2.3.3 NOP Review Period

Prior to the release of the Draft EIR, a 30-day review period is required to allow Responsible Agencies to respond to the Notice of Preparation (NOP).

During this review period, each Responsible Agency should provide information related to its area of statutory responsibility. Agencies should describe the scope and content of the environmental information they expect to see included in the Draft EIR.

The main purpose of this review period is to obtain agency comments about the scope and content of the Draft EIR analyses. Review at this stage offers an opportunity to make changes in project design to eliminate potential impacts.

According to the CEQA Guidelines, if the Responsible Agency does not respond to the NOP within 30 days of receipt, it can be assumed that the Responsible Agency has no response (CEQA Guidelines Section 15103 http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/art8.html). In some instances, agency response may be very important in order to prevent problems from occurring at a later date. In those cases, it may be advisable to contact the agency to discuss the project and to ascertain whether written comments will be forthcoming. If an agency representative states that no written response will be forthcoming because the project will have no significant impacts on resources within the jurisdiction of the Responsible Agency, the conclusion should be confirmed in writing (e.g., letter from campus to agency documenting the telephone call).