

RUSD STEM Education Center

Draft Environmental Impact Report

Public Hearing

**Thank you
for joining.
We will
get started
shortly.**

APRIL 16, 2024

Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- Purpose of the RUSD Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Center Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Public Hearing
- STEM Education Center Project Summary
- STEM Education Center Draft EIR Summary
- Public Comments



RUSD

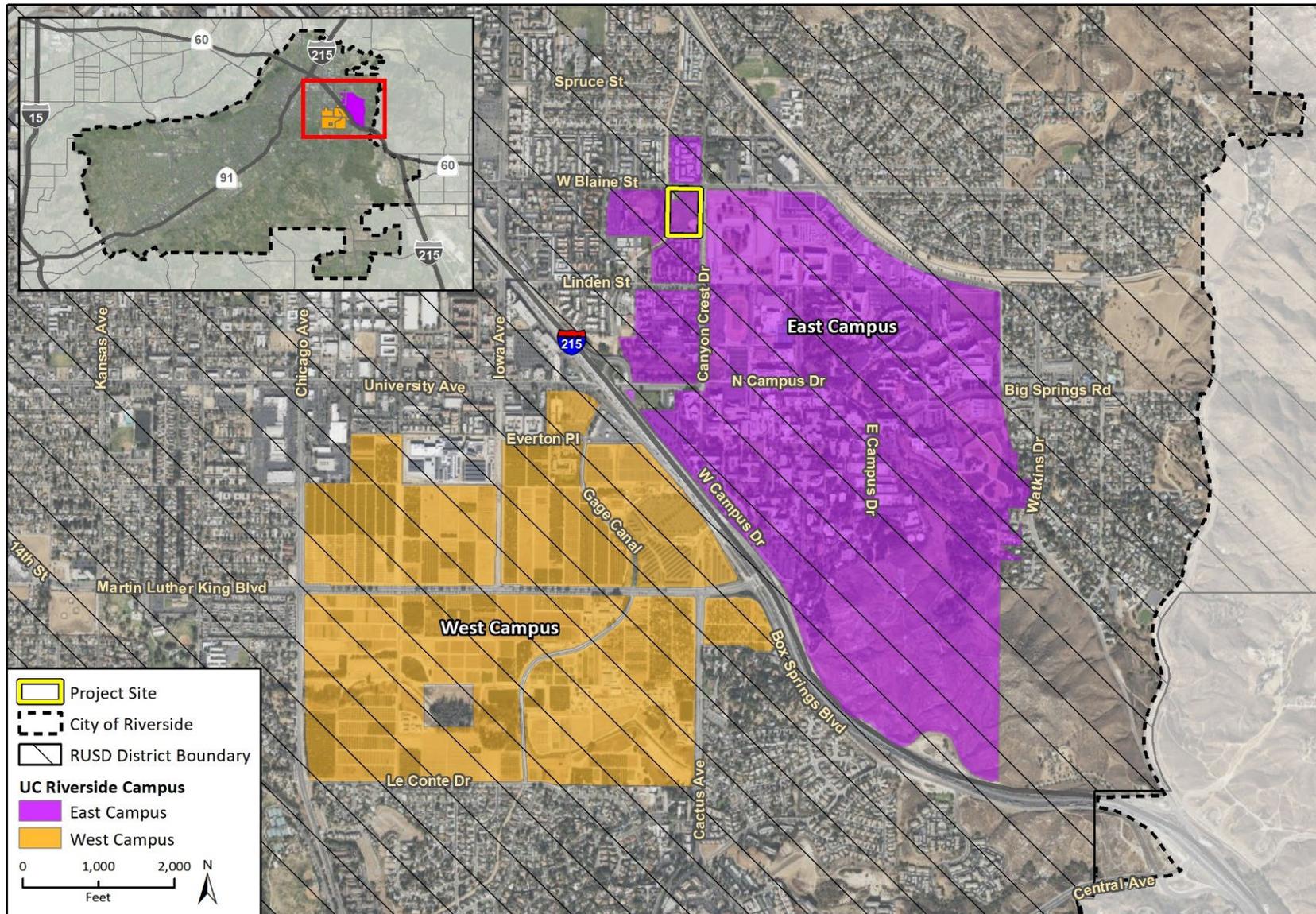
UC RIVERSIDE

Public Hearing on the Draft EIR for the STEM Education Center

- **The purpose of this public hearing is to receive comments on the Draft EIR for the STEM Education Center.** Please limit your remarks to comments on the Draft EIR.
- **As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA),** UC Riverside and RUSD will respond to all comments in writing, and therefore, will not respond verbally to comments tonight or engage in a dialogue or discussion.

STEM Education Center Project Summary

UC Riverside Campus Context



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

Fig 2 Project Location

Project Site Location



Project Objectives

- Establish a flagship STEM education facility at a safe and secure location within the RUSD to meet the emerging science, technology, engineering, and mathematics needs and demands of RUSD's service population where students can learn to grow into careers in these fields;
- Promote, foster, and enrich an early college environment through co-location of the STEM education facility with a research and science-based institution such as UCR to facilitate collaboration;
- Improve access for approximately 1,200 RUSD students every school year to a state-of-the-art STEM education facility while limiting disruption to existing RUSD facilities;
- Provide a STEM site to support students in grades 9 through 12, with adequate support spaces, multi-functional indoor and outdoor spaces, amenities, and associated infrastructure while meeting applicable UCR and UC policies and guidelines;
- Enhance the high-school student experience by integrating in-class academic STEM curriculum with hands-on interactive practicum opportunities on campus and improved student-to-student collaboration;
- Promote environmental and sustainability principles through efficient use of space and thoughtful building and landscape designs that integrate and enhance the existing neighboring communities; and
- Develop the UCR East Campus in a manner compatible with land uses identified in the UCR Long Range Development Plan.



Project Characteristics – STEM Education Center

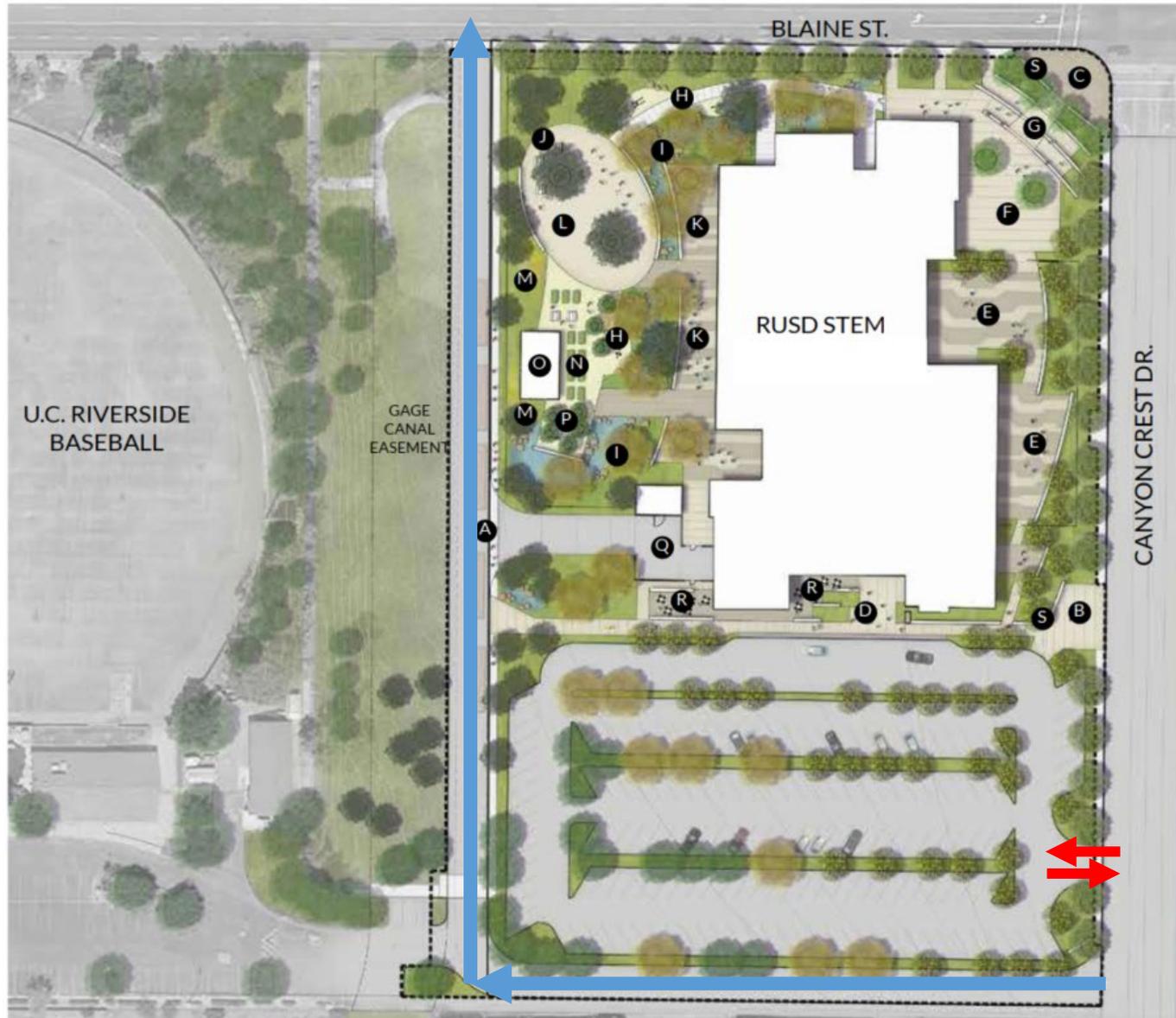
- 80,000 gross square feet
- Three stories & 50 feet tall
- Designed to meet LEED Silver
- 153-space surface parking lot
- Serving grades 9 through 12
- Approximately 800-student capacity (400 full-time students, 800 part-time students)
- Total enrollment of 1,200 students daily
- Approximately 60 faculty and staff



Project Characteristics – STEM Education Center

- Existing STEM facility at former Hyatt Elementary School site to serve grades 5 to 8 only
- Occasional RUSD-specific and community special events held at STEM Education Center during evenings and weekends

Proposed Site Plan



PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- A BUS DROP-OFF
- B CANYON CREST ENTRY
- C UCR CAMPUS ENTRY PLAZA
- D ENTRY PLAZA AND DROP-OFF
- E ROBOTICS TESTING AREA
- F STEM DEMONSTRATION PLAZA
- G AMPHITHEATRE
- H FITNESS EQUIPMENT
- I STORM WATER BASIN
- J STUDY TABLES
- K CLASSROOM PATIOS
- L GRADUATION PLAZA
- M POLLINATOR GARDEN
- N GARDEN BEDS
- O GREENHOUSE
- P TEACHING ORCHARD W/ SEATING
- Q SERVICE YARD
- R LUNCH / CAFE SEATING
- S SIGNAGE
- GAGE CANAL EASEMENT
- LIMIT OF WORK

Proposed Building Elevations



North Elevation

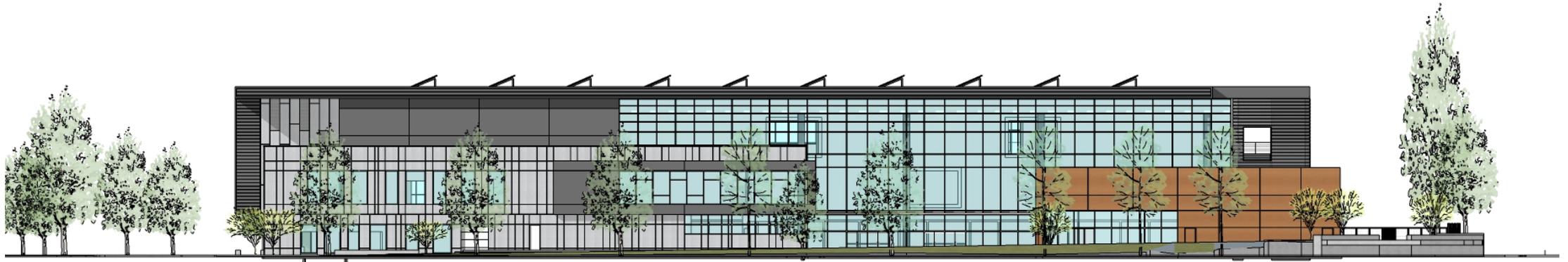


South Elevation

Proposed Building Elevations



West Elevation



East Elevation



Construction Characteristics

- Approximate start date no sooner than 2027 – **Contingent on Obtaining DSA approval and Securing Funding**
- Approximate duration of 32 months
- Removal of existing features, including:
 - Open recreational fields (two baseball diamonds)
 - Ornamental trees and landscaping
 - Lighting
 - Surface parking lot
- Staging/parking within project site
- No soil import/export

STEM Education Center Draft Environmental Impact Report Summary

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Overview

Purposes of CEQA:

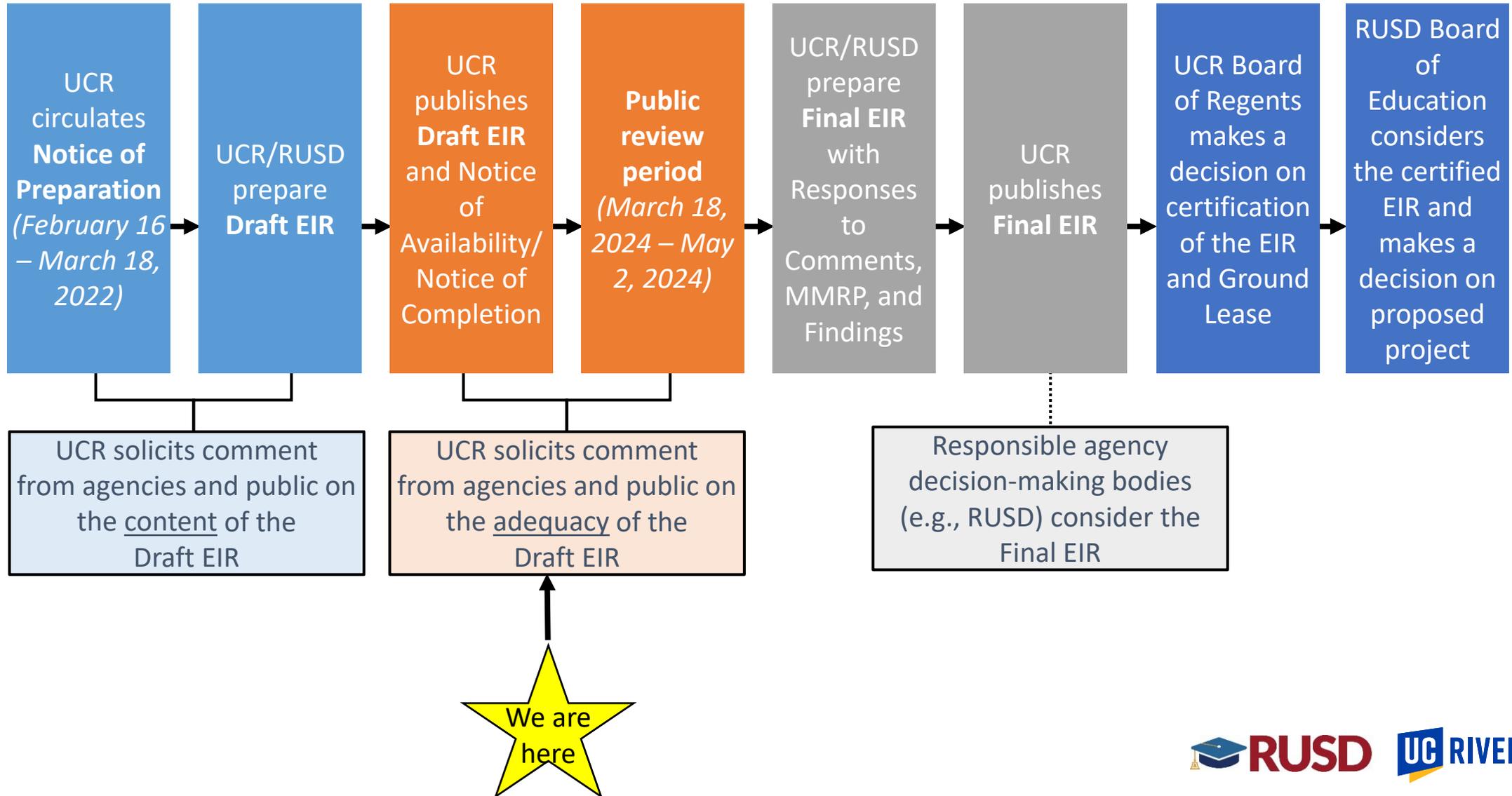
- Inform governmental decision-makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed projects
- Identify ways to avoid or significantly reduce environmental impacts
- Prevent significant, avoidable impacts to the environment by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when those changes are feasible
- Disclose to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved a project if significant environmental effects are involved

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Overview

Purposes of an EIR:

- Provide public agencies and the public in general with detailed information about the likely significant effects of a project on the environment
- Indicate ways that significant effects can be mitigated or avoided
- Identify alternatives to the project

CEQA Environmental Review Process



Environmental Issues Analyzed in the Draft EIR



Draft EIR Conclusions

	Environmental Resource	Project Phase	Mitigation Measure(s)
	Aesthetics – Light and Glare	Construction and Operation	Minimization measures for light and glare from buildings and vehicles
	Biological Resources – Nesting Birds and Special-Status Roosting Bats	Construction and Operation	Pre-construction surveys and avoidance buffers for nesting birds Building design measures to reduce bird strikes Pre-construction surveys and exclusionary methods for roosting bats
	Cultural Resources – Archaeological Resources	Construction	Procedures for unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources
	Geology & Soils – Paleontological Resources	Construction	Paleontological resources monitoring and mitigation program
	Hazards & Hazardous Materials / Transportation / Wildfire – Emergency Response & Evacuation Plans	Construction	Construction management plan
	Noise – Construction Noise	Construction	Construction noise reduction measures
	Tribal Cultural Resources	Construction	Procedures for unanticipated discoveries of tribal cultural resources Tribal cultural resources monitoring and construction worker training

Project Alternatives

Alternative Name	Description	Additional STEM Enrollment Capacity (Grades 9-12)	Joint Use Agreement with City for Use of Recreational Fields Terminated?
1 No Project	Project site remains as is	0 students	Yes
2 Modified Enrollment	Same physical development with fewer full-time students and more part-time students	- 390 full-time students - 820 part-time students - 800 full-time equivalent students - 1,210 total students	Yes
3 Renovation/ Expansion of Existing STEM Academy at Mt. Vernon Site	New campus or modernization of current campus of existing STEM Academy at 4466 Mt. Vernon Avenue	200 students	Yes

Environmentally Superior Alternative

Alternative 2: Modified Enrollment

- Meets project objectives
- Results in a reduction of impacts compared to the proposed project – air quality, energy, GHG emissions, and transportation because of fewer students individually dropped off/driving to school and more students being bussed
- However, does not allow RUSD to serve the same full-time student population

How to Review the Draft EIR and Appendices

Electronically

- Available online at: <https://pdc.ucr.edu/environmental-planning-ceqa>
- USB/flash drive can be provided upon request

Hardcopies

- Hardcopy is available at the **UCR Planning, Design & Construction office** – 1223 University Avenue Suite 240
Riverside, CA 92507,
- **RUSD Planning and Development Office** – 3070 Washington
Street Riverside, CA 92504,
- **Riverside Main Library** – 3900 Mission Inn Avenue Riverside, CA
92501

Public Hearing Housekeeping

- If you would like to speak, please submit a speaker card and hand it to Belen.
- Belen will announce your name and the next speaker in queue.
- Prior to speaking please, state your name (and whether you are affiliated with an association or organization) before providing your comment.
- Each speaker will have 2 minutes to provide comments.
- If you speak, your comments will be transcribed and addressed in the Final EIR.
- As a reminder, please speak slowly and clearly to ensure the audience can hear and audio is able to capture your comments.

Public Comments on the Draft EIR

After the public hearing, submit any written comments via US Mail to:

Stephanie Tang, Assistant Director of Campus Planning

University of California, Riverside

Planning, Design & Construction

1223 University Avenue, Suite 240

Riverside, California 92507

Or Via Email To:

ceqa@ucr.edu

Please include your Name, Address, Phone Number, and Email Address

Include as the subject: STEM Education Center EIR

All comments should be submitted by May 2, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Draft EIR Public Review Period:

March 18, 2024 – May 2, 2024

This slide deck is available online at:

<https://pdc.ucr.edu/environmental-planning-ceqa>

Recorded presentation will be made available at:

<https://pdc.ucr.edu/environmental-planning-ceqa>

<https://bit.ly/3T1f2G8>

Thank you