



Appendix A
Notice of Preparation and Initial Study

Publish 1X

**Current Planning
Acct#8112-101-444100
(626) 744-7231**

**CITY OF PASADENA
Notice of Preparation and
Environmental Impact Report Scoping Meeting**

The City of Pasadena will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the Pasadena Conference Center Expansion. The project proposes an expansion of the existing Pasadena Conference Center facility located at 300 East Green Street. The expansion includes approximately 46,800 net square feet of new exhibit halls, 10,800 net square feet of new flexible meeting rooms, 7,500 gross square feet of new Administrative Offices, a 24,000 net square foot ballroom, renovation of the existing Conference Building which contains 28,000 net square feet of meeting space, a 9,900 gross square foot kitchen and the addition of "back of house" space such as storage areas, circulation space etc.

The project proposes to demolish the existing Exhibit Hall structure located at the western edge of the site. The building will be replaced with a 160,768 gross square foot structure comprised of meeting rooms and exhibit halls. Building height will vary to accommodate modulation and interior space needs, however the height will be consistent with that permitted per the proposed draft Central District Specific Plan.

The existing Conference Center building located at the east end of the site will remain, and the exterior will be remodeled along with a minor expansion. The existing structure is 49,344 gross square feet and the new structure will be 60,905 gross square feet (net increase of 11,561 square feet). The renovated/expanded structure will house meeting space, and a new kitchen facility. Also proposed is a second, larger addition at the rear of the building to accommodate a 55,653 gross square foot Ballroom building. The new Ballroom building and the remodeled Conference Center building will be architecturally compatible with the new building at the west side of the site. The existing subterranean parking structure will be expanded by a net increase of 98,653 square feet, resulting in 165 new parking spaces (1015 total parking spaces are proposed) and other ancillary spaces, such as mechanical & electrical rooms.

The City will hold a meeting to solicit comments on the scope of the Draft EIR. The meeting is scheduled on:

**Date: Thursday, January 23, 2003
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Permit Center Hearing Room
175 N. Garfield Avenue
(Enter from side entrance on Ramona Avenue)**

The City encourages anyone with an interest to attend this meeting and express their ideas. An environmental initial study has been prepared for the project. The document may be reviewed from January 9 through February 7, 2003 at the Permit Center, at 175 N. Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, California 91109, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday and between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM on Friday. The documents may also be viewed at the Central Library, located at 285 East Walnut Street. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Paige-Saeki at (626) 744-7231.

ADA: For further information on accessibility, and to request a sign language interpreter, an assistive listening system, and materials in Braille, large print or audio cassette, or auxiliary aides and services, please call (626) 744-4009 at least one week in advance.

**CITY OF PASADENA
PLANNING DIVISION
HALE BUILDING
175 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE
PASADENA, CA 91109-7215**

INITIAL STUDY

In accordance with the Environmental Guidelines of the City of Pasadena, this analysis, the associated "Environmental Assessment Form" and supporting data constitute the Initial Study for the subject project. This Initial Study provides the assessment for a determination whether the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

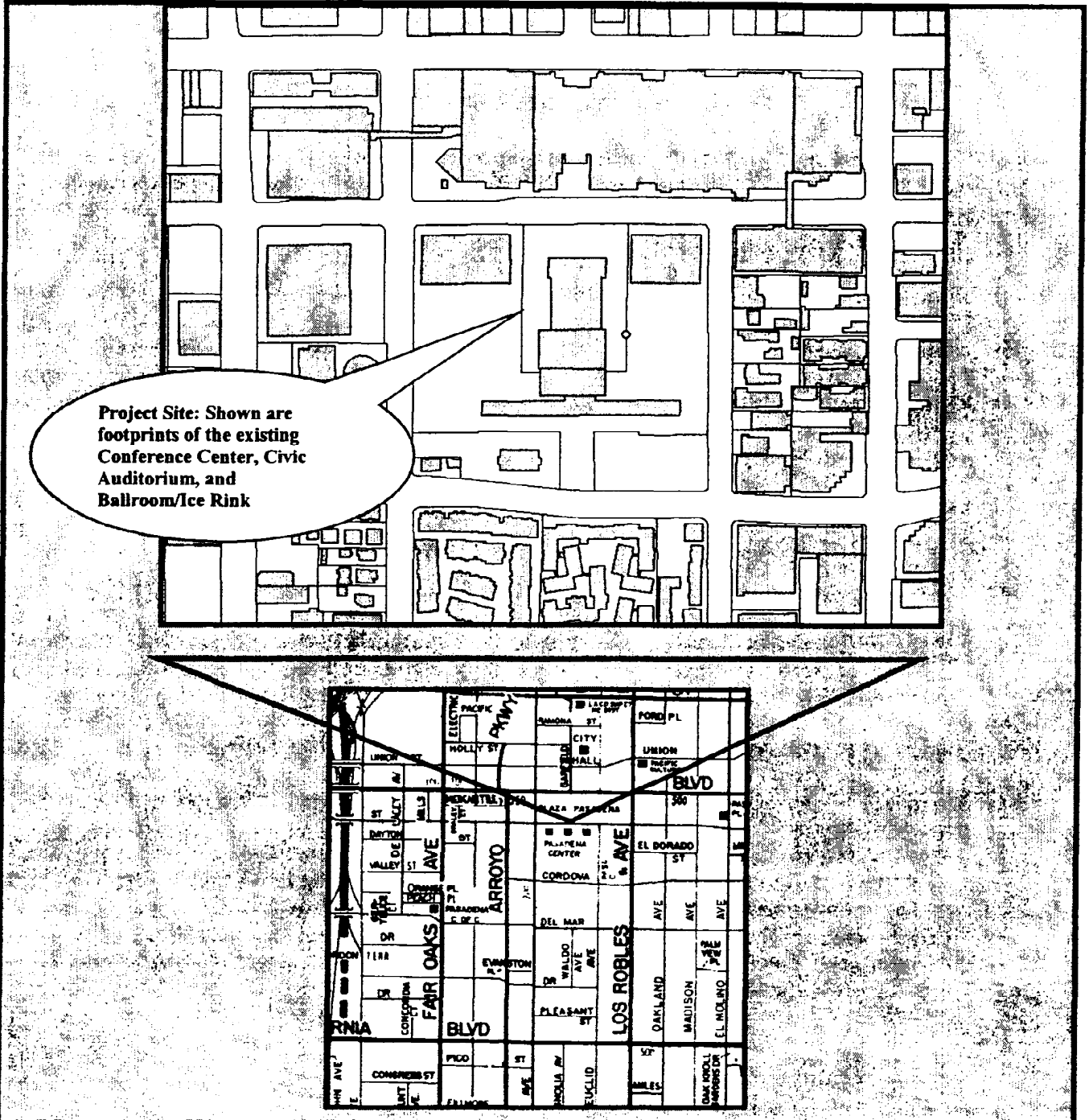
SECTION I - PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** Pasadena Conference Center Expansion
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** City of Pasadena, Current Planning
175 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Jennifer Paige-Saeki
(626) 744-7231
4. **Project Location:** 300 East Green Street (See Figure 1.0)
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Pasadena Center Operating Company
300 East Green Street
Pasadena, CA 91101
6. **General Plan Designation:** Civic Center Specific Plan
7. **Zoning:** CD-3 (Civic Center District)
8. **Description of the Project:** The existing Pasadena Conference Center, a two-story, 42,000 square foot structure with 850 parking spaces, was constructed in the early 1970's. The Exhibition Hall space has a 4,000 square foot lobby and 32,000 square feet of unobstructed floor area. There is parking for 850 vehicles located in two-levels underground. The Pasadena Civic Auditorium is located in the center of the project site, with frontage along Green Street.



PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1.0



Legend



January 2003

Table 1.0 Site Summary	
Building Area	Gross Area Square Footage
Civic Auditorium (existing)	132,397
Proposed Exhibit Hall	160,768
Renovated Conference Building (existing building is 49,344 s.f.)	60,905 (net increase of 11,561 s.f.)
Ballroom & Pre-Function Space	55,653
Ice Rink/Historic Ballroom (existing)	26,092
Total New Area:	227,982
Total Area (New and Existing)	435,815

As summarized in Table 1.0 the project proposes to demolish the existing conference center structure located at the western edge of the site. The building will be replaced with a 160,768 square foot structure comprised of meeting rooms and exhibit halls. Building height will vary to accommodate modulation and interior space needs, however the height will be consistent with that permitted per the draft Central District Specific Plan. The existing Conference Center building located at the east end of the site will remain. As proposed, the structure will be remodeled and expanded. The existing structure is 49,344 square feet and the new structure will be 60,905 square feet (net increase of 11,561 square feet). The new structure will house meeting space, offices, and a new kitchen facility. Also proposed is an addition at the rear of the building to accommodate a 55,653 square foot ballroom and pre-function area. The structure will be remodeled to be architecturally compatible with the new building at the west side of the site.

The expansion includes 57,600 square feet of new exhibit halls; 10,800 square feet of new flexible meeting rooms; a 24,000 square foot ballroom; renovation of the existing Conference Building which contains 28,000 square feet of meeting space; 7,500 square feet of new Administrative Offices and 9,900 square feet of new "back of house" space such as storage areas, circulation space etc. The proposed new net floor area is approximately 228,000 square feet.

The parking area [REDACTED] resulting in a net addition of 165 parking stalls. The resulting total parking on site would be approximately 1,015 spaces. The parking requirements for the conference center use are determined per the Major Project Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that is required for the project. The EIR will examine the appropriate amount of parking for the project which will be analyzed per the CUP.

The new building on the site will maintain the setback along Green Street as that established by the existing Exhibit Hall and Conference Building. The new building is being brought up to grade to engage the vibrant civic center district and welcome pedestrians onto the site. The existing partially subterranean design does not engage the street which is a primary objective for the Civic Center District. As proposed the new building varies in setback for tree protection and to incorporate architectural design features. The tree ordinance states the Design Commission can approve a setback to

protect public trees. A variance may be needed for setbacks not related to tree protection.

There will be no additional area added to the Civic Auditorium. The sloped embankments that presently exist between the parking garage and auditorium will be filled in to Plaza Level to allow plaza and landscape areas to extend. These court extensions will increase the amount of public space surrounding the Civic Auditorium. The Ballroom pre-function area and the Exhibit Halls have also been designed to open directly onto the east and west courts flanking the Civic Auditorium. This will allow the courts to act as expanded open-air pre-function areas for the buildings.

The application has identified approximately 108 trees on site. It is anticipated that approximately 73 trees would have to be removed or relocated. All trees are considered public trees and are thereby protected regardless of the size or type of tree. The PCOC will be required to complete public tree removal applications for each tree that is proposed for removal. The Tree Protection Ordinance requires that the City Manager notify the City Council, Design Commission and any neighborhood groups prior to the removal of three or more public trees.

The project is intended to comply with the requirements presently being developed as part the Central District Specific Plan. If the proposed project is completed before the Central District Specific Plan is adopted, a Civic Center Specific Plan amendment will be required.

The City of Pasadena's objectives for the for the project include:

- To design an expanded Conference Center that is complimentary to the Civic Auditorium and the National Register Historic District, while providing modern amenities and facilities that make it competitive with other centers in the region. This will aid in strengthening the local economy by drawing out of town patrons to Pasadena.
- To design a site that takes advantage of its unique location within the Central District and the close proximity of shopping, dining and entertainment for patrons.
- To foster a design that draws pedestrians from the convention center site into the civic center area by engaging both Green Street and Marengo Avenue, improves the use of underutilized public space, and is welcoming to pedestrians.

9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** The project site is located at the southern terminus of the Garfield Avenue axis in the Central District area of Pasadena. The site is presently developed with the Pasadena Conference Center, the Pasadena Civic Auditorium and the Conference Center Administration Offices/Visitors Bureau (for purposes of the gross floor area calculations and in the evaluation of the proposed expansion, the Sheraton Hotel is not considered part of the project site). The site is zoned CD-3 (Central District-Civic Center). The site is also located in the Civic Center National Register Historic District.

Green Street borders the Civic Auditorium block to the north, Marengo Avenue to the west, Euclid Avenue to the east and Cordova Street to the south. Directly north of the Conference Center across Green Street is Paseo Colorado, which combines 387-units

of housing with professional offices, dining and retail establishments. To the east and west of the site are primarily office uses, and to the south, across Cordova Street are primarily multi-family residential uses.

As previously stated the site is located at the southern terminus of the Garfield Avenue axis (established as part of the 1925 Bennett Plan). The Main Library is located at the north end of the axis and City Hall is at the center (east) of the axis. The axis terminates at the project site with the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. The Pasadena Civic Auditorium, designed by Bergstrom, Bennett & Haskell and constructed 1931, is a contributing structure to the Civic Center National Register Historic District.

The Civic Auditorium block includes subterranean meeting facilities and parking for the Conference Center, twin landscaped plazas with water features located mid-block along Marengo and Euclid Avenues. A fourteen-story senior citizen apartment complex, the five-story, 317-room Sheraton Pasadena Hotel, and the four-story, 135-unit Arpeggio apartments are located at the south end of the site along Cordova Street. The only structure identified as historically significant within the block is the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. The City of Pasadena's only Landmark Tree, the Morton Bay Fig, is located near the southwest corner of Marengo Avenue and Cordova Street.

10. **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:** The project will be subject to review by the Zoning Hearing Officer for Major Project CUP approval, the City of Pasadena Design Commission, the Air Quality Management District, and the Pasadena City Council (approval and funding for the Conference Center expansion).

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

	Land use and Planning	✓	Biological Resources	✓	Aesthetics
	Population and Housing		Energy & Mineral Resources	✓	Cultural Resources
	Geological Problems		Hazards		Recreation
	Water	✓	Noise	✓	Mandatory Findings of Significance
✓	Air Quality		Public Services		
✓	Transportation & Circulation		Utilities & Service Systems		

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency).

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	
I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an Environmental Impact Report is required.	✓
I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated." An Environmental Impact Report is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.	
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects (1) have been analyzed in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards and (2) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.	

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

Date:

Signature

Initials

Reviewed by:

Signature and Title

For: Decision-making body

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e. g. the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e. g. the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
 - 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
 - 3) "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
 - 4) "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact". The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section 17, "Earlier Analysis", may be cross-referenced).
 - 5) Earlier analysis may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063 (c) (3) (D). Earlier analyses are discussed in Section 17 at the end of the checklist.
 - 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g. general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
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SECTION II - ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

I. Background

Date Checklist Submitted: September 10, 2003
 Department Requiring Checklist: Planning and Development
 Planner Assigned: Jennifer Paige-Saeki/Rod Olguin

II. Environmental Impacts (Explanations of all answers are required)

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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1. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the proposal:

a. [REDACTED]

) () (X) ()

WHY? The project is consistent with both the CD-3 (Civic Center) zoning designation, and the Central District Specific Plan (Civic Center Sub-area)/General Plan Land Use Designation in the adopted 1994 Land Use Element. Although the Central District Specific Plan is currently in the review process, the project was found to be consistent with General Plan goals that encourage mixed use development, and recognition and support for the expansion of significant cultural, scientific, corporate, entertainment, and educational uses. As proposed the new building varies in setback for tree protection and to incorporate architectural design features. The tree ordinance states the Design Commission can approve a setback to protect public trees. A variance may be needed for setbacks not related to tree protection.

b. Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The Project will comply with the requirements set forth in the Central District Specific Plan. The Central District Specific Plan is currently in the review process. If the project moves ahead of the Central District Specific Plan, the project will comply with the Civic Center Specific Plan, the Civic Center/Mid Town Report, or an amendment will be made to the Civic Center Specific Plan.

The Civic Center Specific Plan was adopted in 1990 and amended by the City Council in 1994. The Civic Center/Mid Town Report was created in 1998. It has been determined that the buildings on the subject property and in the immediate area should be designed in a manner that is complimentary and sensitive to the National Register of Historic Places buildings on the site and in the vicinity. In addition, the revitalization of Green Street and promotion of development that engages the street will be integral components in the development of the site.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Although the Central District Specific Plan is presently being developed, draft policies and objectives have been created which will be used as the guiding force for final development of the project. It is anticipated the project will be in compliance with the plan. This includes the application of development standards such as height, gross floor area, landscaping, parking etc. As proposed the new building varies in setback for tree protection and to incorporate architectural design features. The tree ordinance states the Design Commission can approve a setback to protect public trees. A variance may be needed for setbacks not related to tree protection. These issues will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

c. Be compatible with existing land use in the vicinity?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The proposed project will not result in a change of use, rather an expansion of the existing conference center facility. The existing conference center has been in operation for approximately 30 years at the same location. The site is located in a fully urbanized area that contains uses such as office, retail and residential. The expanded conference center will continue to foster a vibrant civic center, which is a primary goal of the Central District.

Directly north of the Conference Center across Green Street is the mixed-use Paseo Colorado development, which combines housing with dining and retail establishments. To the east and west of the site are primarily office uses. To the south of the project site, is the Sheraton Hotel. The five-story hotel serves as a transition between the conference center uses and the residential uses to the south of the project site. A five-story residential building is proposed for the northwest corner of Cordova Street and Marengo Avenue and the 14-story Concord Pasadena retirement home is located along Cordova Street, between Marengo and Euclid Avenues. Overall, the buildings contiguous to the Civic Auditorium block will serve as a transition to the smaller scale multifamily residential development established south of Cordova Street. The details of massing, scale and design will be discussed in the Environmental Impact Report.

d. Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g. impacts to soils or farmlands, or impact from incompatible land uses)?

() () () (X)

WHY? The project is located in a developed urban area. There is no known agricultural acreage on or near the site.

e. Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The project does not disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community since the project will largely entail continuing an existing use within a previously developed site where existing street patterns would not be altered and where the uses, size and appearance of surrounding buildings will be maintained. However, the proposed expansion will result in the loss of two outdoor public plazas. The plazas are not easily visible resulting in

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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underutilized outdoor space. As the public plaza is underutilized, the impact is less than significant.

2. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Will the proposal:

a. Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The project does not involve the construction of new residential units. Nonetheless, the project involves the construction of approximately 228,000 square feet of additional area to the site for meeting room, lobby, exhibit hall, kitchen and office uses. Based on the 1989 Nexus survey and the "Job Projection Rules of Thumb", a project of this size and type may generate up to 199 new employees. However, the applicant has projected the project will result in an insubstantial amount of new employees. Therefore, the demand for housing can be met with the existing housing supply.

b. Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g. through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The proposed project is within a fully developed urban area. The current use of the site will be expanded. However, on-site infrastructure is already in place and is sufficient to meet the needs of the expanded Convention Center. Therefore, since no new infrastructure will be required or provided as part of the development, the project will not induce substantial growth either directly or indirectly.

c. Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?

() () () (X)

WHY? The proposed project will expand the current use of the site to provide additional meeting areas and offices for the Conference Center facility. No housing, including affordable housing, will be displaced by this project.

3. GEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:

a. Fault Rupture?

() () () (X)

WHY? The project site is located approximately four (4) miles from the Sierra Madre fault to the north, and approximately two (2) miles from the Raymond Hill fault to the south. These faults are the only faults considered active within the City of Pasadena. No known faults traverse the project site.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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b. Seismic ground shaking?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The City of Pasadena is located within a larger seismically active region traversed by active fault systems, such as the San Andreas and Newport-Inglewood fault systems, and any major earthquake along these systems will cause seismic ground shaking in Pasadena. Much of the City overlies sandy, stony, or gravelly loam formed on the alluvial fan adjacent to the San Gabriel Mountains. This is more porous and loosely compacted than bedrock, and is, therefore, subject to greater impacts from seismic ground shaking than bedrock. The proposed project is located in an area of such alluvium.

The proposed expansion to the Conference Center will be constructed in accordance with the current seismic engineering standards of the California Uniform Building Code Seismic Zone 4 requirements and other applicable codes for structures designed to contain large gatherings of people. Compliance with existing building regulations will reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. Submittal and approval of a detailed geotechnical report will be required. In addition, the project also is required to be designed and constructed to resist earthquakes through the City's standard procedures for design and construction of large structures.

c. Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction?

() () (X) ()

WHY? According to the Seismic Hazard map of the adopted [REDACTED] Safety Elements of the General Plan, the project is located where there are no slopes and the soil types are stable. Further, according to the State of California Seismic Hazard Map, the project site is not located within an area subject to liquefaction or earthquake-induced landslides. Project construction will be required to comply with applicable building code requirements related to seismicity described above that will reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

d. Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard?

() () () (X)

WHY? The City of Pasadena is not located near any inland or off shore bodies of water of a significant enough size to be in the path of a seiche or tsunami. There has been no known volcanic activity in or near the City.

e. Landslides or mudflows?

() () () (X)

WHY? According to the Seismic Hazard map of the adopted [REDACTED] Safety Elements of the General Plan, the project is not located in an area where there are slopes or soil instability.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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f. Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The topography of the project site is relatively flat with no significant change in grade. Minimal grading will be conducted, but will be primarily conducted for the excavation of the footings foundation system, and expansion of the parking garage. During the construction period, the developer will be required to comply with existing City regulations regarding erosion and runoff control. Once development plans have been submitted and approved for the project, all excavation, grading, and/or fill work can be identified. Such work will be subject to the City's grading ordinance, Appendix Chapter 33 of the California Uniform Building Code relating to grading and excavation, and any other applicable building regulations. Compliance with existing regulations will allow potential impacts to be avoided.

Limiting construction to dry weather will minimize water erosion during construction. During periods of rain, covering exposed excavated dirt and protecting excavated areas from flooding with temporary berms will minimize water erosion. Construction may temporarily expose the soil to wind and/or water erosion. Erosion caused by strong wind, excavation and earth moving operations will be minimized by watering during construction and by covering earth to be transported in trucks to or from the site. Any project that involves more than 250 cubic yards of cut or fill will have an erosion and sediment transport control plan as part of the applicant's grading plan. The Building Official and the Public Works Department must approve the grading plan prior to the issuance of any building permits.

g. Subsidence of the land?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The existing Conference Center facility is built over a subterranean parking structure. The current building has not been subject to any significant subsidence. All grading and/or excavation must conform to the City's grading ordinance, and Appendix Chapter 33 of the California Uniform Building Code (UBC) relating to grading and excavation. Though grading is expected to be minimal, conformance with applicable codes will lessen the likelihood of any subsidence due to ground shaking following an earthquake.

h. Expansive soil?

() () () (X)

WHY? According to the [REDACTED], the soil on the site consists of alluvium with granite bedrock underlying the alluvium. This soil type does not have expansive properties.

i. Unique geologic or physical features?

() () () (X)

WHY? The majority of the site is improved, level, and contains no unique geologic or physical features.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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4 WATER. Would the proposal result in:

a. *Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?*

() () () (X)

WHY? The project site is currently improved with a large building over a subterranean parking structure, and covered with paving. This construction provides a concrete barrier that does not allow water to percolate into the ground. The proposed project will alter the site by removing outdoor public plaza space and increasing total building square footage. However, because the plaza space and the vast majority of the site is covered with impermeable surface, these changes will not lead to any measurable increase or decrease in the amount of ground through which water would be able to percolate.

All alterations to the structure will include drainage facilities to carry water in the storm water drainage system. The total surface area exposed to rainfall will not change; thus the amount of total surface runoff will not change. Current storm water facilities collecting stormwater runoff are sufficient to carry away that stormwater. Nonetheless, the drainage of surface water from the project will be controlled by building regulations and directed towards the City's existing streets, flood control channels, storm drains and catch basins.

Standard City practices require preparation of drainage plans for surface water runoff. Per standard practices, the applicant shall submit a drainage plan for review and approval by the Building Division and the Public Works Department prior to the issuance of a building permit. Any substantial change in drainage patterns will be required to be mitigated through onsite detention or improvement storm drains. No significant impact from surface runoff is expected.

b. *Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?*

() () () (X)

WHY? According to the Flood and Fire Hazard Map of the adopted 1975 Public Safety and Seismic Safety Elements of the City's General Plan, the project is not located in a dam inundation area. There are no significant bodies of water either in or near the City of Pasadena that could subject the City to tidal waves. An on-site drainage system will convey storm water runoff to designated flood control facilities. Thus, the proposed project will not expose people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding.

c. *Discharge into surface water or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity)?*

() () () (X)

WHY? Runoff from the proposed project will be similar to current runoff. The runoff will discharge directly into storm drain facilities. It will not discharge directly into surface waters. It will not contain any unusual materials not ordinarily contained in urban runoff, and the amount of

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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runoff will be minimal compared to overall volumes within the City of Pasadena. The project, during construction and once in operation, will be required to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) requirements administered by the City of Pasadena Public Works Department.

d. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?

() () () (X)

WHY? See response to 4 (c) above.

e. Changes in currents, or the course of direction of water movements?

() () () (X)

WHY? See response to 4 (c) above.

f. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capacity?

() () () (X)

WHY? The project site currently contains a building over a subterranean garage and paving throughout the site. Thus, the proposed project will not result in any significant change in permeable land surface area through which water can be absorbed. Although the project proposes to expand the existing Conference Center and subterranean parking, the project will use the existing water supply system provided by the Pasadena Water and Power Department and existing sewage collection facilities managed by the Public Works Department. Therefore, no direct additions or withdrawals from the groundwater basins will result, and there will not be any impacts to groundwater due to the project.

g. Altered direction or rate or flow of ground waters?

() () () (X)

WHY? See response to 4 (f) above.

h. Impacts to groundwater quality?

() () () (X)

WHY? See response to 4 (f) above.

i. Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies?

() () (X) ()

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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WHY? The source of some of the water from the Pasadena Water and Power Department is ground water, stored in the Raymond Basin. During drought conditions, the project must comply with the Water Shortage Procedures Ordinance (Section 13.10.020 of the Pasadena Municipal Code) and would thus only consume 90% of expected consumption.

5. AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal:

a. Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?

(X) () () ()

WHY? Due to its geographical location and the prevailing off shore daytime winds, Pasadena receives smog from downtown Los Angeles. The prevailing winds are from the southwest and carry smog from central Los Angeles, to the San Fernando Valley and to Pasadena in the San Gabriel Valley where it is trapped against the foothills. For these reasons the potential for adverse air quality in Pasadena is high. Pasadena is located in a non-attainment area, an area that frequently exceeds national ambient air quality standards. However, the project itself does not meet the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) land use threshold for significant air emissions, according to the 1993 updated SCAQMD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook. Further, the project is not subject to the Trip Reduction Ordinance, which will lower the emissions from vehicles by reducing the expected number of vehicle trips per day generated by the project.

According to preliminary modeling performed under URMEBIS, this project may generate a substantial number of trips. The project emissions during construction may exceed the district threshold for construction emissions. This issue will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

b. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants?

(X) () () ()

WHY? According to Figure 5-1 and Table 5-1 of the 1993 updated SCAQMD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook, the project is located near sensitive receptors. Sensitive receptors to pollutants include the Concord Pasadena retirement complex, a day care center located at 154-160 Euclid Avenue and other residential uses. The Environmental Impact Report must identify mitigation measures to bring potential impacts to below a level of significance. This issue will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

c. Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The Pasadena Conference Center expansion is proposed within an area of mixed uses on sites that are fully built out. Therefore, it is unlikely that the proposed use will cause an alteration of air movement, moisture, temperature or any change in climate.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The proposed project will not create any wind tunnel effects or contain sufficient reflective surfaces to raise the air temperature. The project involves little, if any, ponded or flowing water in its landscaping, nor does the project include swimming pools. Therefore, it will not raise moisture in the air.

d. Create objectionable odors?

() () () (X)

WHY? There are ancillary cooking facilities associated with the Conference Center, however the conference center use is not known to cause objectionable odors, according to the 1993 updated SCAQMD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook Figure 5-5 "Land Uses Associated with Odor Complaints". Based on this, there will be no significant impacts from objectionable odors.

6. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION. Will the proposal result in:

a. Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion?

(X) () () ()

WHY? The project proposes to expand the Pasadena Conference Center by approximately 277,000 square feet. In addition, 165 parking spaces are proposed to accommodate the expansion. According to a [REDACTED] the expansion is expected to generate more than 600 total weekday trips, 130 weekday PM peak hour trips, more than 1,200 daily trips on the weekends, and over 250 weekend midday peak hour trips. However, a detailed analysis will be performed as part of the Environmental Impact Report.

b. Hazards to safety from design features (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The Transportation Department reviews a projects design to identify potential safety hazards. The project will be evaluated by Public Works Transportation Division to study these issues, as well as the impacts on circulation. The final design will incorporate features recommended by Public Works Transportation Department to minimize any hazards to traffic circulation wither within the project or its vicinity. Compliance with this existing regulation will ensure a less than significant impact and will not be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

c. Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses?

() () () (X)

WHY? The ingress and egress for the site will be evaluated by the Transportation Department to determine if there will be adequate emergency access or access to nearby uses. In addition, the project must comply with all Building, Fire and Safety Codes and plans are subject to review

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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and approval by the Public Works and Transportation Department, Building Division and Fire Department.

d. Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site?

() () (X) ()

WHY? Due to the increased intensity of land use, there will be an increased demand for parking. The required number of parking spaces is determined per the Major Project Conditional Use Permit. The proposed expansion will expand the parking area by [REDACTED] and 165 parking spaces resulting in approximately 1,015 total parking spaces on site. The amount of required new parking will be analyzed in the parking and traffic studies for the Environmental Impact Report and conditioned in the Conditional Use Permit to ensure all parking requirements are met.

e. Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicycles?

() () (X) ()

WHY? There may be a temporary increase in traffic hazards to motorists, bicyclists or pedestrians during construction. This will be mitigated to a level of insignificance through compliance with the construction staging plan. The construction plan contains approved transportation routes for materials that are deemed to be the least disruptive by the Public Works and Transportation Department. Through enforcement and compliance with the Construction Staging Plan, any potential impacts will be mitigated to a level of less than significant.

There may also be a significant long term impact on traffic hazards to motorists, bicyclists or pedestrians due to the impacts of project generated traffic on nearby intersections and both egress and ingress patterns for this traffic. In particular, the proposed drop-off zone, valet zone and bus stop near the main pedestrian linkage to Paseo Colorado (located on the north side of Green Street adjacent to the project), should be carefully planned in order to ensure safety and prevent hazards.

f. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

() () () (X)

WHY? The site currently has a stop for local and regional buses on the south side of Green Street, between Marengo Avenue and Euclid Avenue, directly in front of the Civic Auditorium. The project is not proposing any changes to the location of the bus stop; therefore, no conflicts with adopted policies supporting transit service are expected.

Bicycle parking will be required per Title 17 of the Pasadena Municipal Code. Thus, no conflicts with adopted policies supporting bicycle transportation are anticipated. The exact location and number of bicycle parking spaces will be further reviewed and analyzed by the Department of Transportation during review of the CUP.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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g. Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The proposed project would not result in a significant increase in waterborne, rail, or air traffic trips because the project is the construction of public meeting space, parking and offices. Such uses do not typically have a significant impact on rail, waterborne or air traffic.

7. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in impacts to:

a. Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)?

() () () (X)

WHY? The project is located within a developed urban area. There are no known unique, rare or endangered plant or animal species or habitats on or near the site.

b. Locally designated species (e.g., heritage trees)?

(X) () () ()

WHY? Pasadena's only Heritage Tree, the Morton Bay Fig Tree, is located approximately 500-feet north of the southwest corner of Marengo Avenue and Cordova Street, and is not directly impacted by the Pasadena Conference Center expansion. However, the proposed expansion will result in the removal of several mature trees in the side plazas, and may require severe trimming of the mature *Ficus nitida* trees along Green Street and Marengo Avenue. Other mature species may also be removed by the proposed expansion. The affected trees are not of a locally indigenous species, nor are they protected by any state or federal regulation. However, all trees on site are public trees and are thereby protected by the City's Tree Protection Ordinance. The project proposes to be in full compliance with the provisions of the tree ordinance. This issue will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

c. Locally designated natural communities (e.g., oak forest, coastal habitat)?

() () () (X)

WHY? There are no designated natural communities within the vicinity of the site. The Final Environmental Impact Study for the adopted 1994 Land Use and Mobility Elements maps the natural communities within the City's boundaries. The project is not located near any of these communities. The project is located in a developed urban area. There are no known existing plant communities on or near the site.

d. Wetland habitat (e.g. marsh, riparian and vernal)?

() () () (X)

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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WHY? The project is located within a developed urban area. There is no known naturally occurring wetland habitat within the vicinity of the site.

e. Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors?

() () () (X)

WHY? The project is located within a developed urban area and does not involve the dispersal of wildlife or result in a barrier to migration or movement.

8. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:

a. Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?

() () () (X)

WHY? The project does not conflict with the 1983 adopted Energy Element of the General Plan. The proposed intensity of the project is within the intensity allowed by the Zoning Code and envisioned in the City's approved General Plan. The project will comply with the energy standards in the California Energy Code, Part 6 of the California Building Standards Code (Title 24). Measures to meet these performance standards may include high efficiency Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and hot water storage tank equipment, lighting conservation features, higher than required rated insulation and double glazed windows.

b. Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner?

() () (X) ()

WHY? Project construction will involve the use of fossil fuel energy products. The proposed project is relatively small within a regional context, and the long-term impacts from increased energy use is not significant in relationship to the number of customers currently served by the electrical and gas utility companies. The incremental increase in energy consumption from the project will not be significant, as it will be reduced by adherence to the performance standards of the California Energy Code, Part 6 of the California Building Standards Code Title 24. Energy conservation measures will be prepared by the developer and illustrated on building plans, which must be reviewed and approved by the City's Water and Power Department and Building Official prior to the issuance of building permits. Measures to meet these performance standards may include high efficiency Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and hot water storage tank equipment, lighting conservation features, higher than required rated insulation and double glazed windows.

A Building Division Code Enforcement Inspector prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy will inspect installation of plumbing. During drought periods the applicant must adhere to the Water Shortage Procedures Ordinance, which restricts water consumption to 90% of expected consumption during each billing period. Based on this, there will be a less than significant impact on non-renewable resources.