

From: [aj](#)  
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Jocelyn \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)  
Cc: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Fewer, Sandra \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)  
Subject: Critique of Planning Dept's 8/10 Response 13 "Tiering" /Impact on City College  
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:20:37 PM

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BOS:

Planning Dept's 8/10/2020 Response 13 attempts to obfuscate by misdirection what the real issue is, which is assessment of impacts on City College. (For your convenience, Response 13 is reproduced, without alteration, below.)

The issue is simple: The Initial Study is supposed to identify potential impacts caused by the Reservoir Project. Once identified, such environmental factors are to be carried forward for thorough assessment in the EIR.

Referring to the PEIR, the Initial Study dismissed impact on City College. Instead of carrying forward potential impact on City College onto the SEIR for thorough study, assessment of harms to City College was improperly killed off before its time by the Initial Study.

Response 13 an exercise in sophistry and answering a question that hadn't been asked. Planning Dept seems to like to put words in other people's mouths and/or misrepresent unfavorable input.

I would guess this phrase is supposed to represent something that I had said: "...and not whether the area plan PEIR adequately analyzed environmental impacts." In point of fact, this represents what Planning Dept's Initial Study had said! It's actually the Initial Study that stated: **"Proposed project would not result in new or substantially more-severe impacts than those identified in the PEIR."**

Very simply, the Reservoir Project's impact on CCSF could not have been addressed in the PEIR because the Reservoir Project was a Tier 2 Long Term Project within the PEIR. I had written about this fact in my 2016 "Road to the Balboa Reservoir Project: The Balboa Park Station Area Plan in Relation to the Reservoir" (contained in my Document 4).

Please see through the duplicity of Response 13.

Sincerely,  
Alvin Ja, appellant

## PLANNING DEPT'S 8/10/2020 RESPONSE 13 (unaltered)

Response 13: The SEIR appropriately tiers from the 2008 area plan PEIR.

The appellant contends that the area plan PEIR didn't identify impacts to City College and therefore this project's SEIR reference to the PEIR as it relates to City College is inappropriate.


The proposed project at the Balboa Reservoir site is considered a later activity under the area plan program, and the SEIR evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed project relative to the program-level impact analysis in the certified PEIR. The SEIR appropriately tiers from the area plan PEIR and analyzes impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project. The RTC document thoroughly responds to comments concerning the tiering of the SEIR from the area plan PEIR in RTC Response CEQA-1 (p. 4.A-3). As stated there, the CEQA Guidelines sections 15152 and 15168 provides general guidance regarding tiering and explains that:

"A later subsequent EIR is required when the initial study or other analysis finds that the later project may **cause significant effects on the environment** that were not adequately addressed in the prior EIR." (emphasis added)

Thus, the SEIR must consider whether the currently proposed project causes significant effects on the environment that were not addressed in the area plan PEIR, and not whether the area plan PEIR adequately analyzed environmental impacts. The SEIR, including initial study, analyzes several topics that were not addressed in the area plan PEIR to address items such as changes in the CEQA Guidelines since PEIR certification in 2008. Examples include tribal cultural resources, mineral resources, agriculture and forest resources, and wildfire.

The SEIR appropriately identifies that the project would not have significant impacts on public services, including City College (e.g., see department response 4 in the August 3, 2020 memo). The appellant does not substantiate how the department did not appropriately tier from the area plan PEIR. For the reasons stated in the SEIR, including but not limited to the responses identified above, the SEIR meets the standards of adequacy of an EIR as set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15151.

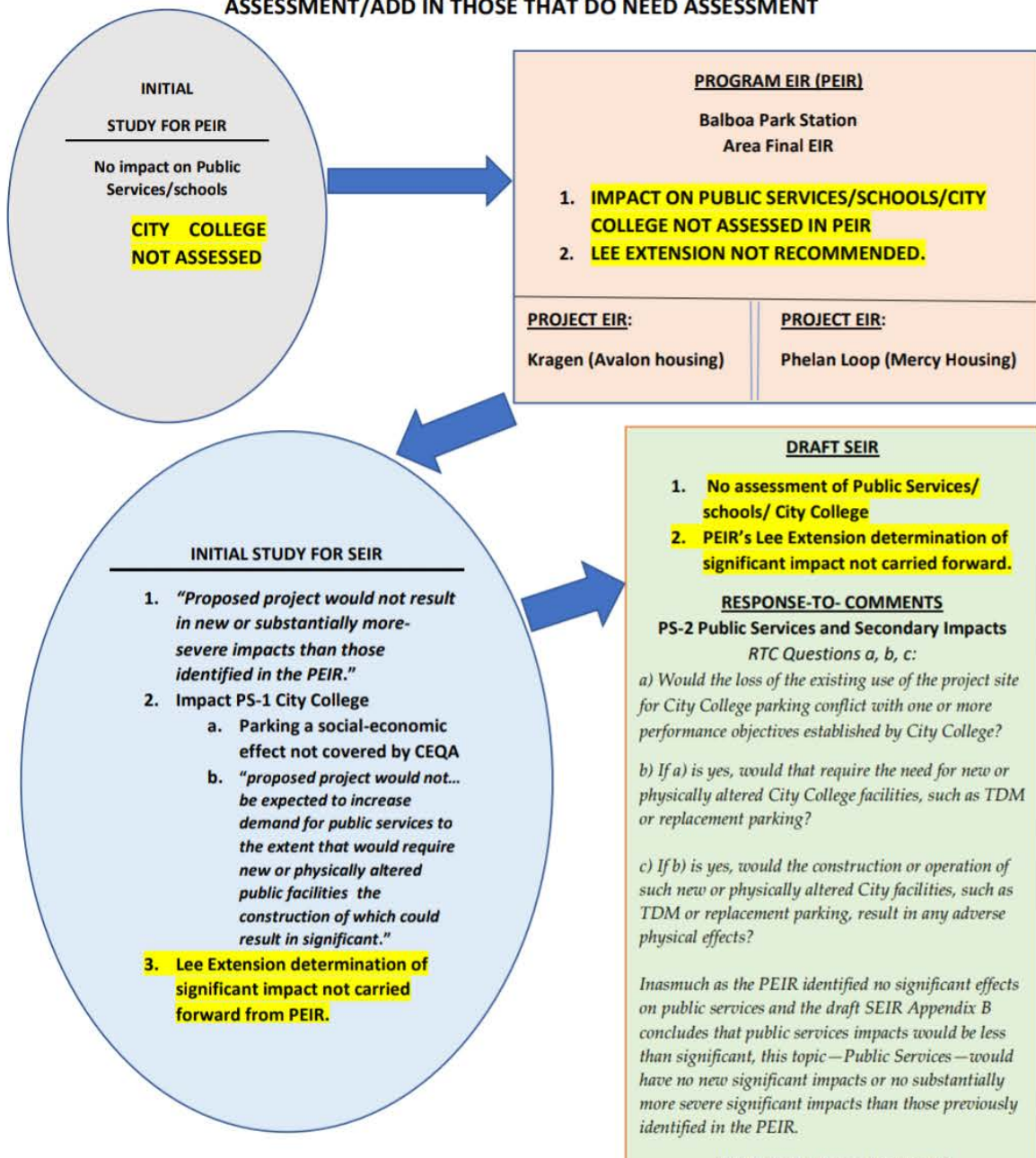
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10:17         



PURPOSE OF INITIAL STUDY: FILTER OUT FACTORS THAT DO NOT NEED ASSESSMENT/ADD IN THOSE THAT DO NEED ASSESSMENT



(Draft SEIR + RTC = Final SEIR)

