

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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c. *Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State?*

() () () (X)

WHY? The Final Environmental Impact Report for the adopted 1994 Land Use and Mobility Elements of the City's General Plan states that there are two areas in Pasadena that may contain mineral resources of sand, gravel and stone. These areas are Eaton Wash and Devils Gate Reservoir. The project is not near these areas.

With regard to the use of concrete materials (derived from aggregate resources) in construction, the project represents a typical construction project that will not require an unusual amount or type of such resources.

9. HAZARDS. Would the proposal involve:

a. *A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substance (including but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)?*

() () (X) ()

WHY? The proposed project will not involve the use or storage of hazardous substances other than the small amounts of pesticides, fertilizers and cleaning agents required for normal maintenance of the structure and landscaping. The project must adhere to applicable zoning and fire regulations regarding the use and storage of any hazardous substances. The proposed uses of the project will involve the expansion of, and will be similar to current operations. Further there is no evidence that the site has been used for underground storage of hazardous materials. As such, there will not be a significant risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances.

b. *Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

() () () (X)

WHY? The proposed project includes an expansion to the existing physical facilities, which will be wholly contained on-site. No impact to existing emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans due to the project's physical characteristics is expected. The Fire Marshall of the City of Pasadena maintains a citywide emergency response plan that goes into effect at the onset of a major disaster (e.g., a major earthquake). In case of a disaster, the Fire Marshall is responsible for implementing the plan, and the Pasadena Police Department devises evacuation routes based on the specific circumstance of the emergency. The City has pre-planned evacuation routes for dam inundation areas associated with Devil's Gate Dam, Eaton Wash, and the Jones Reservoir. The project site is not within any of these dam inundation areas. There are no areas in the City designated as eligible for flood insurance by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Based on these factors, there will be no significant impact.

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c. *The creation of any health or potential health hazard?*

() () () (X)

WHY? Uses permitted after completion of the proposed project will be subject to existing rules and regulations governing health hazards, and this project is not a use known to create significant health hazards. Nonetheless, the project plans must comply with existing Building, Health and Fire Safety Codes. The occupation and use of the proposed project is not a significant threat to public health since the existing uses and buildings have operated in the present location for approximately 30 years without incidence.

d. *Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards?*

() () () (X)

WHY? See Section 9(c) above.

e. *Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees?*

() () (X) ()

WHY? According to the Fire and Flooding Hazards Map of the [REDACTED] and Seismic Safety Element of the City's General Plan, the project site is not located in an area susceptible to wildfire. On-site vegetation will be landscaped and watered, which will not be of a highly flammable brush, grass, or tree species. Nonetheless, plans will be reviewed and approved by both the Building Division and the Fire Department prior to any permits being issued.

10. NOISE. Will the proposal result in:

a. *Increases in existing noise levels?*

(X) () () ()

WHY? The proposed project will lead to an increase in ambient noise. Noise generated by construction activities may have short-term effects, and noise from air conditioning and heating systems may increase the existing level of ambient noise after construction. Significant long-term impacts may occur resulting from mechanical equipment and activities for the continual maintenance of the building and site. Noise will also increase with the probable increase of related traffic noise. This issue will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

A construction related traffic plan would be required to ensure that truck routes are established with consideration for sensitive uses in the neighborhood. A traffic and parking plan for the construction phase will be submitted for approval by the Traffic Engineer in the Public Works and Transportation Department and to the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of any permits.

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A construction related noise plan would also be required as part of the construction staging plan, which would require review and approval prior to the issuance of a grading permit (if required). This plan should show the location of any construction equipment and how the noise from this equipment will be reduced by such methods as: temporary noise attenuation barriers; preferential location of equipment and use of current technology and noise suppression equipment.

To reduce operating noise after the project is constructed, the following may be used: insulation, earth berms; building design/orientation, setbacks, and operating hours. Nonetheless, since residential uses and a senior housing complex are in close proximity to the project site, the construction activity, the increased activity and vehicular traffic due to the project could lead to potential noise impacts. These issues will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?

(X) () () ()

WHY? See 6.a. above.

11. PUBLIC SERVICES. Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:

a. Fire Protection?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The project site is located in a low fire hazard area according to the Fire and Flooding Hazards Map of the 1975 adopted Public Safety and Seismic Safety Elements of the City's General Plan. The project is located within one-half mile from the nearest fire station. The proposed project will increase demand for fire protection, police protection, and other governmental services. Since the project fits within City growth parameters established in the General Plan, the increased demand for services associated with new development is anticipated. The City of Pasadena General Plan Environmental Impact Report identifies mitigation measures to address increased demand resulting from new growth. On going implementation of mitigation measures result in reducing cumulative impacts to acceptable levels.

b. Police Protection?

() () (X) ()

WHY? See 11-a above.

c. Schools?

() () (X) ()

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WHY? The proposed project does not include new housing units. 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 determined that the project will result in an insubstantial amount of new employees. Based on this there is no measurable amount of new residents to the city as a result of the expansion, and the demand for classroom space can be met with existing educational facilities. As such, there will be a less than a significant impact.

d. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?

() () (X) ()

WHY? During construction, heavy equipment may cause some damage to roadways, curbs, and sidewalks. All such damage will be required to be repaired prior to occupancy. After occupancy, the project may result in additional maintenance of public facilities. However, the projected revenue to the City in terms of sales taxes and hotel visitor taxes will aid in covering the cost to maintain such facilities.

e. Other governmental services?

() () () (X)

WHY? City services in processing discretionary reviews for this project will be paid for in the fees collected for these services.

12. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Will the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

a. Power or natural gas?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The project is located in a developed urban area where power and natural gas supply lines are in place. This project will not result in a need for new systems or in substantial alteration to the existing systems. Possible increased consumption of power will be minimized through compliance with energy standards in the California Energy Code, Par 6 of the California Building Standards Code (Title 24).

b. Communications Systems?

() () () (X)

WHY? The project is located in a developed urban area where communication systems are in place. The proposed project will not result in a need for new systems or in substantial alterations to the existing systems.

c. Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities?

() () (X) ()

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WHY? The project will be serviced by the Pasadena Water and Power Department, and will use existing water distribution systems. Since the site presently developed with the Conference Center facility, the project may require expansion of the existing on-site infrastructure. Per City requirements, all water fixtures will incorporate water-saving features and low-flush toilets. The project will also be required to comply with the City's Water Shortage Procedures Ordinance, thereby reducing monthly water consumption to 90-percent of the expected consumption for this type of land use. Therefore, local and regional water treatment and distribution facilities will not be impacted to a significant level from the project.

d. Sewer or septic tanks?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The project is located in a developed urban area where a sewer system is already in place. Since water consumption is not expected to increase significantly above current levels and sewage generation is dependent on water consumption, sewage generation is not expected to increase significantly above current levels. Further, the proposed expansion will be connected to the on-site infrastructure, which is connected to the City sewer system.

e. Storm water drainage?

() () () (X)

WHY? The project is located in a developed urban area where storm drainage is provided by existing streets, storm drains, flood control channels, and catch basins. The proposed project will not result in the need for a new or substantial alteration to the existing drainage system. Further, the project must have an on-site drainage plan approved by the Building Official and the Public Works and Transportation Department prior to the issuance of a building permit. Any on-site improvements needed to provide drainage or to connect the project with the existing City drainage system are the responsibility of the applicant.

f. Solid waste disposal?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The project will not result in a need for any unusual collection or disposal service. Pursuant to City requirements, the applicant will be required to submit a waste reduction and recycling plan to the Public Works and Transportation Department's Solid Waste Division for recycling solid waste. The Solid Waste Division prior to the issuance of building permits must approve this program. The program must contain recycling for office paper, corrugated cardboard, mixed glass and green waste. In addition, the Construction and Debris Ordinance requires that a specific amount of debris be recycled (to be determined in the future).

g. Local or regional water supplies?

() () (X) ()

WHY? See Section 12(c) above.

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13. AESTHETICS. Will the proposal:

a. Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway?

(X) () () ()

WHY? The project site is located in an urbanized area that has obstructed views of the San Gabriel Mountains. The Pasadena Conference Center is located directly south of the Paseo Colorado development, through which there is a monumental civic view to the Pasadena Public Library along Garfield Avenue. Garfield Avenue is the minor axis of the 1925 Bennett Plan for the Civic Center, with the Pasadena Public Library and the Civic Auditorium serving as the northern and southern anchors. The proposed new additions to the Pasadena Conference Center will not obstruct scenic views along Garfield Avenue. However, the proposed expansion may obstruct views to the Civic Auditorium mid-block from Marengo and Euclid Avenues. These vistas are not identified in the Bennett Plan, nor are they within the monumental or ceremonial civic treatment that the Bennett Plan sought to develop. However, the building will be adjacent to the Pasadena Civic Auditorium and the site is located within a National Register Historic District. The issue of any potential impacts to aesthetics will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

b. Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect?

(X) () () ()

WHY? The proposed expansion of the Pasadena Conference Center may affect the visual integrity of the Civic Auditorium and the Garfield Avenue axis. Along Green Street, the expansion may diminish the architectural integrity of the historic building, unless the new design is respectful of the auditorium and is compatible in terms of size, scale and massing. This issue will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

The proposed expansion will also result in the removal of mature Ficus and other trees in and around the Ludwigshafen Plaza and fountain. However, the proposed project will not result in the destruction of any landmark eligible trees, stand of trees, rock outcropping or natural feature recognized as having significant aesthetic value. The applicant must submit landscape plans for review and approval by the Zoning Administrator, Water and Power Department, the Design Commission, the Building Official and the Public Works Department prior to the issuance of a building permit. The loss of trees, including the trimming of existing street trees along Green Street and Marengo Avenue, will be discussed in the Environmental Impact Report.

c. Create light or glare?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The project will not introduce a substantial amount of light and glare into the existing urbanized setting of the Civic Auditorium Block. Development standards in the zoning code regulate glare and outdoor lighting, and any new lighting within the public right-of-way will comply with the requirements of the Public Works Department. Use of reflective materials will

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conform to requirements in the zoning code and the urban design plan as well. Exterior and interior lights and reflective building materials may be potential sources of light and glare. Use of reflective materials shall conform to Zoning Code requirements of the CD-3 zoning district. Impacts are expected to be less than significant. These issues will be discussed in the Environmental Impact Report.

14. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:

a. Disturb paleontological resources?

() () () (X)

WHY? There is no record of any significant paleontological resources within the City of Pasadena. Therefore, there are no known paleontological resources affected by the project. Therefore, the impact is expected to be insignificant. This issue will not be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

b. Disturb archaeological resources?

() () () (X)

WHY? There are no known prehistoric or historic archeological sites on the project site. If any such sites are encountered during grading or construction of the project, all grading or construction efforts that would disturb these sites shall cease. An archeologist shall be notified and provisions for recording and excavating the site shall be made in compliance with Section 15064.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines. However, the impact is expected to be insignificant and therefore this issue will not be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

c. Affect historical resources?

(X) () () ()

WHY? The project site is located within a National Register Historic District, and the expansion will be immediately adjacent to the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. The Civic Auditorium has been identified as a contributing building to the district. Certain aspects of the proposed project are expected to affect these resources in a positive manner by fostering a design that maintains the primacy of the Civic Auditorium.

However, given the low-scale, partially subterranean design of the existing conference center, any new structure built at grade with an increase in height will affect the Civic Auditorium and surrounding area. Potential impacts to historic resources as a result of the new structure will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

d. Does the proposal have potential to cause a physical change, which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?

() () () (X)

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WHY? The proposed project involves an expansion of an existing use on site. The project is located within a developed urban area with a mix of commercial, office and residential land uses. There is no established ethnic community in the vicinity of the site that will be affected by the proposed project.

e. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?

() () () (X)

WHY? The project is located within a developed urban area where there is no known evidence of religious or sacred uses that this project would restrict.

15. RECREATION. Will the proposal:

a. Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities?

() () (X) ()

WHY? The proposed Pasadena Conference Center Expansion is not a residential project, and is not expected to result in an increased demand for neighborhood or regional parks, or other recreational facilities. There is an existing ice rink on the property that is located behind the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. If the ice skating rink were to be relocated to another location, it would remain within the City of Pasadena. Therefore, there will be no loss of recreational opportunities for city residents. Furthermore, the project site is located within close proximity to Central Park (approximately 1,500 feet), which will continue to meet the needs of a neighborhood park.

b. Affect existing recreational opportunities?

() () (X) ()

WHY? There are two existing plazas south of the existing Conference Center wings. The Ludwigshafen Plaza is located between the existing Exhibition Hall and the tennis courts of the Pasadena Sheraton Hotel, accessed from Marengo Avenue. The Mishima Plaza is located between the Conference Hall and the Sheraton Hotel, accessed from Euclid Avenue. Both of these outdoor plazas will be removed as a result of the proposed project. However, these outdoor plazas are rarely used and have become underutilized space on the site. The loss of such space can be met by existing recreational space already available in the civic center area. Further, the proposed design incorporates outdoor space as "flexible space" that may be integrated into pre-function activities at the Conference Center. New landscaped areas will be provided on-site to welcome pedestrians and engage the surrounding urban area.

As previously stated, there is an existing ice rink located on the subject site behind the Pasadena Conference Center. If the ice skating rink were to be relocated to another location, it would remain in the City of Pasadena. Therefore, there will be no loss of recreational opportunities for city residents. Recreational opportunities in the vicinity have already been

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established, and the proposed Pasadena Conference Center expansion will not impact their quality or quantity. Central Park is the nearest park to the subject site and is located approximately 1,500 feet from the Pasadena Conference Center. No impact is expected.

16. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a scarce or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

(X) () () ()

WHY? While the proposed project is within 500-feet of Pasadena's only Heritage Tree, the Morton Bay Fig Tree located at the southwest corner of Marengo Avenue and Cordova Street, the Pasadena Conference Center expansion is not expected to directly impact this important tree. 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 effects of the proposed expansion on the street trees, on site trees and the Morton Bay Fig tree will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

In addition, the intensification of use within and around the Civic Auditorium block may have a potentially significant impact on the Pasadena Civic Center National Register District. The massing and siting of the convention center in close proximity to the Civic Auditorium has the potential to impact the historic structure and surrounding area. Views to the Civic Auditorium from Marengo and Euclid Avenues are expected to be obstructed by the proposed expansion. Potential impacts to the significance of historic resources will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?

(X) () () ()

WHY? Physical resources in the project area may be impacted by the proposed project. Short-term goals of the proposed project are expected to meet the long-term environmental goals reflected in the General Plan and applicable specific plans. However, these issues will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

c. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects).

(X) () () ()

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WHY? The proposed project, in conjunction with other projects within the vicinity, may result in cumulative impacts that would not be significant if the project were analyzed by itself. Related projects within the vicinity of the project site will be identified, and the potential cumulative impacts of these related projects and the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

d. Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

(X) () () ()

WHY? The project is not expected to have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly. However, issues related to noise and air quality will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.



Gray Davis
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse



Tal Finney
Interim Director

Notice of Preparation

January 9, 2003

To: Reviewing Agencies
Re: Pasadena Conference Center Expansion
SCH# 2003011026

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Pasadena Conference Center Expansion draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Jennifer Paige-Saeki
City of Pasadena
175 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Becky Frank
Project Analyst, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

DOCUMENT DETAILS REPORT
State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2003011026
Project Title Pasadena Conference Center Expansion
Lead Agency Pasadena, City of

Type NOP Notice of Preparation
Description The existing Pasadena Conference Center, a two-story, 42,000 square foot structure with 850 parking spaces, was constructed in the early 1970s. 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 of underground. The Pasadena Civic Auditorium is located in the center of the project site.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Jennifer Paige-Saeki
Agency City of Pasadena
Phone 626-744-7231 **Fax**
email
Address 175 North Garfield Avenue
City Pasadena **State** CA **Zip** 91109

Project Location

County Los Angeles
City Pasadena
Region
Cross Streets Green Street, Marengo Avenue, Euclid Avenue, Cordova Street
Parcel No. 5727-027-910
Township **Range** **Section** **Base**

Proximity to:

Highways 20 Freeway, 134 Freeway
Airports
Railways Metro Gold Line
Waterways
Schools
Land Use The site is zoned CD-3 (Central District Sub-area 3: Civic Center) and is located within the boundaries of the Central District Specific Plan. The project site is presently developed with a Conference Center facility, the Historic Pasadena Civic Auditorium as well as an Ice Rink/Ballroom facility. The site is immediately adjacent to the Pasadena Sheraton Hotel.

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Air Quality; Noise; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Cumulative Effects; Other Issues

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Native American Heritage Commission; Public Utilities Commission; State Lands Commission; Caltrans, District 7; California Highway Patrol; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4

Date Received 01/09/2003 **Start of Review** 01/09/2003 **End of Review** 02/07/2003

Resources Agency

Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou

Dept. of Boating & Waterways
Suzi Betzler

California Coastal Commission
Elizabeth A. Fuchs

Dept. of Conservation
Roseanne Taylor

Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection
Allen Robertson

Office of Historic Preservation
Hans Kreuzberg

Dept. of Parks & Recreation
B. Noah Tilghman
Environmental Stewardship Section

Reclamation Board
Pam Bruner

S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.
Steve McAdam

Dept. of Water Resources
Resources Agency
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Health & Welfare

Health & Welfare
Wayne Hubbard
Dept. of Health/Drinking Water

Food & Agriculture

Food & Agriculture
Steve Shafer
Dept. of Food and Agriculture

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Scott Flint
Environmental Services Division

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Donald Koch
Region 1

Dept. of Fish & Game 2
Banky Curtis
Region 2

Dept. of Fish & Game 3
Robert Floerke
Region 3

Dept. of Fish & Game 4
William Laudermilk
Region 4

Dept. of Fish & Game 5
Don Chadwick
Region 5, Habitat Conservation Program

Dept. of Fish & Game 6
Gabrina Gatchel
Region 6, Habitat Conservation Program

Dept. of Fish & Game 6 I/M
Tammy Allen
Region 6, Inyo/Mono, Habitat Conservation Program

Dept. of Fish & Game M
Tom Napoli
Marine Region

Independent Commissions

California Energy Commission
Environmental Office

Native American Heritage Comm.
Debbie Treadway

Public Utilities Commission
Ken Lewis

State Lands Commission
Betty Silva

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
State Clearinghouse Planner

Colorado River Board
Gerald R. Zimmerman

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
Lyn Barnett

Office of Emergency Services
John Rowden, Manager

Delta Protection Commission
Debby Eddy

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Paul Edelman

Dept. of Transportation

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Mike Eagan
District 1

Dept. of Transportation 2
Don Anderson
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Tom Dumas
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Dept. of Transportation 11
Bill Figgis
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Dept. of Transportation 12
Bob Joseph
District 12

Business, Trans & Housing

Housing & Community Development
Cathy Creswell
Housing Policy Division

Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics
Sandy Hesnard

California Highway Patrol
Lt. Julie Page
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Industrial Projects
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California Integrated Waste Management Board
Sue O'Leary

State Water Resources Control Board
Diene Edwards
Division of Clean Water Programs

State Water Resources Control Board
Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit
Division of Water Quality

State Water Resources Control Board
Mike Falkenstein
Division of Water Rights

Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
CEQA Tracking Center

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

RWQCB 1
Cathleen Hudson
North Coast Region (1)

RWQCB 2
Environmental Document Coordinator
San Francisco Bay Region (2)

RWQCB 3
Central Coast Region (3)

RWQCB 4
Jonathan Bishop
Los Angeles Region (4)

RWQCB 5S
Central Valley Region (5)

RWQCB 5F
Central Valley Region (5)
Fresno Branch Office

RWQCB 5R
Central Valley Region (5)
Redding Branch Office

RWQCB 6
Lahontan Region (6)

RWQCB 6V
Lahontan Region (6)
Victorville Branch Office

RWQCB 7
Colorado River Basin Region (7)

RWQCB 8
Santa Ana Region (8)

RWQCB 9
San Diego Region (9)



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 E. Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182
(909) 396-2000 • <http://www.aqmd.gov>

January 15, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Paige-Saeki
City of Pasadena
Dept. of Planning and Development
175 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Ms. Paige-Saeki:

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for Pasadena Conference Center Expansion

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The AQMD's comments are recommendations regarding the analysis of potential air quality impacts from the proposed project that should be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Air Quality Analysis

The AQMD adopted its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook in 1993 to assist other public agencies with the preparation of air quality analyses. The AQMD recommends that the Lead Agency use this Handbook as guidance when preparing its air quality analysis. Copies of the Handbook are available from the AQMD's Subscription Services Department by calling (909) 396-3720.

The Lead Agency should identify any potential adverse air quality impacts that could occur from all phases of the project and all air pollutant sources related to the project. Air quality impacts from both construction and operations should be considered. Construction-related air quality impacts typically include, but are not limited to, emissions from the use of heavy-duty equipment from grading, earth-loading/unloading, paving, architectural coatings, off-road mobile sources (e.g., heavy-duty construction equipment) and on-road mobile sources (e.g., construction worker vehicle trips, material transport trips). Operation-related air quality impacts may include, but are not limited to, emissions from stationary sources (e.g., boilers), area sources (e.g., solvents and coatings), and vehicular trips (e.g., on- and off-road tailpipe emissions and entrained dust). Air quality impacts from indirect sources, that is, sources that generate or attract vehicular trips should be included in the evaluation. An analysis of all toxic air contaminant impacts due to the decommissioning or use of equipment potentially generating such air pollutants should also be included.

Mitigation Measures

In the event that the project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures be utilized during project construction and operation to minimize or eliminate significant adverse air quality impacts. To assist the Lead Agency with identifying possible mitigation measures for the project, please refer to Chapter 11 of the AQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook for sample air quality mitigation measures. Additionally, AQMD's Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust, and the Implementation Handbook contain numerous measures for controlling construction-related emissions that should be considered for use as CEQA mitigation if not otherwise required. Pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines §15126.4 (a)(1)(D), any impacts resulting from mitigation measures must also be discussed.

Data Sources

AQMD rules and relevant air quality reports and data are available by calling the AQMD's Public Information Center at (909) 396-2039. Much of the information available through the Public Information Center is also available via the AQMD's World Wide Web Homepage (<http://www.aqmd.gov>).

The AQMD is willing to work with the Lead Agency to ensure that project-related emissions are accurately identified, categorized, and evaluated. Please call Dr. Charles Blankson, Transportation Specialist, CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3304 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Steve Smith, Ph.D.
Program Supervisor, CEQA Section
Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources

SS:CB:li

LAC030110-03LI
Control Number

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7, REGIONAL PLANNING

IGR/CEQA BRANCH

120 SO. SPRING ST.

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

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IGR/CEQA No. 030127AL
Pasadena Conference Center Expansion, NOP
Vic. LA-210 / PM R25.805
ScH # 2003011026

January 14, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Paige-Saeki
City of Pasadena
Planning Division, Hale Building
175 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215

Dear Ms. Paige-Saeki:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The applicant proposes to demolish the existing Pasadena Conference Center structure and replace with a 160,768 square foot structure comprised of meeting rooms and exhibit halls.

To assist us in our efforts to evaluate the impacts of this project on State transportation facilities, a traffic study in advance of the DEIR should be prepared. We wish to refer the project's traffic consultant to our traffic study guideline Website:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/operationalsystems/reports/tisguide.pdf>

and we list here some elements of what we generally are expecting in the traffic study:

1. Assumptions and methods used to develop trip generation/distribution percentages and assignments.
2. An analysis of ADT, AM and PM peak-hour volumes for both the existing and future (expected project build-out) conditions. This should include State Route 210 & 134, affected ramps, street, crossroads, and controlling intersections. This analysis should include project traffic, cumulative traffic generated for all approved developments in the area, Interchange Utilization (I.C.U.) and Level of Service (LOS) of affected freeway ramp intersections on the State Highway indicating existing, plus project, plus other projects' LOS (existing and future).

3. Discussion of mitigation measures appropriate to alleviate anticipated traffic impacts. These mitigation discussions should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Financing
- Scheduling Considerations
- Implementation Responsibilities
- Monitoring Plan

4. Any assessment fees for mitigation should be of such proportion as to cover mainline highway deficiencies that occur as a result of the additional traffic generated by the project.

We look forward to reviewing the traffic study. We expect to receive a copy from the State Clearinghouse when the DEIR is completed. However, to expedite the review process, and clarify any misunderstandings, you may send a copy in advance to the undersigned.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (213) 897-4429 or Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 897-8391 and refer to IGR/CEQA No. 030127AL.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN J. BUSWELL
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse

Steve Buswell/AL



State of California - The Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>
 4949 Viewridge Avenue
 San Diego, CA 92123
 (858) 467-4301

GRAY DAVIS, Governor



February 5, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Paige-Saeki
 City of Pasadena
 175 North Garfield Avenue
 Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Ms. Paige-Saeki:

**Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report
 for Pasadena Conference Center Expansion
 SCH # 2003011026**

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project, relative to impacts to biological resources. The proposed project involves the demolition of an existing Conference Center and construction of an expanded Center at the same location at 300 East Green Street in the City of Pasadena. The proposed project is located within an urbanized setting landscaped with mature ornamental trees.

The Department recommends that impacts to native birds affected by the project be fully evaluated in the Environmental Impact Report. Although the urbanized setting of the proposed project affords minimal habitat to support a high diversity of wildlife resources, the NOD states that several mature trees will be removed to accommodate the proposed expansion. Native resident and migratory bird species may and do utilize mature trees and building structures in urban settings for nesting, feeding and shelter.

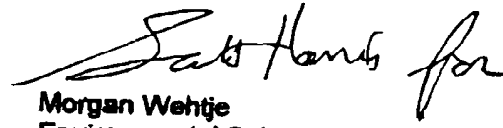
All migratory nongame native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (50 C.F.R. Section 10.13). Sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit take of birds and their active nests, including raptors and other migratory nongame birds as listed under the MBTA.

Proposed project activities (including disturbances to vegetation) should take place outside of the breeding bird season of March 1- September 1 (as early as Feb. 1 for raptor species) to avoid take (including disturbances which would cause abandonment of active nests containing eggs and/or young). Take means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill (Fish and Game Code Section 86). If project activities cannot avoid the breeding bird season, nest surveys should be conducted and active nests should be avoided and provided with a minimum buffer as determined by a biological monitor (the Department recommends a minimum 500 foot buffer for all active raptor nests).

Ms. Jennifer Paige-Saeki
February 8, 2003
Page 2 of 2

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. For any questions please contact Mr. Scott Harris, Associate Wildlife Biologist, at (818) 360-8140.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morgan Wehtje for". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Morgan Wehtje
Environmental Scientist IV

cc: Mr. Scott Harris
Department of Fish & Game

Mr. Scott Morgan
State Clearinghouse

sph