, Susan; Karo.Torossian@lacity.org.
Subject: Cutting Down Trees at Valley College

I received an email about this issue. While I love trees, Valley is a college, and not a forest, and if there is no way to avoid taking them down, and if reforestation is on the agenda, count me as one neighbor who is not opposed.

1

Mark M. Stewart, Esq.
13634 Erwin Street

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Response to Comment 21 from Mark M. Stewart, Esq.

Response 1

Comment noted. For further information please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

From: Judyprice1127@aol.com [mailto:Judyprice1127@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 10:51 PM
To: trustees@laccd.edu
Cc: Justiniano, Carol L.; Carleo, Susan; Karo.Torossian@lacity.org
Subject: Valley College Facilities Master Plan Update and Amendment

Dear Board of Trustees,

As much as it pains me, and as a fan and supporter of Los Angeles Valley College and President, Dr. Carleo, I am compelled to weigh in on the issue of the amended plans to cut down 63 trees to construct the Media Arts/Performance Center at Valley College. Please reconsider this proposal.

Over the last few days, I have heard from many stakeholders in Valley Glen who are alarmed at this significant change in the original plans, now calling for cutting down 63 mature trees, virtually a grove at the north end of the quad.

1

On a personal note, I have been a long time neighbor and supporter of Valley College. My love affair with this campus goes back over 30 years when I first romped in the quad with my two daughters, and now in the last decade or so with my grandchildren (life's bonus!). From pushing strollers around the quad to playing baseball, a lot of our experience is quite simply the trees, the majestic forest canopy that seduces us in our hustle-bustle city.

And consider this, if it's 63 trees today, how many will it be tomorrow? And should I take pictures now for my grandchildren's memory books of things passed?

2

I appreciate the challenges in the revitalization of Valley College but I urge that the decision on this be postponed and allow more community input. Once cut down, gone forever.

Thank you for your consideration.

Judy Price
President
Valley Glen Neighborhood Association

Responses to Comment 22 from Judy Price

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

Response 2

Comment noted. Please note that although the Board of Trustees conducted a public hearing on February 23rd, listening to public comments and presentations from the College and its design and planning consultants it did not vote to approve/certify the 2010 Master Plan Update or the EIR Addendum. Instead, it is expected that the Board will take up the matter again on March 23, 2011. This has afforded the College the opportunity to do additional outreach to the community. Such actions have included the hosting of an additional open house public meeting on March 3rd.

From: alana [mailto:alanareed786@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 9:44 PM
To: Justiniano, Carol L.
Cc: Carleo, Susan; Karo.Torossian@lacity.org
Subject:

To whom it may concern:

I am a homeowner in Valley Glen and am very alarmed at the news that the remodeling at LAVC will involve demolishing numerous mature trees. Many of my neighbors are just now hearing about this development and may not have time to write or attend meetings in time to offer our input.

1

As a taxpayer, I object to this drastic action and would ask that the college or board allow the neighborhood associations to review the plans and see if there is a viable alternative. As a homeowner, I treasure the mature trees on my lot and on my street. The loss of mature trees is something that takes years and years to compensate for. In the Valley especially, such trees are sadly needed. I just added two sizeable trees last week (they needed a crane) to my lot which already had 18.

2

Please halt the plans to demolish the trees until the community can have a say in this.

I am a teacher for LAUSD and formerly a teacher for the LA Community College District.

Yours,

A. Reed

6341 Allott Avenue

Valley Glen, CA 91401

Responses to Comment 23 from A. Reed

Response 1

Comment noted. As stated in the prior responses, the components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration. Open house-format public meetings were held at the College on February 1st and March 3rd at Campus Center to provide information about the Master Plan Update to the community and to hear public concerns. Information regarding the campus revitalization effort has also been continuously available on the College's website. Please also note that although the Board of Trustees conducted a public hearing on February 23rd that it did not vote at that time to approve/certify the 2010 Master Plan Update and EIR Addendum. This provided additional opportunities for the College to do further outreach to the community, including convening the above referenced open house meeting on March 3rd.

Response 2

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section. As called for in the EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape. Replacement trees would be of the largest feasible caliper/gallon size tree. For example, the design team is evaluating the feasibility of replanting utilizing 110 box-sized trees (with an initial approximate height of 25 to 30 feet) while also studying how to retain more of the trees as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility.

From: Anita Berkey [mailto:neeterbee@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 7:52 PM
To: trustees@laccd.edu
Cc: Justiniano, Carol L.; Carleo, Susan; karo.torossian@lacity.org
Subject: Construction of Performing Art Center - SAVE THE TREES

Dear Trustees of LA Valley College -

I understand that there are plans to construct a new Media Arts/Performing Art Center at LA Valley College. I also understand that to do so, you plan to cut down 63 mature trees. I am very concerned about the loss of this many trees. I live in the immediate area of the college. The one thing that distinguishes our neighborhood from much of the rest of the valley is the existence of mature trees. Cutting down trees that are 50+ years old and replacing them with young trees is not a viable option. Please I beg you to reconsider the location of the construction site.

1

Thank you,

Anita Berkey
13540 Collins Street
Valley Glen, CA 91401

Response to Comment 24 from Anita Berkey

Response 1

Please refer to the response to Comment 23 from A. Reed, the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, and the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

Comment 25

From: Larry Brandenburg [mailto:unclelarbo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 7:58 PM
To: trustees@laccd.edu
Cc: Justiniano, Carol L.; Carleo, Susan; karo.torossian@lacity.org
Subject: Planned Arts Center - Save the Trees

Dear Trustees,

As a neighborhood resident and tree hugger I object to your plan to cut down mature trees to build an arts center. I would hope that you could build in one of your existing parking lots and encourage your students to use public transportation, car pools, or bicycles. The trees are one of the few distinguishing features that make this neighborhood stand out from the bleak landscape of the rest of the valley.

1

Sincerely,

Larry Brandenburg
13540 Collins Street
Valley Glen, CA 91401

Response to Comment 25 from Larry Brandenburg

Response 1

Comment noted. For further information please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

Comment 26

From: Judy Sell [mailto:judysell@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 6:11 PM
To: ttrustees@laccd.edu; Justiniano, Carol L.; Carleo, Susan;
"Karo.Torossian@lacity.org."@smtp101.sbc.mail.re3.yahoo.com
Cc: Judyprice1127@aol.com
Subject: Construction Plans

I understand that you are considering a new Media Arts/Performance Center. While I am very happy to support this addition to our neighborhood campus, I certainly hope that you will respect the environment and not eliminate the 63 beautiful, mature trees that grace this area.
Kind regards,

1

Judy S. Sell
818.780.2713 p/f

Response to Comment 26 from Judy S. Sell

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

From: Barry Coates [mailto:bchats@att.net]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 6:07 PM
To: ttrustees@laccd.edu
Cc: Carleo, Susan
Subject: the trees

Dear LAVC,

I am very concerned that you are planning to cut all the trees down across from the music building and adjacent to parking lot C. I've been walking in that area for the last 30 years and it is by far the most beautiful place on campus. It's almost like the devils work cutting down all those wonderful trees.

1

It's a very special place on campus and I really can't believe you would consider wasting the area just to build another building. That area is there for a reason and those trees were most likely planted when the college was first opened. There is good reason to keep nature close to us in this day and age. Please reconsider the size, or placement of this new building so the campus can remain beautiful.

2

Sincerely,
Barry Coates
818-994-8292
6029 Ethel Ave.
Valley Glen

Responses to Comment 27 from Barry Coates

Response 1

Comment noted. As stated in the prior responses, the components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration.

Response 2

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section. As called for in the EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape. Replacement trees would be of the largest feasible caliper/gallon size tree. For example, the design team is evaluating the feasibility of replanting utilizing 110 box-sized trees (with an initial approximate height of 25 to 30 feet) while also studying how to retain more of the trees as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility.

Comment 28

From: pat@voicecaster.com [mailto:pat@voicecaster.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 12:34 PM
To: Carleo, Susan
Subject: Cutting down 63 trees at Valley College - OPPOSED !

We are very concerned that 63 old stand trees on the Valley College campus are planned for removal. The fact that this information has been revealed at this late date is highly suspect. Reconsider this option. | 1

Robert & Edlyne Lloyd
Valley Glen, CA
pat@voicecaster.com
bob@voicecaster.com

Response to Comment 28 from Robert and Edlyne Lloyd

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

As stated in the prior responses, the components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration. Open house-format public meetings were held at the College on February 1st and March 3rd at Campus Center to provide information about the Master Plan Update to the community and to hear public concerns. Information regarding the campus revitalization effort has also been continuously available on the College's website.

From: Elizabeth [mailto:ACollaNut@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 6:22 PM
To: ttrustees@laccd.edu; Justiniano, Carol L.
Cc: Carleo, Susan; Karo.Torossian@lacity.org
Subject: Revision to the Proposed Valley College Building

To whom it may concern,

I am very dismayed at the prospect of having the new building at Valley College mean that we will be losing so many of the beautiful trees! I simply can not imagine why such a thing is necessary or why the city would entertain the possibility.

1

I am well aware that there are plans to remove "only" 60+ trees and plant 80+ trees, but I hardly consider that equitable since the trees being removed are mature, 50+ year old beauties! Many of the trees targeted for removal are irreplaceable. Surely there must be a way to keep a large portion of the old trees and still do the building?!!

2

Please, please reconsider!

Elizabeth Colla
5917 Buffalo Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401

Responses to Comment 29 from Elizabeth Colla

Response 1

Comment noted. As stated in the prior responses, the components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration.

Response 2

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section. The College disagrees with the statement that the referenced trees are irreplaceable. As called for in the EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape. Replacement trees would be of the largest feasible caliper/gallon size tree. For example, the design team is evaluating the feasibility of replanting utilizing 110 box-sized trees (with an initial approximate height of 25 to 30 feet) while also studying how to retain more of the trees as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility.

From: Nort and Joan Skorstad [mailto:njskor@roadrunner.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 1:39 PM
To: Carleo, Susan
Subject: Tree removal at Valley College

Dear Dr. Carleo,

As long-time residents of Valley Glen, we are very concerned about losing so many beautiful, large trees at Valley College. It's understandable that some trees would have to be removed for the construction, but 63 trees removed sounds like we'd be left with an ugly campus. And don't forget the improved air quality that these trees provide. It would be a shame to treat full-grown trees that beautify our community with such disregard.

1

Why are we only hearing about the 63 trees now? We are tax payers, and this is our bond issue.

2

Sincerely,

Joan and Norton Skorstad
6568 Mary Ellen Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401

Maria and Mike Merzlikina
6564 Mary Ellen Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401

Responses to Comment 30 from Joan and Norton Skorstad and Maria and Mike Merzlikina

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

As called for in the EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape. Replacement trees would be of the largest feasible caliper/gallon size tree. For example, the design team is evaluating the feasibility of replanting utilizing 110 box-sized trees (with an initial approximate height of 25 to 30 feet) while also studying how to retain more of the trees as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility.

Response 2

The components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration, and open house-format public meetings were held at the College on February 1st and March 3rd at Campus Center to provide information about the Master Plan Update to the community and to hear public concerns. Information regarding the campus revitalization effort has also been made continuously available on the College's website. It should also be noted that per the shared governance agreement all buildings/projects are proposed by the builder user group, and are then submitted to the campus for approval through the bond work group committee before the College's president makes a final recommendation. The projects are also shared with the Citizen's Oversight Committee, and all comments are taken under consideration. These proceedings are open to the community and the decisions made as part of the governance process are all recorded in committee meeting minutes that are available for public review on the College's web page. A review of these minutes show how often the park- like setting on campus featured in such discussions and document the careful effort made to preserve that character.

Comment 31

From: MsDeMir1@aol.com [mailto:MsDeMir1@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 12:46 PM
To: ttrustees@laccd.edu; Justiniano, Carol L.
Cc: Carleo, Susan; Karo.Torossian@lacity.org; judyprice1127@aol.com
Subject: Valley College reconstruction

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Valley Glen and a neighbor of the college, I am not in favor of the removal of mature trees for the convenience of construction. Incorporate them. You'd probably spend \$\$\$ replanting and landscaping later any way.

1

Sincerely,
Carolyn De Mirjian
13534 Delano St.
Valley Glen, CA 91401

Response to Comment 31 from Carolyn De Mirjian

Response 1

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

As stated in the prior responses, the components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration.

From: smoruzzi@inreach.com [mailto:smoruzzi@inreach.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 4:35 PM
To: trustees@laccd.edu; Justiniano, Carol L.
Cc: Carleo, Susan; Karo Torossian
Subject: LAVC Planned Construction - Destruction of 63 Mature Trees

To all concerned,

I have just been made aware of today's LAVC "revitalization" meeting. Unfortunately, with such short notice I will not be able to attend, but hope that my letter will be taken into consideration.

1

As a long standing resident and taxpayer of this county (and city) I urge you to seriously re-consider the proposed LAVC construction and most importantly, the destruction of the 63 of the majestic and beautiful mature trees (agenda item #XVII, Recommendations of the Chancellor.)

2

Members of the community have watched the ongoing construction with growing concern. Vast areas have already been impacted by these plans. The "revitalization" (a very questionably choice of words) of LAVC should more appropriately be termed the destruction of the beauty that made this area so loved by its residents. The proposed plans to destroy these trees reflects a lack of imagination in planning by the LAVC Board members. The rush to tear down trees, destroy landmarks for new sporting venues (i.e. archery, javelin, shot-put, etc.), which would see extremely limited use, while cutting back LAVC classes, teachers, staff, etc. is truly a waste of resources and revenue.

3

In addition, LAVC has taken the liberty of marking the Coldwater Canyon extension road with angle parking, claiming that the East side of the extension road is the property of LAVC. Residents have very limited access to the "park" as it is and now are threatened with citations if they park there. This is safety issue as parking on Coldwater Canyon is too dangerous. Residents should be allowed access to parking on the extension road.

4

As a taxpayer, registered (and regular voter) I am outraged by these on-going proposals. If the LAVC plans go forward in such reckless fashion, I can assure you that I will seriously reflect before voting on any future bond measures.

5

Very sincerely yours,

Sandra Moruzzi
6112 Goodland Avenue
North Hollywood, California

Responses to Comment 32 from Sandra Moruzzi

Response 1

As stated in the prior responses, the components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration. Open house-format public meetings were held at the College on February 1st and March 3rd at Campus Center to provide information about the Master Plan Update to the community and to hear public concerns. Information regarding the campus revitalization effort has also been continuously available on the College's website. As a point of information please note that although the Board of Trustees conducted a public hearing on February 23rd, listening to public comments and presentations from the College and its design and planning consultants, it did not vote to approve/certify the 2010 Master Plan Update or the EIR Addendum. Instead, it is expected that the Board will take up the matter again on March 23, 2011.

Response 2

Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

Response 3

Again, please refer to the responses provided to Letter 2, as well as Comment 17, to better understand the design and consensus building processes that have led to the current proposal.

Response 4

For a more detailed discussion of this matter please refer to the responses provided to Letter 3. The recent introduction of angle parking on both sides of this Coldwater Canyon Extension, an internal access road, has created safety and convenience issues. Currently the posted signage limits the use of parking spaces on the west side of Coldwater Canyon Extension to LAVC permit holders on Mondays-Thursdays between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. and on Fridays between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. The College wishes to emphasize however that no such restrictions are posted on the east side of Coldwater Canyon Extension. The College acknowledges the need for visitors to park in that location when visiting the campus and when using the county park along Tujunga Wash that borders Coldwater Canyon Extension.

Please also note that these parking changes along Coldwater Canyon Extension are not a part of the currently-proposed 2010 Master Plan Update project and do not directly relate to the Initial Study Update/FEIR Addendum for the project but are instead a short-term response to the temporary reduction of spaces on campus due to construction.

Response 5

Comment noted.

From: Merryl Weber [mailto:Merryl@innerposture.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 4:34 PM
To: trustees@laccd.edu
Cc: Justiniano, Carol L.; Carleo, Susan; Karo.Torossian@lacity.org
Subject: Board Agenda XVII

Dear Trustees of Valley College,

As a neighbor to Valley College for thirty years and a citizen concerned with the destruction of Los Angeles' arboreal canopy, it has come to my attention that tomorrow you will be voting on the destruction of sixty-three mature fifty year old trees, some of them quite rare, that are slated to be destroyed to make way for the new Performing Arts Center on campus. It is quite easy to destroy mature trees in the name of progress and quite understandable in the situation you are in, remaking the old campus for a modern new one to meet the needs of our young adults, as clearing old growth trees eases new construction.

However when the vote comes up tomorrow afternoon on [Board Agenda Item XVII](#) , I would ask that you postpone this vote to give the community some chance to give you input. In lieu of postponement, I ask that you consider consulting an arborist who is expert in this particular field to consult with your architect in the hopes that some of the more beautiful of the trees be saved to adorn the new buildings if possible.

Fast growing new trees never replace the older ones, whose presence on the campus created and continue to create a sense of a natural oasis from the cement and concrete streets that so many of our children have been weaned on, an oasis that fosters the quiet inner nature of all human life so important for fostering the creative thought of higher education. It may take a little longer to work around these but they are well worth the effort, and it would teach our students that all life is worthy of our careful consideration.

1

2

Comment 33

I want you to know that I have watched the construction since its inception and want to commend you on doing a wonderful job of overseeing the updating of the campus to date. I wish you continued success in your efforts.

3

Sincerely,

Merryl Weber

Responses to Comment 33 from Merryl Webber

Response 1

As stated in the prior responses, the components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration. Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section. As called for in the EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape. Replacement trees would be of the largest feasible caliper/gallon size tree. For example, the design team is evaluating the feasibility of replanting utilizing 110 box-sized trees (with an initial approximate height of 25 to 30 feet) while also studying how to retain more of the trees as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility.

As an example of its continued commitment to preserving the campus' legacy designed landscape, the College has retained an arborist. The arborist has completed a preliminary survey of all campus trees as the initial step toward the preparation of a comprehensive campus landscape master plan during 2011.

Response 2

Comment noted.

Response 3

Comment noted.

From: Mickey Jannol <jannol6@aol.com>
Date: February 21, 2011 11:53:46 AM PST
To: trustees@laccd.edu, justincl@email.laccd.edu, carleoas@lavc.edu
Subject: Revised construction plans calling for cutting down 63 mature trees make room for a new Media Arts/Performance Art Center

Let me first thank you for the improvements that you have made to Valley College over the last several years. The funds being spent and the new buildings and programs will benefit the entire Valley Glen area for the next 50 years. I live a few blocks north of the campus and the new Child Development Center looks like a great improvement.

1

From time to time, I have attended a few of the planning meetings associated with the improvement plans at LAVC. They were very informative and we (the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association which I was once President of several years ago) had Dr. Weider visit us and make presentations to our monthly meetings. I seem to recall that one of the features of the master plan that Dr. Weider proudly spoke of was the desire to have no trees cut down to make way for the new buildings.

2

I am all for the construction of new buildings like the Media Arts Center. However, you should realize that the local community will be most sensitive about the cutting down of mature trees. There will be some 'blow-back' and I am sure that some in leadership at LAVC will attribute this to stereotypical extreme environmentalism.

3

That would be a big mistake. The reason it would be is that the cutting down of trees will have more to do with a few factors: namely 1) it appears to run contrary to the spirit of the plan, 2) you have a few very active community organizations who, if you do not provide an opportunity for public comment, will get their State and City officials involved, 3) residents of Valley Glen have seen much development in the area in recent years and all of it has involved the cutting down of trees, and 4) my pet project -- the Valley Glen Community Park (formerly Erwin Street Park two blocks north of the campus on Ethel Ave.) has lost 20 of its original 50 trees over the last 10 years due to a number of natural reasons and local residents are getting tired of losing trees and not having them replaced.

4

If it were up to me, I would recommend that you find a way to accommodate the public to see how the Media Arts center can be constructed with minimal loss of trees. Perhaps you can consider transplanting some of the less mature trees at the Valley Glen Community Park. I understand that may be an expensive proposition but a few dollars spent on it would win over a lot of people who live north of LAVC.

5

Anyhow, please do what you can to give more careful consideration to this matter.

Thank you very much

Mickey Jannol
13132 Aetna
Valley Glen, CA 91401
(818) 613-6311

For identification purposes, I was President of Valley Glen Neighborhood Association from 2006-2008. I am currently its Treasurer and Judy Price is our President. The Association is a 1990s era grass roots neighborhood organization that created Valley Glen as a distinct City.

From 2003 to 2007, I served on the Greater Valley Glen Community Council, the City funded advisory body.

Responses to Comment 34 from Mickey Jannol

Response 1

Comment noted.

Response 2

As your remarks suggest there has been an ongoing commitment on the part of the College to retention of its legacy designed landscape that continues through the present. Along a similar vein, the components of the 2010 Master Plan Update have been under discussion for quite some time and are the product of careful consideration. Please refer to the detailed responses provided to Letter 2 from Deborah Weintraub, as well as the community letter written by the College's president that appears at the back of this section.

As called for in the EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape. Replacement trees would be of the largest feasible caliper/gallon size tree. For example, the design team is evaluating the feasibility of replanting utilizing 110 box-sized trees (with an initial approximate height of 25 to 30 feet) while also studying how to retain more of the trees as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility.

Response 3

The College is indeed aware of these concerns and has responded by convening open house-format public meetings at the College on February 1st and March 3rd at Campus Center to provide information about the Master Plan Update to the community and to hear public concerns. Information regarding the campus revitalization effort has also been continuously available on the College's website.

Response 4

We appreciate the commenter's perspective on why the removal and replacement of campus trees may become an issue for the community residents. It should be noted that the College has a vigorous consensus building process for all its buildings/projects that integrates public input. Under the shared governance agreement all buildings/projects are proposed by the builder user group and are then submitted to the campus for approval through the bond work group committee before the College's president makes a final recommendation. The projects are also shared with the Citizen's Oversight Committee and all comments are taken under consideration. These proceedings are open to the community and the decisions made as part of the governance process are all recorded in committee meeting minutes that are available for public review on the College's web page. A review of these minutes show how often the park- like setting on campus featured in such discussions and document the careful effort made to preserve that character.

The College has just learned of the Valley Glen Community Park matter but does not have the particulars about what transpired and why and therefore offers no comment on that subject.

Response 5

Please refer to the response to Comment 2, above.

Eric Swelstad, Department Chair, Media Arts Department, Valley College.

Swelstad remarked that the Media Arts students and faculty are in a state of excitement and are waiting with a sense of anticipation for the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility to open its doors; that it will be a world class facility designed by a world class architectural firm. Swelstad indicated that several students from the LAVC Media Arts program were present and would be speaking. He then introduced Armen Fentulagian.

1

Response to Comment 35 from Eric Swelstad

Response 1

Comment noted.

Comment 36

Armen Fentulagian, Student, Media Arts Committee member/current committee chair, Valley College.

Fentulagian remarked that the program is very much needed to ensure that the Valley College Media Arts program be competitive in the field and stated that he and the other committee members have been waiting anxiously for the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility to be completed.

1

Response to Comment 36 from Armen Fentulagian

Response 1

Comment noted.

Comment 37

Deborah Weintraub, LAVC neighborhood resident and Chief Deputy City Engineer, City of Los Angeles.

Weintraub began her remarks by mentioning contacts she has made with Larry Eisenberg and Steven Ehrlich Architects regarding her concerns. She stated that when she approached LAVC President Carleo some time ago that she got the impression that only a small number of trees would be removed for the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility – not the 63 trees later disclosed in the Draft EIR Addendum. Weintraub supports the building program at LAVC but stated her firm contention that the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility should be sited on Parking Lot B, saving the trees that are now present at the northern edges of the quadrangle as a forecourt, and that the building could still serve its function in campus planning terms as an architectural capstone to the grouping of buildings framing the quadrangle. She further noted that the trees slated for removal are only half way through their life cycle. In addition, concern was expressed that community outreach effort was inadequate and not transparent enough.

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Responses to Comment 37 from Deborah Weintraub

Response 1

The College has not intentionally withheld information from the public regarding the removal and replacement of trees proposed as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility. Under the shared governance agreement all buildings/projects proposed for the campus are submitted to the bond work group committee, builder user group, and reviewed by the Citizen's Oversight Committee before the College's president makes a final recommendation. These proceedings are open to the community and all such the decisions are recorded in committee meeting minutes that are available for public review on the College's web page. A review of these minutes show how often the park-like setting on campus featured in such discussions and document the careful effort made to preserve that character.

Response 2

A detailed response to this proposal can be found in the responses to both Letters 2 and 20.

Response 3

Comment noted.

Response 4

The College, although not required for an EIR Addendum process per the provisions of CEQA, has held two open house-format public meetings to inform the community about the 2010 Master Plan Update. These meetings took place on February 1st and March 3rd at Campus Center. The College's public outreach consultant walked the neighborhood bordering the campus during late-January to talk with residents about the Update and to invite them to the February 1st open house meeting. Social media including Facebook and Twitter were used to inform the community and to receive community input leading up to February 1st. In addition to placing a display ad in the Los Angeles Daily News advertising the February 1st meeting, information about the Update and that meeting was made available on the College's web page.

Comment 38

Patrick Clement, Student, Media Arts Committee member, Valley College.

Clement stated that he has received input from many of the other Media Arts students, and that the board and faculty have worked really hard along with the students to shape development of the proposed Media Arts/Performing Arts facility. Clement remarked that the students feel as though they have been shepherds to the project and are waiting with a sense of pride for the new facility to be completed. Clement commented that the building not be seen as the end game in and of itself. He asked the Board of Trustees to work on behalf of the students and their vision for the facility.

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| 2
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Responses to Comment 38 from Patrick Clement

Response 1

Comment noted.

Response 2

Comment noted.

Response 3

Comment noted.

Robert Reber, Student, Media Arts Committee Co-chair, Valley College.

Reber remarked that the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility will be a significant pathway towards accessing the resources needed for a good quality education leading to a career in the Media Art profession.

1

Response to Comment 39 from Robert Reber

Response 1
Comment noted.

Comment 40

Kathy Susan Pyles, Instructor, Theater Arts Department, Valley College.

Pyles stated that at present the Theater Arts Department and its students are saddled with an incredibly obsolete facility and that the new facility will support new collaborative initiatives underway. She further remarked that although 63 trees are slated for removal 81 new trees would be planted, and that adjacent, clearly visible parking will be an important consideration for patrons visiting the proposed Media Arts/Performing Arts facility. Concluding her comments, she remarked that all projects on campus are given careful consideration, and that the proposed siting of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility is a product of careful reflection and planning.

1	Pyles stated that at present the Theater Arts Department and its students are saddled with an incredibly obsolete facility and that the new facility will support new collaborative initiatives underway. She further remarked that although 63 trees are slated for removal 81 new trees would be planted,
2	and that adjacent, clearly visible parking will be an important consideration for patrons visiting the proposed Media Arts/Performing Arts facility.
3	Concluding her comments, she remarked that all projects on campus are given careful consideration, and that the proposed siting of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility is a product of careful reflection and planning.

Responses to Comment 40 from Kathy Susan Pyles

Response 1

Comment noted.

Response 2

Comment noted.

Response 3

Comment noted.

Comment 41

David Chilewich, Area Resident

Chilewich began his comments by stating that he appreciates the value and need for the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility, and that he also appreciated the effort undertaken by the College and architectural team. In view of the unique green space that now exists on campus, Chilewich stated his contention that there is an opportunity to make the project better than it is currently. He encouraged the College and design team to rethink the design proposal a bit in order to preserve the quadrangle green space.

1

2

Responses to Comment 41 from David Chilewich

Response 1

Comment noted.

Response 2

The College's design team is currently evaluating the feasibility of retaining more of the existing trees as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts project and of transplanting, rather than replacing, some of the other trees that are now within the footprint of the proposed project.

The design team is also evaluating the feasibility of replanting utilizing 110 box-sized trees (with an initial approximate height of 25 to 30 feet) while it studies how to retain more of the trees as part of the Media Arts/Performing Arts facility.

The College wishes to reiterate that as called for in the EIR Addendum Mitigation Measure V-2, tree removals and replacements will be overseen by a qualified preservation landscape architect in order to ensure the changes are sympathetic to the campus' legacy designed landscape and that the EIR Addendum further stipulates that any replacement trees be of the largest feasible caliper/gallon size.



February 22, 2011

Dear Community Member,

Thank you for your recent questions and concerns about Los Angeles Valley College and our building plans. Valley College has been part of the Valley Glen community for over 60 years and it is encouraging to know that we have so many strong supporters. Like you, many of our faculty, staff and administrators share a long history with the college. Mine began in 1976 when I was first hired as a faculty member.

I understand that you have become aware of planned changes on the Oxnard side of the campus and I would like to address some of the key concerns here. At our February 1st Community Open House we shared the details of our EIR addendum and our revised facilities master plan which are posted on our web site (www.lavc.edu). The plan calls for several new buildings (funded by Measure J) which include a parking structure, a student center, improved athletics fields, and a Media and Performing Arts (MAPA) Center. The MAPA Center will be nestled in the grove of Canary Island Pine and Magnolia trees located on the Oxnard side of the campus. In locating new buildings, we strive to achieve three primary concerns:

1. Complement the College's Tree Master plan.

The college has recently inventoried all 1600 of our trees. The arborist's report will be posted on our web site soon. Our commitment to preserving our urban forest as an educational treasure as well as a community asset is non-wavering. As we locate each new building, we recognize the need to preserve and replace trees to enhance the college physical environment. Eighty-one trees will replace the approximately 63 trees that will be removed to build the Media and Performing Arts Center. These new trees will enhance the overall landscape and will be consistent with the tree master plan which is in development. The college continues to explore alternatives regarding the disposition of trees slated for removal. Ideas that have been suggested include: transplanting to new locations and recycling by milling the wood for use in the building. When construction is complete Valley College will have 1800 trees of varying species and age in good health throughout the campus.

2. Preserve Students Parking On Campus.

Parking is a concern for the community as well as our 19,000 students. The college continually strives to minimize the influx of cars onto residential streets. The EIR addendum shows that three recent campus changes have helped mitigate campus parking challenges.

- Modifying the class schedule so that students can take more classes with fewer trips to campus;
- Accessing rapid transit via the Orange Line; and
- Building a 1200-car parking structure on Ethel Avenue, expected completion date of summer 2013.

3. Operate the Campus within its Infrastructure.

Valley College has a complex infrastructure that extends power, sewer and other utility functions throughout the campus via a system of underground tunnels and pipes. Each building must connect to that system. The location of a building is influenced by the need to make these connections. Health and safety as well as energy conservation are all considered.

In selecting the proposed site for all buildings, including the Media and Performing Arts (MAPA) Center, existing trees, parking demands, and campus infrastructure have all been considered.

Next Steps.

The college will be presenting its EIR Addendum to the LACCD Board of Trustees at its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2011. The Board will receive the document and review all communications about the proposal. The Board will not vote on February 23rd. They will use the next 30 days to evaluate the request, voting at their meeting on March 23rd.

The February 1st Community Open House was publicized with a Daily News ad on January 25, and college representative knocked on doors in the neighborhood around the campus to notify residents of the event and left leaflets (door hangers) when residents were not home between January 24-25. Starting January 21, the college also posted information on the college web site, did email blasts, sent postcards to local residents, and posted announcements on Facebook and Twitter. About two dozen community members attended.

However, since the close of our public comment period on February 4th, we have received additional questions and concerns from the community. As a result, Valley College will hold a second Community Open House on Thursday, March 3rd, 2011 at 6:30 pm in Campus Center. The Los Angeles City Council District #2 office, the Valley Glen Neighborhood Council, and the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association will co-host this informational meeting along with the college.

Thank you for your continued support of Los Angeles Valley College. I look forward to meeting you on campus.

Sincerely,

Susan Carleo, President

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