



FACT SHEET

RUSD STEM High School Update

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the Riverside Unified School District signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreement with University of California, Riverside (UCR) to expand STEM education opportunities for students in Riverside. As part of the agreement, the parties began discussion about the construction of a new, state-of-the-art STEM facility on the campus of UCR.

At the May 15th RUSD Board of Education meeting, District officials, engineers and architects discussed the feasibility of the proposed locations for the STEM school at UCR. The RUSD Board was considering two sites at UCR; "Lot 13" and the "Iowa Avenue Site." Although the Board's original recommendation was to build on Lot 13, after further careful consideration of building design and fiscal impact, they made a recommendation for the Iowa Avenue site at a later date.

Recently, at the July 17th Board Meeting, a term sheet was agreed upon by RUSD and UC's Office of the President (UCOP). The official lease was founded on the term sheet and was to be negotiated over the next six months.

UCR's Chancellor Kim Wilcox will continue to advocate with UCOP to ensure passage of the project by the UC Regents. RUSD will continue to work closely with UCR to create a desirable program that meets the goals of this partnership.

IMPORTANT UPDATE

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has proposed a regulation (DPR 16-004) which limits the proximity and frequency of pesticide application near schools.

Because of changes in State pesticide regulations, RUSD and UCR are collaboratively researching and evaluating alternative locations for construction of the new STEM High School.

Since UCR would be mandated to commit to the proposed pesticide regulation (if passed), this requirement will severely limit the collaborative plans to build a school on the original proposed site, as well as future collaborative endeavors.

DPR 16-004 - PESTICIDE USE NEAR SCHOOL SITES

DPR proposes to adopt sections 6690, 6691, 6692, and 6693 of Title 3, California Code of Regulations. In summary, the proposed action would require growers to notify public K-12 schools, child day care facilities, and county agricultural commissioners when certain pesticide applications made for the production of an agricultural commodity near a school site are planned in the coming year and also a few days prior to the applications. In addition, certain pesticide applications near these school sites will be prohibited at certain times.

NEXT STEPS

UCR is presenting two alternate sites for consideration: **Site 1** is currently used as a softball field and **Site 2** is currently used as a soccer field (See back for site maps). The RUSD Board of Education and key RUSD staff will collaborate with UCOP and review both sites for consideration on Tuesday, August 29, 2017. RUSD will work with UCOP to do proper research and investigate next steps for the future development of the STEM High School.

Additional next steps included hiring STEM personnel, completion of the instructional program and initial design of the facilities.

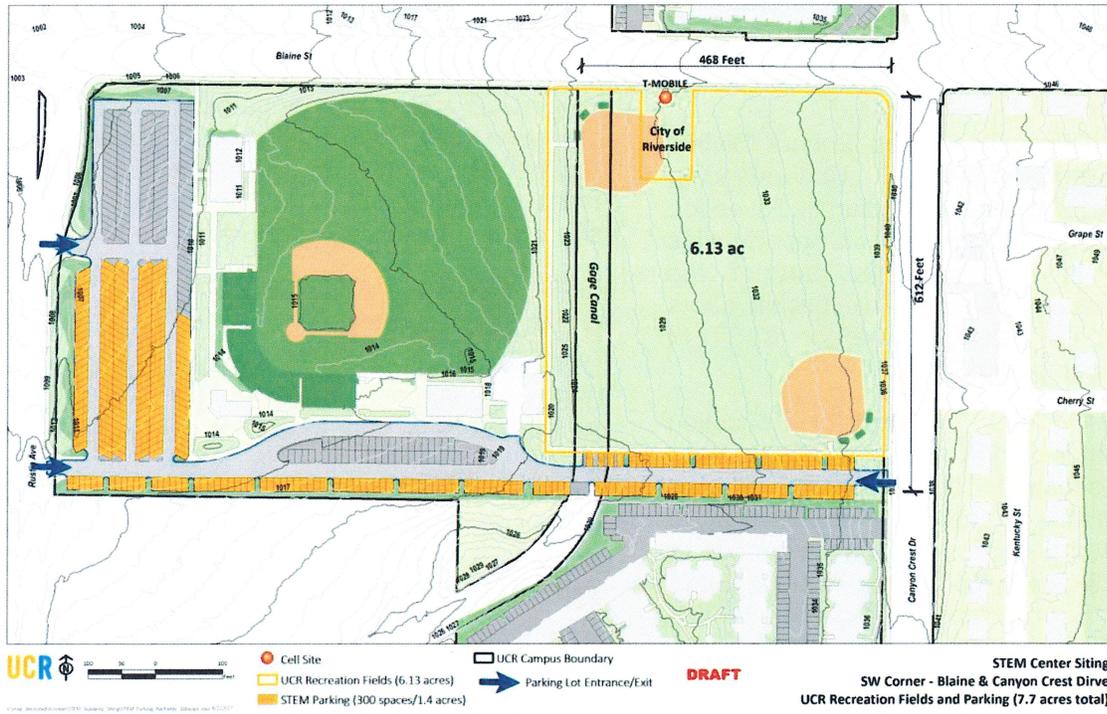
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