

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Project Title: Riverside Unified School District Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Center

Lead Agency: University of California, Riverside

Project Location: Southwest corner of Blaine Street and Canyon Crest Drive, University of California, Riverside East Campus

County: Riverside County

Contact Person: Stephanie Tang
University of California, Riverside
Campus Environmental Planner
Planning, Design & Construction
1223 University Avenue, Suite 240
Riverside, CA 92507

The proposed Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Center project (referred to as proposed STEM Ed Center or proposed project) would consist of development of a new STEM education facility to support students in grades 9 through 12. The proposed project is expected to serve a capacity of approximately 800 students and approximately 60 faculty and staff with a split schedule between mornings and afternoons.

The proposed STEM Ed Center site is approximately 6 acres and is located within an urbanized area on the southwest corner of the intersection of Blaine Street and Canyon Crest Drive on the University of California, Riverside's (UCR's) East Campus, adjacent to the UCR Baseball Complex (see Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3). The project site is currently developed with an open recreational field with two baseball diamonds. Two cellular network towers currently leased to Sprint and T-Mobile are located in the northwest corner of the proposed STEM Ed Center site. The Sprint cell tower would be decommissioned and removed from the site. The T-Mobile cell tower would be removed from the project site and relocated to the northern portion of the adjacent UCR Baseball Complex. The existing open recreational fields (two baseball diamonds) would be removed with the construction of the proposed STEM Ed Center.

Existing uses surrounding the project site include residential, institutional, and commercial facilities. To the north and northwest of the site are multi-family residential developments including the Park Hill Apartments and the Stonehaven student housing complex. To the northeast are church, apartment, and commercial uses. The area east of the project site include the mostly undeveloped North District Development and the Falkirk Apartments for student housing and a portion of the underground Gage Canal are located to the south. The REACH Leadership STEAM Academy, a church, a portion of the underground Gage Canal are situated southwest of the site and the UCR Baseball Complex and underground Gage Canal to the west.

The proposed main STEM Ed Center building would be three stories and located primarily in the northeast quadrant of the project site. The surface parking lot would be situated on the southern half of the project site and would contain approximately 153 spaces for staff/faculty, visitors, and student use. Additional accessory buildings and programmed areas may be located to the west of the main building; an amphitheater may be located in the northeast corner of the project site, and a project testing area may be located to the east of the main building.

Environmental Review

The University of California, Riverside will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed STEM Ed Center project. The EIR will analyze the environmental effects of the physical development, including construction and operation, of the proposed project. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the EIR will address environmental impacts in the following resource areas: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

CEQA Compliance

In compliance with the State and University of California (UC) guidelines for CEQA implementation, this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is hereby sent to inform interested agencies and the general public that UCR is preparing a Draft EIR for the proposed STEM Ed Center project. As Lead Agency, UCR values views of interested agencies and the general public as to the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to an agency's responsibilities and individual's interest(s) as they relate to the proposed project.

A copy of this NOP, project-related documents, and future project updates will be available for viewing or downloading on the UCR Planning, Design & Construction website at <https://pdc.ucr.edu/environmental-planning-ceqa>.

UCR will hold a public scoping meeting on **Wednesday, March 9, 2022** for the EIR at the following location and time:

- Location:** Grant Elementary School – Auditorium of Grant Administrative Site
4011 14th Street
Riverside, CA 92501
- Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Live Feed:** **English:** <https://bit.ly/stemscopingmeeting>
Español: <https://bit.ly/stemscopingmeetingspanish>

Details for meeting attendance are subject to change based on State and local rules and Executive Orders regarding in-person meetings and COVID safety protocols. Please go to <https://pdc.ucr.edu/environmental-planning-ceqa> to confirm remote and in-person attendance details in advance of the meeting date.

We request your input regarding the scope and contents of the EIR for the proposed project. This NOP is being circulated for 30 days, from February 16, 2022 through March 18, 2022. Agency and public comments must be received no later than 5:00 PM on March 18, 2022. Please include the agency, individual, and/or point of contact's name, email and/or mailing address with comments. Please send project comments to:

Stephanie Tang
University of California, Riverside
Campus Environmental Planner
Planning, Design & Construction
1223 University Avenue, Suite 240
Riverside, CA 92507



Planning, Design & Construction

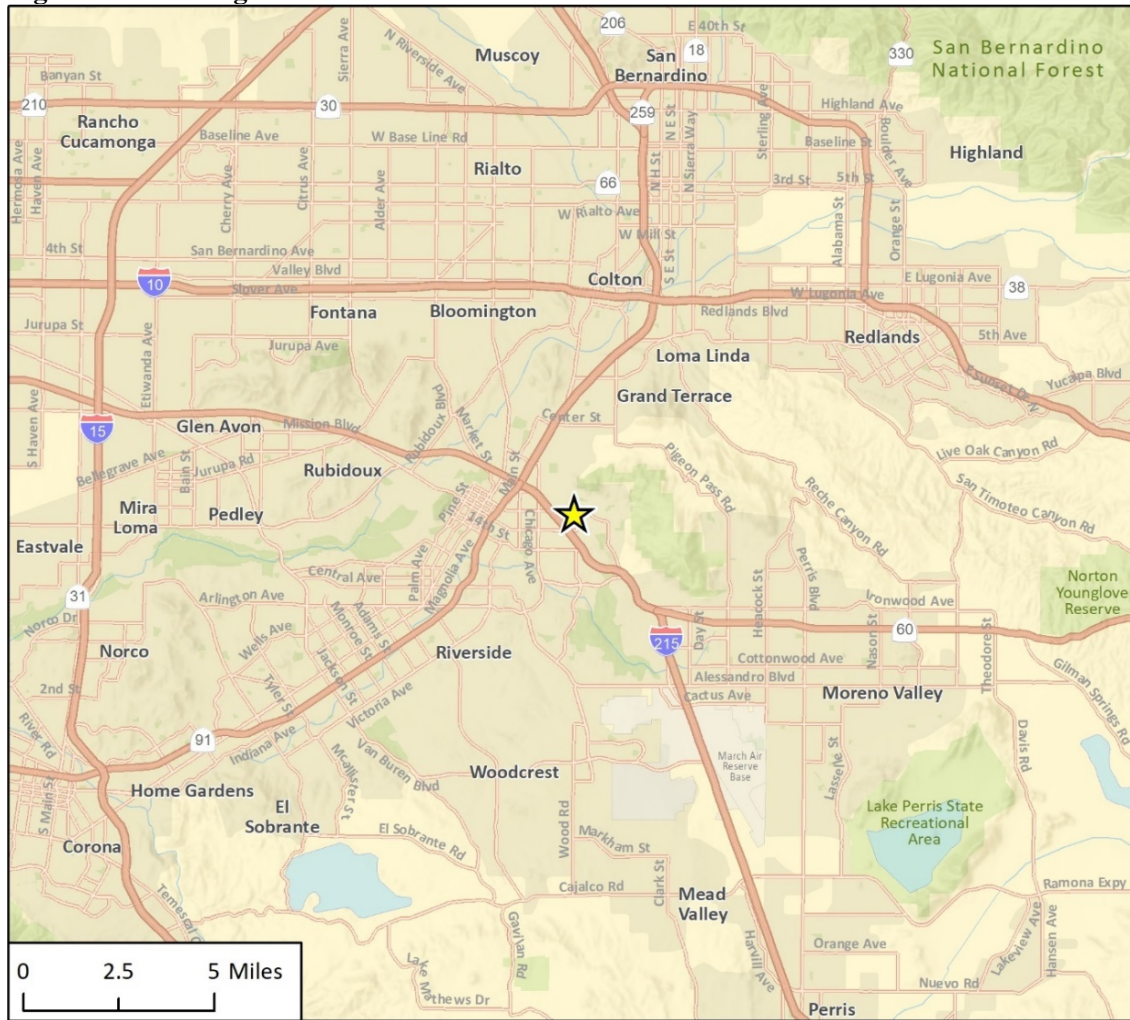
1223 University Avenue, Suite 240

Riverside, CA 92507

Comments can also be submitted via email to the following email address: CEQA@ucr.edu. Email comments must also be received no later than 5:00 PM on March 18, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding this NOP, please contact Stephanie Tang at the above address or via email at CEQA@ucr.edu.

Figure 1 Regional Location



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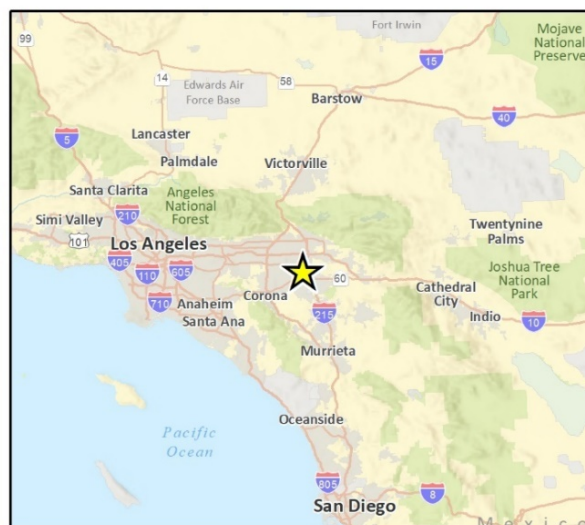
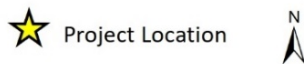
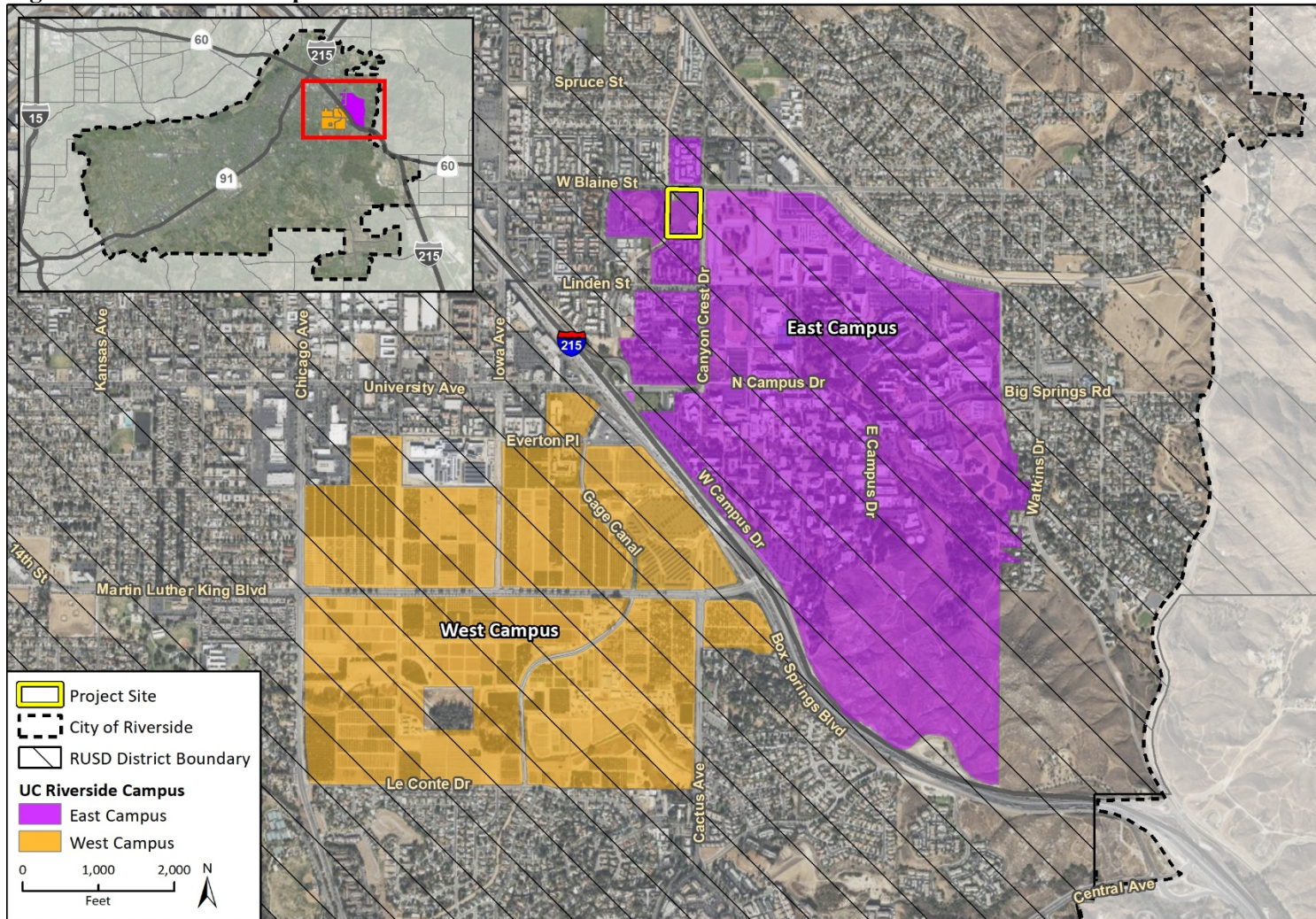


Fig. 1 Regional Location

Figure 2 UCR Campus



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 Data provided by UC Riverside and County of Riverside, 2020.

Fig 2 Project Location

Figure 3 Aerial Map



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Fig. 3 Project Area