

Seattle Community College

MIMP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process

- Three Major Steps in the EIS Process:
- EIS Scoping
 - Draft EIS
 - Final EIS

What is EIS Scoping?

- This was the first step in the EIS process.
- The purpose of scoping is to narrow the focus of the EIS to just address:
 - probable significant environmental issues; and
 - identify the range of alternatives that should be analyzed in the EIS.
- EIS Scoping helps the College decide what issues and alternatives to analyze in the Draft EIS.
- Scoping provides notice to agencies, organizations and the public that an EIS will be prepared for the proposed project.

What is the Draft EIS?

- The Draft EIS is the College's initial comprehensive analysis of probable significant environmental impacts of the alternatives. Key sections of the Draft EIS include:
 - Fact Sheet
 - *Section I* – Summary
 - *Section II* -- Description of the Proposed Master Plan and Alternatives
 - *Section III* – Affected Environment, Significant Impacts, Mitigation Measures and Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

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Section III could potentially contain detailed analysis of the following environmental parameters (dependent upon the results of the Scoping Process):

- Earth
- Air Quality
- Water
- Plants & Animals
- Noise
- Land Use
- Aesthetics
- Historic and Cultural Preservation
- Transportation
- Public Services & Utilities

Analysis in Section III describes

- existing conditions
 - impacts of the Proposed Master Plan and alternatives
 - mitigation measures
 - unavoidable adverse impacts
- The Draft EIS is distributed to agencies (federal, state, regional, City), organizations, and the public for a review and comment period.
 - A public meeting will be held following issuance of the Draft EIS to gather comments regarding the Draft EIS.

What is the Final EIS?

- The Final EIS is the third and final part of the EIS process.
- The Final EIS combines the Draft EIS with:
 - changes or clarifications to the scope of the project since the Draft EIS was issued;
 - revisions or clarifications to the analysis of impacts that was contained in the Draft EIS; and
 - responses to written comments and public testimony that was received on the Draft EIS from agencies, organizations and individuals
- The Final EIS is distributed to the same recipients of the Draft EIS and notice of availability is sent to organizations and individuals that commented on the Draft EIS.

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- In general, the EIS is an objective, impartial evaluation of the environmental consequences of the proposed project. The EIS is:
 - a planning tool that is used by the College, other agencies and the public in the decision-making process;
 - it identifies and evaluates probable significant environmental impacts of each of the alternatives;
 - it identifies measures that, if implemented, could mitigate the impacts that are identified in the Final EIS;
 - it identifies unavoidable adverse impacts of the project;
 - it evaluates direct, indirect, cumulative and construction-related impacts; and
 - the EIS does not authorize a specific action -- nor does it recommend for or against a particular course of action.