

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT
MASTER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FARM OF THE FUTURE
MASTER PLAN AND FINAL MASTER EIR**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hills Community College District in its role as Lead Agency has completed a Draft Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) for the project described below and invites comments on the adequacy and completeness of the environmental analyses and mitigation measures described in the Draft MEIR.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: The West Hills Community College District is proposing to provide additional agricultural and related facilities to meet educational needs of the students at West Hills College Coalinga. The WHCCD has developed a Master Plan to address the educational facilities related to agriculture and associated sciences that will be needed over the next twenty years. To comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provisions, a MEIR will be used to identify all potential environmental impacts associated with the Farm of the Future Master Plan. The MEIR will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines specified in §21100 of the CEQA *Guidelines*.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Farm of the Future Master Plan is situated in the City of Coalinga, located in Pleasant Valley in Fresno County. The proposed project site is located approximately three miles north of the Coalinga city center, within the City's existing city limits, and is accessed by SR 33/198 and north on West Gale Avenue. The Farm of the Future campus is approximately 2.5 miles from the main college campus.

PROJECT COMPONENTS: The WHCCD is proposing the construction of multiple structures and related site improvements for use by college students, faculty and other staff, as well as agricultural land and required parking. The master site plan includes shops, offices; classrooms, labs; an indoor pavilion; an outdoor rodeo arena with support arenas and staging areas; permanent structures, farm equipment buildings; a storage facility for fuel and flammable materials; an area for student animal stalls and a hay yard; parking area; and a large area reserved for row crops, pasture and future animal facilities. The agricultural uses (pasture, row crops) and temporary classrooms and storage facilities for tractors and equipment, and some of the outdoor arena facilities exist already at the Farm of the Future and are not a part of the proposed Master Plan. The plan also includes upgrading water and wastewater lines as necessary, upgrading phone and electrical facilities, and installing water re-use piping as applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: The Draft MEIR has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the State Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA. The MEIR prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation

measures, residual impacts, and monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. Potential significant effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: Aesthetic Resources; Agricultural Resources; Air Quality and Climate Change; Biological Resources; Land Use, Noise; and, Traffic and Circulation.

PUBLIC HEARING: The West Hills Community College District will conduct a public hearing on the Master Plan and the Final MEIR on November 17, 2009. The public hearing will be held at the District Office, 9900 Cody Street, Coalinga, CA, at 3:00 pm. *All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing and to present written comments prior to the hearing date or oral comments at the public hearing. Any comments on the Draft MEIR received after the close of comment period for the Draft MEIR will be submitted at the public hearing.*

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Draft MEIR will be circulated for agency and public review during a **45-day public review period** which begins on August 10, 2009, and ends on September 25, 2009. Comments must be received by **5:00 P.M. on September 25, 2009**. Copies of the Draft MEIR will be available at the *West Hills Community College District offices at 9800 Cody Street, Coalinga, CA 93210, and on line at www.westhillscollege.com.*

HOW TO COMMENT: On behalf of the lead agency, comments on the Draft MEIR shall be addressed to:

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