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CITY OF SACRAMENTO

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION
1023 J STREET — SUITE 202
SACRAMENTO, CALIF. 95814

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
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February 24, 1981

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Start of I-5 Garage Construction

SUMMARY

It has been suggested that the start of I-5 garage construction be delayed until after the opening of the Railroad Museum. Staff recommends that garage construction should begin immediately. The reasons are discussed below.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The project specifications upon which the constructors based their bids provide 60 days for the City to award a contract. Sixty days from February 17th is April 18th. This is two weeks before the Railroad Museum opens. The contractor would be entitled to an unknown amount of additional money if we delay beyond April 18th.

The Redevelopment Agency is required to provide parking for Old Sacramento in relation to the floor space developed in the area. We do not have an up-to-date comparison of floor space and parking spaces but considering the rate of development, we will undoubtedly be behind in parking before the garage is complete.

While very large crowds are expected for the eight-day opening ceremony, the Museum is expected to continue to attract large crowds continuously. A recent study under the joint sponsorship of the California Legislature and the California Department of Parks and Recreation predicts "Old Sacramento State Park visitation may increase from a current 133,447 to 1,010,203 by 1983" which will result in "1254 more automobiles on peak days". The present lot has only 205 spaces but the structure will have 753 spaces. The loss of 205 spaces now will have less overall impact than the loss of 753 spaces for two and one-half months at the other end of the construction schedule. This pertains to both public convenience and parking revenue.

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The crowds expected for the opening of the Railroad Museum will require thousands of parking spaces. The 205 spaces in Lot P-2 will not make much difference in the overall supply. Furthermore, it has been determined that Old Sacramento will need to be closed to all but emergency, delivery and official traffic during the celebration to accommodate the crowds. Therefore, the 205 spaces would not be available to the public. The reason for this is a monumental traffic jam would develop if thousands of motorists tried to get into the few hundred spaces available inside of Old Sacramento. It is better to let everyone know ahead of time that there are no spaces available.

There will be a very large parking problem during the celebration. Many people will go home and tell their friends about the problem. It will be much better if they can also tell their friends that a big garage is under construction.

One objection that has been raised has to do with major construction under way during the celebration. By May 2nd, all of the earthwork and pile driving should be completed. The project will be set up to move most of the materials in and out on the 3rd Street side. We can instruct the contractor to not undertake any noisy or dirty operations during the five working days of the celebration and to have the site cleaned up for Saturday, May 2nd.

If we delay construction for the Railroad Museum opening, then the Jazz Festival committee can logically ask that we delay a couple more weeks. Then the July 4th committee can rationalize that it is only one more month until that celebration.

FINANCIAL DATA

None if we go ahead with the project.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that a contract be awarded and that the project proceed immediately.

Recommendation Approved:



Walter J. Slive
City Manager

LMF/mf

Respectfully submitted,



L. M. Frink
Traffic Engineer

March 3, 1981
District No. 1

