

FACILITY PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING****NOTICE OF PREPARATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT****PROPOSED MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS FACILITY****CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR MEN****CHINO, CALIFORNIA****GENERAL INFORMATION**

- PROJECT TITLE:** Proposed 50-Bed Mental Health Crisis Facility (MHCF) project at the California Institution for Men in Chino, California
- LEAD AGENCY:** California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Division of Facility Planning, Construction and Management
- PROJECT LOCATION:** The proposed project would be constructed within the property boundaries of the California Institution for Men (CIM) (14901 Central Avenue, Chino, CA 91710) in the northwest portion of the existing prison grounds (see Exhibit 1). CIM is located within the city limits of Chino in southwestern San Bernardino County.
- PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** This Notice of Preparation (NOP) is intended to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which requires the distribution of an NOP when a lead agency has determined that a proposed project will require preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The objective of the NOP is to solicit comments on the scope of the issues to be addressed in the EIR and to provide an opportunity for early consultation with local, responsible, and trustee agencies and other interested parties.
- COMMENT PERIOD:** The NOP review period begins July 9, 2018 and ends August 13, 2018. Comments may be sent anytime during this 36-day NOP review period. Please include the name of a contact person for your agency or organization, if

applicable, and the project name in the subject line. All comments should be directed to:

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Division of Facility Planning, Construction and
Management

Attention: Robert Sleppy
P.O. Box 942833
Sacramento, California 94283-0001

E-mail: CDCRChinoMHCF@ascentenvironmental.com

SCOPING MEETING: CDCR will facilitate a scoping meeting to present information on the proposed project and solicit oral and written comments from agencies and the public on the scope and content of the EIR on **July 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** at Chaffey College Community Center, 5890 College Park Avenue, Chino, CA 91710.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT: In conformance with provisions of the 2017/18 State Budget Act, CDCR is undertaking the preparation of preliminary construction documents ("Preliminary Plans") for the proposed construction and operation of a 50-bed MHCF at a site within the grounds of CIM in the city of Chino, San Bernardino County, California. The facility will provide additional mental health treatment capacity within the State's correctional system for inmates in a mental health crisis state. Inmates are typically transferred to these facilities on a limited-term basis (approximately ten days); when stabilized, the inmates are transferred to correctional facilities that provide the required housing and on-going mental health treatment. All inmate transport to and from this new facility would be conducted by CDCR transportation employees using secure vehicles.

The site for the proposed facility is within the existing secured perimeter of D Facility (see Exhibit 1) at CIM. Demolition of an existing building and related improvements would be necessary for construction of the new facility. The MHCF would be licensed consistent with the regulations of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. The proposed two-story MHCF building would comprise approximately 47,000 square feet of space for housing, mental health treatment, programming, custody, support, and administrative services. An area near the D Facility will be identified during the planning process for development of an approximately 360 space paved parking lot for staff and visitors. Staffing increases associated with the new facility would consist of an estimated 170 new positions needed to operate the facility on a 24-hour basis 7-days a week.

The Preliminary Plans for this proposed facility will address the high-level of internal building security, including vehicular and pedestrian sallyports, required for such programs. The facility may also have an additional security fence that would separately encircle the new facility within the boundary of the D Facility's secure perimeter. Inmates temporarily housed at the proposed facility would be fully restricted to the new MHCF building for mental health/medical treatment, programming (including recreation), and food service for the duration of their individual treatment.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT: The EIR will identify and describe the potential for the proposed project to affect the resource areas identified as follows. The EIR will analyze these resource areas in more detail and make determinations regarding the significance of potential impacts. If significant impacts are identified, the EIR will include mitigation measures to reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level, if feasible.

- **Aesthetics Light and Glare.** There are no scenic vistas or important scenic resources in the project area, and the proposed project is not expected to degrade the existing visual character of the project site. However, proposed lighting at the project site could create a new source of light or glare so the Draft EIR will evaluate whether night-time views are adversely affected.
- **Agriculture Resources.** There are no agricultural activities in the project area. Construction or operation of the proposed project would not affect agricultural operations or convert any agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. Based on existing information, CDCR does not expect to analyze this issue in detail in the Draft EIR.
- **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** The Draft EIR will describe regional and local air quality near the proposed project. The project's estimated emissions during construction and operation will be compared to emissions thresholds identified by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The Draft EIR will also analyze greenhouse gas emissions and the project's contribution to global climate change following SCAQMD and California Air Resources Board guidance.
- **Biological Resources.** The project area is disturbed, but may support sensitive biological resources, including special-status species adapted to disturbed areas. Construction activities could disturb or harm wildlife or degrade habitat in the project area, if present. The Draft EIR will identify biological resources and analyze potential construction and operational impacts to biological resources.
- **Cultural and Historic Resources.** The project area is previously disturbed as it is currently occupied by a small chapel, swimming pool, and related improvements; accordingly, the potential for buried archeological resources to be present is very low. While the existing structures have been previously determined to not be of either historical significance and/or meet historical architectural standards, the supporting documentation will be reviewed and updated as part of the CEQA process in compliance with Section 5024.5 of the Public Resources Code, as necessary. The potential to salvage materials from the chapel prior to demolition, including existing windows, will be evaluated.
- **Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources.** Soil conditions within the project area are suitable to support the proposed structures. However, a geotechnical report will be prepared to assure soil conditions are suitable and the facility is designed to meet all applicable State building codes including those for seismic safety. While CDCR does not expect there are existing geological

hazards at this site, information from geotechnical studies will be provided in the Draft EIR to confirm suitable geological conditions are present and no significant impacts from project development would occur.

The project area is previously disturbed; accordingly, the potential for paleontological resources to be present is very low. The project site is also not recognized as an area with the potential for important mineral resources. Based on existing information and the condition of the site, CDCR does not expect to discuss these issues in detail in the Draft EIR.

- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials.** The proposed project would not require storage of hazardous materials. Hazardous materials associated with construction equipment (e.g., diesel fuel, lubricants) will be handled according to applicable regulations. CIM is located near the Chino Airport, but because of the relatively low height and other characteristics of the proposed facility the new building is not expected to pose any safety hazard to aircraft. CDCR does not expect to evaluate these issues in the Draft EIR.

All existing structures that would be modified and/or fully demolished will be surveyed for the presence of hazardous materials such as lead-based paint and asbestos-containing materials. The Draft EIR will address the proper identification, removal, and disposal of such materials.

- **Hydrology/Water Quality.** The proposed facility would be constructed on a fully developed site within prison grounds. It would not significantly alter local drainage patterns, exacerbate erosion, affect storm water discharges and/or alter the potential for flooding within or adjacent to CIM grounds. Based on existing information, CDCR does not expect to discuss this issue in detail in the Draft EIR.
- **Land Use/Planning.** CIM is located near the Chino Airport. The Draft EIR will evaluate the proposed project's compatibility with the on-going operation of the airport and the airport's land use plan. However, since the project area is within an existing State correctional facility, CDCR does not expect to discuss the issue of land use compatibility in detail in the Draft EIR.
- **Noise.** The proposed project site is not proximate to any sensitive receptors and construction would be limited to day-time hours. Traffic associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project is not expected to substantially increase noise on surrounding roadways and in adjacent communities. The Draft EIR will address the noise of potential extended-duration construction work, such as on weekends.
- **Population/Housing.** The proposed project region has a population of several million people; employment associated with the proposed project is not expected to be sufficient to create a demand for new housing. The proposed project would not displace any people or existing housing. Based on existing information, CDCR does not expect to discuss this issue in detail in the Draft EIR.

- **Public Services/Schools.** Because the proposed project would be located within the secure boundaries of an existing State correctional facility, public safety and fire protection would continue to be provided by CDCR personnel. Existing emergency community notification procedures would be maintained and continue to be coordinated with local public safety agencies. The proposed project is also not expected to increase demand for local school facilities. Based on existing information, CDCR does not expect to discuss these issues in detail in the Draft EIR.
- **Recreation.** The proposed project is not expected to increase the demand for recreational facilities in the region or result in a substantial increase in the use of existing public recreational facilities. Operation of the project would require the addition of approximately 170 new staff that are expected to live in the Inland Empire, Los Angeles County, and other communities. The proposed project does not involve construction of any new public recreation facilities. Based on existing information, CDCR does not expect to discuss this issue in detail in the Draft EIR.
- **Transportation/Traffic.** The Draft EIR will address existing traffic conditions, identify daily and peak hour trips attributable to the proposed project, and analyze any impacts to traffic and transportation during construction and operation of the new facility.
- **Tribal Cultural Resources.** CDCR will consult with interested Tribes as required by Assembly Bill 52. The process and results of the consultation, including identification of Tribal Cultural Resources and potential impacts to these resources, will be described in the Draft EIR.
- **Utilities/Service Systems.** The Draft EIR will analyze the current capacity and adequacy of the CIM water and wastewater systems to serve the operation of proposed MHCF project. CIM, including the project site, are currently served by electrical, natural gas and solid waste services; the proposed project is not expected to exceed capacities of these utilities. However, the Draft EIR will provide information and analysis of the ability of the CIM utility system to meet the additional demands of this new facility.

Other CEQA issues that will be addressed in the EIR include alternatives, growth inducement, energy consumption, and cumulative impacts.

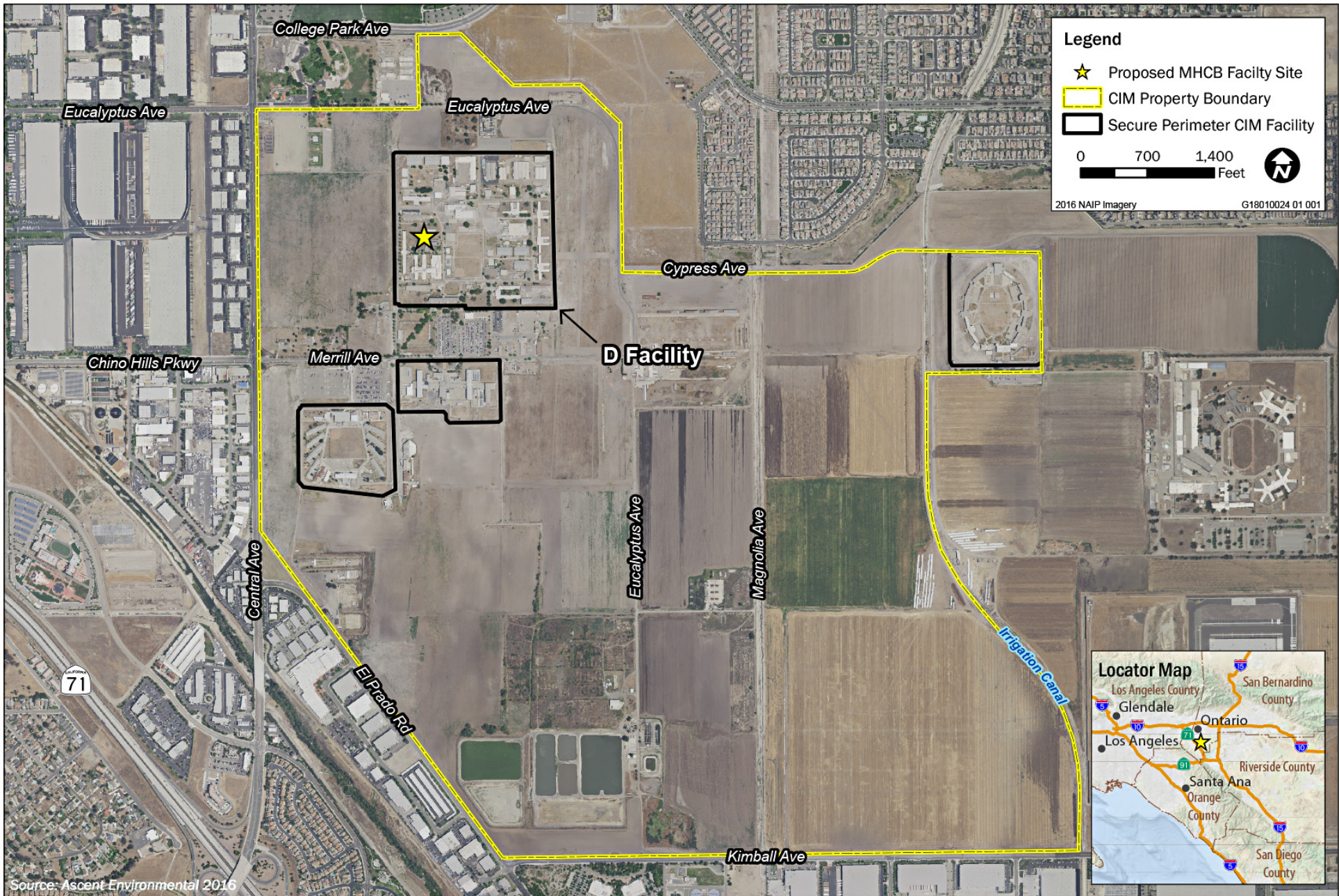


Exhibit 1 Project Location

