



**Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report  
And Notice of Scoping Meeting; Proposed Los Angeles County  
Consolidated Correctional Treatment Facility Project (proposed  
on-site replacement of Men's Central Jail)  
County of Los Angeles**

**DATE:** June 17, 2015

**TO:** State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and Interested Individuals and Organizations

**FROM:** County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for a Proposed Los Angeles County Consolidated Correctional Treatment Facility Project and Notice of Scoping Meeting Date and Location in Los Angeles, California

The County of Los Angeles ("County") will be the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and will prepare an environmental impact report ("EIR") for the proposed Consolidated Correctional Treatment Facility ("CCTF"), a proposed on-site modernized replacement of the County's Men's Central Jail ("MCJ"), called the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project will be a state-of-the-art correctional facility providing mental health, substance use disorder, and medical treatment, and educational programs and reentry counseling to reduce recidivism and connect inmates with community resources upon their release. By distributing this Notice of Preparation ("NOP"), the County is seeking input from responsible and trustee agencies, other agencies required to receive this notice, and from the State Office of Planning and Research.

The County is also extending the outreach for early public consultation with other interested parties, members of the public and interested organizations regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be addressed in an EIR, a process called "scoping" an EIR. The EIR will also be the environmental document for responsible and trustee agencies when considering any discretionary approvals related to the Proposed Project. Scoping can be helpful to the County in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be addressed in an EIR and in eliminating from detailed study those issues determined to be not important for this analysis.

The County requests that any potential responsible or trustee agencies responding to this NOP reply in a manner consistent with Section 15082(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, which requires specificity of comments related to the agencies' statutory responsibilities, and which allows for the submittal of any comments and/or input in response to this notice no later than 30 days after receipt of the NOP. The County will accept comments from these agencies and others regarding this NOP through the close of business, **July 17, 2015**.

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:** Pursuant to the California Public Resources Code Section 21803.9 requirement for a project of regional or area-wide significance, the County will conduct a public scoping meeting. This meeting will provide a public forum for information dissemination and dialogue regarding the components of the Proposed Project, and the scope and content of the environmental information to be addressed and the process for the Draft EIR. While staff will summarize the issues raised at these meetings, anyone wishing to make formal scoping comments on the scope of issues or content of the Draft EIR must do so in writing. A later public notice and comment process will take place during the public circulation of a Draft EIR for the Proposed Project. You may send a written response on this scoping notice by the deadline date of July 17, 2015 without attending the scoping meeting. The mail, email and fax addresses for scoping comments are at the end of this notice.

The public scoping meeting will be held at the time and location listed below:

**Date:** June 30, 2015  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Los Angeles County Hall of Records  
320 West Temple Street  
Room 150  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

## 1. PROJECT LOCATION

The Proposed Project is located on a 17.7-acre site owned by the County and bordered by Bauchet Street to the east, N. Vignes Street to the south, and train tracks to the west and north in the City of Los Angeles ("Project Site") (see Figure 1, *Project Location*). The Project Site is occupied by the existing County MCJ with support facilities and the Central Arraignment Court. The MCJ site is a highly developed operating jail site. Across Bauchet Street southeast of the Project Site is the County-owned Twin Towers Correctional Facility ("TTCF") consisting of two jail towers, the Inmate Reception Center and the Correctional Treatment Center. The proposed project would also include the Spring Street Parking Structure to be located on a 1.66 acre site at 725, 739, and 747 North Spring Street, between Alpine and Ord Streets currently occupied by a County-owned surface parking lot.

## 2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Project Site is currently developed with 1960s- and 1970s-era jail facilities with a combined building area of 935,150 square feet and 5,673 beds housing high and medium security male inmates. The existing MCJ and support facilities proposed to be demolished consist of the Central Arraignment Court, 2-story parking structure, 5-story 1970's-era jail facility, 4-story parking structure and bus maintenance facility, inmate court transportation facility ("Court Line") and bus parking area, 6-story 1960's-era jail facility, infirmary, central heating plant, and an enclosed bridge connection between MCJ and TTCF that spans across Bauchet Street.

## 3. PROPOSED PROJECT

The County proposes to reuse the existing MCJ site to develop and operate a new, not-to-exceed 4,860-bed CCTF with other Sheriff and support functions, totaling approximately 2.4 million square feet. At build-out, the CCTF would consist of a new correctional treatment facility to provide mental health, substance use disorder, medical treatment and educational programs for male and female inmates. The County is continuing to evaluate the future demand for these inmate services, and the proposed CCTF facility will be designed to provide sufficient bed capacity based on updated projections of eligible inmate populations which will be described in the Draft EIR and which will be subject to public review. The new facility would include an administration and support center, new Arraignment Court, new public plaza, new loading/kitchen, new central plant, new parking structure, Court Line and bus queuing area, new loop road, new vehicle driveway to Vignes Street, closure of public traffic on Bauchet Street beyond entry to the new parking structure, and new bridge or tunnel connection under Bauchet Street to TTCF. Demolition and new construction will be phased to minimize impacts to ongoing operations.

Based on the adopted Board of Supervisors policy, the Proposed Project would be designed to achieve the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating (or a successor equivalent standard established by the U.S. Green Building Council) or better. The CCTF would be comprised of multiple mid- and high-rise buildings up to 27 stories and would not exceed 400 feet in height. The CCTF access for staff, visitors, Court Line, and deliveries would continue to occur via Bauchet Street.

The Proposed Project construction would require phased demolition of the existing MCJ facilities and pre-demolition preparation, such as interim moves of inmates to other jail facilities with temporary housing capacity, and relocation of arraignment court functions, Court Line and related services to a temporary location or locations. The Proposed Project also includes off-site construction of an expanded multi-story parking structure at a 1.66-acre County-owned surface parking lot site located at 725, 739, and 747 North Spring Street, between Alpine Street and Ord Street ("Spring Street Parking Structure Site") to be used for general, current and long-term County and public parking needs, including interim parking uses during construction of area projects. The multi-story parking structure would have 4 to 5 above-grade levels and one below-grade level, and provide approximately 1,200 to 1,500 spaces. During construction of the CCTF, this parking structure could be used by employees and visitors to TTCF and the 1960s-era portion of MCJ that would remain in operation during phased demolition and new construction.

Upon completion of the Proposed Project, male and female inmates within the County jail system requiring the most comprehensive mental health treatment, ranging from acute crisis care to high and medium observation/step down care, will be housed at CCTF. Male and female inmates requiring medical nursing care will also be housed and treated at CCTF. The substance use disorder program at CCTF will be provided to select male and female inmates serving sentences prior to their release. CCTF will also include high security housing for the most serious offenders and inmates requiring separation from the general population for their own protection. All inmates with co-occurring disorders, including high security, will be provided multiple treatment and programs as required. All inmates will be provided opportunities in the County's Education Based Incarceration program and reentry counseling.

Compared to the 1960's and 1970's when MCJ was built, current California state laws for design and operation of jails require more square feet per inmate in cells, dormitories, dayrooms, and recreation yards, more program and recreation time, and more windows and natural daylighting. Since the 1970's and 1980's when state and national legislative and judicial initiatives curtailed institutionalization of mentally ill people without providing compensating treatment programs and facilities, there has been an explosion of un- and undertreated mental illness in the County. An increasingly large proportion of mentally ill people have become involved in the criminal justice system and incarcerated in County jails. The proposed CCTF is part of a new County initiative to provide improved treatment facilities within jail for inmates who are in an acute crisis, who are held for serious offenses, or have failed their diversion or conditions of release.

The greater size and cost of the proposed CCTF compared to traditional jails reflects new, improved, evidence-based jail facility standards, expanded mental health, substance abuse, and medical treatment and program spaces, as well as offices and support areas for a significantly expanded treatment and program staff. The proposed CCTF will also incorporate rigorous suicide prevention measures, enhanced interior daylighting, and other evidence-based design measures to improve inmate medical and mental health.

#### **4. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

##### **Environmental Issues:**

As authorized by the State CEQA Guidelines, based on preliminary review, the County determined that it would prepare an EIR for the Proposed Project, and therefore it is beginning work directly on the EIR process and will focus on potentially significant effects of the Proposed Project in that EIR, while briefly indicating the reasons that other effects will not be potentially significant. An Initial Study is not required to determine that an EIR will be prepared and is therefore not attached. The County EIR will discuss potential environmental impacts of the

Proposed Project including potential pre-construction, construction, and operations impacts. It will also briefly explain the reasons to find the following impact areas not potentially significant for this Proposed Project: Agriculture/Forestry Resources, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, and Recreation, while analyzing the following topics in more detail in the EIR: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology/Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Noise, Public Services, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities/Service Systems.

The Draft EIR will address the short- and long-term effects of the Proposed Project on the environment. Mitigation measures will be proposed for impacts that are determined to be potentially significant. A mitigation monitoring program will also be developed for any mitigation measures incorporated in the analysis. In addition, the Draft EIR will describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Project, or to its location, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project.

**SCOPING REVIEW PERIOD:** This NOP will be available for review from **June 17, 2015**, to **July 17, 2015** on the County of Los Angeles website at [ftp://dpwftp.co.la.ca.us/pub/pmd/MenCentralJailRepl\\_CCTF](ftp://dpwftp.co.la.ca.us/pub/pmd/MenCentralJailRepl_CCTF). Hardcopies will be available at the following locations:

County of Los Angeles Public Information Office Room 358, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 W. Temple Street Los Angeles 90012	Anthony Quinn Branch Library 3965 Cesar E. Chavez Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90063
Chinatown Branch Library 639 N. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012	Little Tokyo Branch Library 203 S. Los Angeles Street Los Angeles, CA 90012
Echo Park Branch Library 1410 W. Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90026	Central Library 630 W. 5th Street Los Angeles, CA 90071

The County is seeking input from both agencies and members of the public on the scope and content of the environmental information and analysis in the EIR. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, written comments must be sent via mail, e-mail, or fax no later than 5:00 PM on **July 17, 2015**. Please send your comments at the earliest possible date and any parties interested in receiving information in the future related to the Proposed Project EIR may submit their names and mailing addresses to the same contact address:

Attn: Downtown Jail EIR  
 Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office  
 Capital Projects/Debt Management  
 500 West Temple Street, Rm 754  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012  
[Environmental@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:Environmental@ceo.lacounty.gov)  
 FAX (213) 626-7827

..