

CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT REVISED NOTICE OF PREPARATION

FROM: CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO

Development Services Department

300 North "D" Street

San Bernardino, CA 92418-0001

TO: Responsible and Trustee

Agents/Interested Organizations and

Individuals

SUBJECT: Revised Notice of Preparation for a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SCH# 2007071155)

The City of San Bernardino will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a subsequent environmental impact report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of the Public as to the scope and content of the environmental information that should be considered in connection with the proposed project. **Note: This is a revised NOP - comments on the original NOP will also be included with the Subsequent EIR.**

The proposed project, **University Hills Specific Plan** (UHSP), is a subsequent project to the previously approved Paradise Hills Specific Plan and Certified EIR of 1993 (SCH# 91012055); a brief project description is presented below. The City originally circulated the NOP for this project from July 27 to August 27, 2007 – the original NOP identified the CEQA document to be prepared for this project as a Supplemental EIR to the Paradise Hills EIR. The City has since decided that the most appropriate CEQA document for this project is a **Subsequent EIR**. No Initial Study has been prepared per Section 15081 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The probable environmental impacts associated with the proposed Specific Plan will be addressed independently in this EIR including the following environmental issues:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality*
- Biological Resources*
- Cultural Resources*
- Geology and Soils*
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials*
- Hydrology and Water Resources*

- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise*
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Traffic and Circulation*
- Utilities*

Copies are also available for public review from 9 AM to 5 PM at the following locations:

- San Bernardino City Hall, Development Services Department, 300 N. "D" Street, 3rd Floor, San Bernardino
- San Bernardino City Library, 555 W. Sixth Street, San Bernardino (909) 981-8201.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than May 27, 2008. Please send written comments to the Development Services Department, at the address noted above, attention: Terri Rahhal, City Planner. Please include your name and address with your comments.

In accordance with State requirements, a **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING** will be held on May 7th at 2:00 PM in the Economic Development Agency Meeting Room located at 201 North "E" Street Suite 301, San Bernardino, California 92401. This meeting is for agencies and the public to identify issues to be addressed in the EIR.

Project Title: University Hills Specific Plan - Environmental Impact Report

Project Applicant: Inland Communities Corporation

1801 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1205

Los Angeles, CA 90067

^{*} Technical studies have been or are being prepared including surveys for CA Gnatcatcher and SB Kangaroo rat, hydrology/drainage, traffic, water supply, sewer study, and a water quality management plan.

Project Description:

A development project known as the Paradise Hills Specific Plan was approved by the City of San Bernardino in 1993 (SCH# 91012055). Due to economic conditions, the project was never built. Recently, the project has been extensively revised to cluster development south of the San Andreas Fault which crosses the property, eliminate development in Upper Badger Canyon and create a land plan that ebraces the California State University at San Bernardino (CSUSB). A new project called the University Hills Specific Plan (UHSP) has been proposed on this property and consists of 404.3 total acres with 21% or 85.6 net acres devoted to residential uses. A total of 980 units are proposed with a gross density of 2.4 dwelling units per acre (980 units divided by 404.3 acres) and a net density of 6.2 units per acre excluding natural open space and parks (980 units divided by 159.2 acres).

The UHSP contains 8.1 acres of parks, a 2.2-acre community clubhouse with a pool, tennis courts and other active amenities, a 5 acre linear park along Badger Creek, an internal pedestrian/walking trails system that connect to a multi-purpose trail emulating the Chestnut Trail, and 235 acres of natural open space that is proposed to be used by the nearby California State University at San Bernardino as a "land laboratory".

The UHSP project contains 20 Planning Areas plus roads, slopes, etc. Densities within the Planning Areas will range from 0 up to 20 dwelling units per net acre. The following table presents the densities proposed within the UHSP. The highest density proposed on the site (up to 20 dwelling units per net acre) accounts for a total of 30.7 acres or 19% of the residential development area. Sixty of the higher density units will be dedicated to CSUSB as faculty housing exclusive use with deed restriction.

UHSP Proposed Residential Densities (based on City GP Categories)

Land Use	Density Range	Units	Acres
Category	(du/ac)		
LLDR	0 - 3.1	37	14.3
SLDR	3.2 - 9.0	70	10.4
MDAR	9.1 – 15.0	358	30.2
AR	15.1 - 20.0	515	30.7
Total		980	85.6

In order to reduce the development footprint from the original Paradise Hills design, the extent of infrastructure and grading, preserve the natural drainage corridors, and maintain the higher elevations in their natural state, development is proposed to be clustered onto approximately 42% of the site, or 169.5 acres. Development is concentrated on the lower (southern) portion of the site where the slopes are generally below 15% grade. Offsite street improvements include drainage, water, sewer and dry utilities improvements; and a fuel modification zone will also be constructed. Improvements needed on San Bernardino County Flood Control properties will be constructed within a public easement.

Access to the site is proposed from the west via Campus Parkway off of Northpark Blvd. and from the east via Little Mountain Road off of Northpark Blvd.

Existing Conditions:

The project site is located south of the San Bernardino Mountains and is bisected by the wide Badger Canyon. The San Andreas Fault Zone crosses the middle of the site in a general northwest-southeast direction. The southwestern and southeastern portions of the site are situated on a sloping alluvial fan, while the central and northern portions of the site consist of steep slopes associated with Badger Canyon and the San Bernardino Mountains. The site is adjacent to several large detention/debris basins that intercept the majority of the tributary drainage areas and direct runoff away from the project site. These basins are maintained by the San Bernardino County Flood Control District to protect downstream uses.

The planning areas of the proposed project will impact four different vegetation communities; primarily disturbed/ruderal and disturbed coastal sage scrub, and to a much lesser extent, northern mixed chaparral/Riversidean sage scrub mosaic and southern sycamore-alder riparian woodland/southern willow scrub vegetation communities. These communities were significantly impacted by the Old Fire of 2003, and are in the process of recovering at this time. A portion of the site is within critical habitat designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat, although the species has not been found onsite.

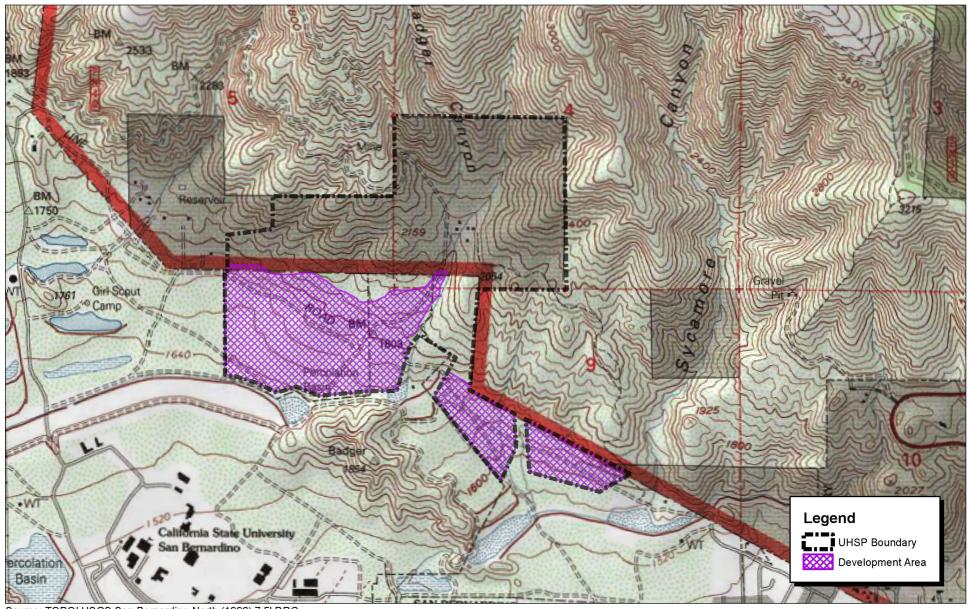
The land to the north, northeast, and northwest lies within the San Bernardino National Forest, while the land along the entire southern border of the site is owned and maintained by the County of San Bernardino for flood control purposes, including several large debris and settling/spreading basins. The California State University at San Bernardino campus lies immediately south of the flood control facilities. A 75-inch pipeline of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District crosses the southern portion of the site in a northwest-southeast direction parallel to but south of the fault zone.

Contact Person for the City:		Terri Rahhal, City	Planner	
Telephone:	909.384.5057			
Signature:	Terri Rahhal, City	y Planner	Date:	April 24, 2008





Exhibit 1 **Regional Location Map**



Source: TOPO! USGS San Bernardino North (1996) 7.5' DRG.



Exhibit 2 USGS Topographic Quadrangle