



EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, California 90506-0001

Telephone (310) 532-3670 or 1-866-ELCAMINO

www.elcamino.edu

March 29, 2022

TO: Interested Agencies and Individuals

LEAD AGENCY: El Camino Community College

SUBJECT: **Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the El Camino College Fire Academy**

COMMENT PERIOD: March 29, 2022, to April 27, 2022

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the El Camino College District (District) has prepared an Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of its proposed new Fire Academy (project) that would be located within the El Camino College campus in the city of Torrance, California. The Initial Study and Draft MND reflect the independent judgment of the District.

Project Location: The proposed project site is located at 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard in the City of Torrance (City), in the southern portion of Los Angeles County. The proposed project site is 2.6 acres and is located on the existing El Camino College campus. More specifically, the proposed project site is located on the southern portion of the campus, south of West Redondo Beach Boulevard. The proposed project site is located in the existing Parking Lot L.

Project Description: The proposed project would involve the construction of the El Camino College Fire Training Facility, which includes new classrooms, locker rooms, a multipurpose room, an administrative office, fire apparatus storage building, a fire tower, a physical training area, a ventilation props storage area, and landscaped areas.

Four new classrooms would be constructed on the southern perimeter of the site, each would occupy a 24-foot by 40-foot area, and one-story tall. The locker room would be located on the southern perimeter, would include showers, restrooms, and lockers, and would occupy a 60-foot by 40-foot area and would be one-story tall. The modular multipurpose room would be located on the southern perimeter, occupy a 40-foot by 72-foot area and would be one-story tall. The administrative office would be located on the southern perimeter, occupy a 24-foot by 42-foot area and would be one-story tall. The fire apparatus storage building would be located in the western perimeter of the project site and would include three apparatus bays, which would occupy a 60-foot by 50-foot area, and a supply, maintenance, storage, and laundry area. The fire tower would be located in the center of the project site, would be

four stories tall with an open roof deck above the fourth story, and would support fire simulation activities. The physical training area would surround the fire tower on all four sides. The ventilation props storage area would occupy a 28,500 square foot area and would be located on the southern perimeter of the site.

Landscaped areas would be located throughout the project site. The existing row of trees located at the eastern perimeter of the site would remain in place. The existing trees along the southern perimeter of the project site would remain in place. Two new landscaped areas would be introduced to the east and west of the classrooms and administration office modular buildings. An 8-foot tall perimeter fence would be installed around the entire project site.

Once operational, the new Fire Training Facility would provide a South Bay training location for local firefighter and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) recruits. The Fire Training Facility would provide expanded facilities to handle an increasing demand for the El Camino College Public Safety Training Center. The proposed project would result in the generation of approximately 45 new students and 7 new employees.

The Fire Training Facility would operate year-round and Monday through Friday with periodic operation on nights and weekends. Typical training activities would occur at the following times:

- 6:00 AM to 7:00 AM: Student arrival
- 7:00 AM: Flag detail
- 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM: Physical fitness
- 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Classroom or training ground
- 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM: Lunch
- 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM: Classroom or training ground
- 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM: Clean up

The Fire Training Facility would occasionally operate on weekday nights and weekends. For example, graduations would be held on a Saturday in December in June from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Training would occur on a Saturday, once every two months, from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Approximately once or twice a year, training would occur on weekday evenings, from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Public Review Period: The MND is being made available for public review for a period of 30 days beginning March 29, 2022 and concluding April 27, 2022. A hard copy of the MND may be viewed at the lobby/counter of the first floor of the Administration Office, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, California. The hours of the Administration Office are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. An electronic version of the MND may also be viewed at the following website address: www.elcamino.edu/pstc/

Comments on the MND must be received in writing or via email no later than April 27, 2022, and sent to:

Jorge Gutierrez, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Services
16007 Crenshaw Boulevard
Torrance, California 90506
jgutierrez@elcamino.edu

A community meeting will be held virtually on April 6th at 12 p.m. The Zoom link is available at the following website:

<https://www.elcamino.edu/academics/divisions/health-sciences-and-athletics/public-safety-training-center/>

The community meeting will be informational, providing details about the project to the community. Verbal comments will not be accepted at the community meeting. Written or emailed comments regarding the MND will be accepted at the addresses provided above.

A public hearing at which the project and the MND will be considered has not yet been scheduled. All comments received related to issues in the MND will be included in the final package that is forwarded to the Board of Trustees for final consideration at this future, currently unscheduled, public hearing. Please note that all comments and materials received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. If the District finds that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, it may adopt the MND. This means that the District may proceed to consider the project without the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.



Jorge Gutierrez
Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Services

3/22/22

Date