



REPORT TO COUNCIL City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

Consent
September 16, 2008

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: R Street Improvements Project - 10th Street to 13th Street
(T15056200)

Location/Council District: R Street -10th Street to 13th Street. Location Map - Exhibit A of Resolution. (District 4)

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution** 1) approving the preliminary design, and 2) adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approving the Mitigation Monitoring Plan (MMP).

Contact: Zuhair Amawi, Associate Civil Engineer, (916) 808-7620; Jon Blank, Supervising Engineer, (916) 808-7914

Presenters: None

Department: Department of Transportation

Division: Engineering Services

Organization No: 15001131

Description/Analysis

Issue: Approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan, and approval of the preliminary design will allow the City to move forward with completing the final design.

Policy Considerations: The action requested herein is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan to improve and expand public safety and achieve sustainability and enhance livability. The project's proposed design is also consistent with the R Street Urban Design Plan adopted by the City Council on September 5, 2006. The project design is also consistent with the adopted Preservation Element of the General Plan and the adopted R Street Corridor District Supplemental Design Guidelines.

Environmental Considerations:**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):**

Environmental Planning Services has determined that the project as proposed may have potentially significant impacts to the environment. Mitigation measures have been incorporated in the project to reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level, and a Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study has been prepared for the project. In compliance with Section 15070(b)1 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, mitigation measures have been identified that are incorporated into project plans to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. These mitigation measures address soils, transportation/circulation, air quality, biological resources, hazards, noise, public services, aesthetics and cultural resources. The mitigation measures are listed in the attached Mitigation Monitoring Plan (Exhibit D of Attachment 2).

On April 10, 2008, a Notice of Intent to Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was circulated for public comments for 30 days. One comment on the Mitigated Negative Declaration was received during the public review period from the City Fire Department. The comment was related to notifying the Fire Department of any street closures during construction of the project. Staff is coordinating with the Fire Department on street closures and emergency access. There were no comments related to the adequacy of the environmental document.

On August 6, 2008, the Preservation Commission reviewed the project, and forwarded a recommendation of approval to the City Council, with a request that the R Street Corridor be nominated as a Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. The Preservation Commission stated that the research conducted for the environmental document could be used to justify such a nomination by City Council. Staff has forwarded the Preservation Commission recommendation to Council, and supports the recommendation. The Design Commission reviewed the project on August 20, 2008, also recommending approval. There were no comments from either Commission related to the adequacy of the environmental document.

Sustainability Considerations:

This project is consistent with the City's Sustainability Master Plan. It conforms with the Air Quality Focus Area by improving and optimizing transportation infrastructure.

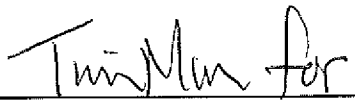
Commission/Committee: A hearing for the project was held by the Preservation Commission on August 6, 2008, and the Design Commission on August 20, 2008. Comments from the Preservation Commission are attached.

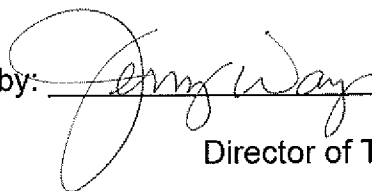
Rationale for Recommendation: This project design has been based upon significant efforts on the part of the project team to incorporate design guideline recommendations in the R Street Urban Design Plan as well as the unique characteristics and features of the historic district, balancing these with drainage, engineering, safety and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Approval of the preliminary design, the

Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan will allow staff to move forward with completion of the final design.

Financial Considerations: There are no financial actions associated with the recommendations in this report.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): No, as no goods or services are being provided.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Nicholas Theocharides
Engineering Services Manager

Approved by: 
Jerry Way
Director of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:



for Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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Attachment 1**Background**

The project will construct roadway and streetscape improvements on R Street between 10th Street and 13th Street. This project consists of replacing the asphalt concrete roadway concrete, placing raised pedestrian walkways and valley gutters, installing industrial looking street lighting, and providing 90 degree and parallel parking along R Street. This area is within the R Street Preservation District, and is part of the R Street Urban Design Plan which was approved by City Council on September 5, 2006. On July 25, 2006, the City entered into agreements with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc. to provide engineering design and environmental services for the R Street Improvements Project, 10th Street to 13th Street.

The City of Sacramento's Environmental Planning Services conducted or caused to be conducted an initial study and identified potentially significant effects on the R Street Improvement Project. Revisions to the Project were made to avoid or reduce the potentially significant effects to a less than significant level, and, therefore, there was no substantial evidence that the Project as revised and conditioned would have a significant effect on the environment. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project was then completed, noticed and circulated in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines and the Sacramento Local Environmental Procedures.

The Project has a federal funding component. A review of the Project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was required. The project documents were routed to the State Office of Historic Preservation and the California Department of Transportation for review. On March 14, 2008 the City received a Finding of No Adverse Impact (FONSI) for this project, consistent with the requirements of NEPA.

On April 10, 2008 a Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt the MND was circulated for public comments for 30 days. The NOI was published in the Daily Recorder, a newspaper of general circulation, and posted in the office of the Sacramento County Clerk. The NOI was also sent to those public agencies that have jurisdiction by law with respect to the proposed project and to other interested parties and agencies, including property owners within 500 feet of the boundaries of the proposed project. The comments of such persons and agencies were sought.

The approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and adoption of the Mitigation Reporting Plan are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act and will allow staff to move forward with completion of the final design.

Attachment 2

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

**R STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT - 10th STREET TO 13th STREET
(T15056200)**

BACKGROUND

- A. The R Street Improvements Project will construct roadway and streetscape improvements on R Street between 10th Street and 13th Street.
- B. The City of Sacramento's Environmental Planning Services conducted or caused to be conducted an initial study on the R Street Improvement Project ("Project") to determine if the Project may have a significant effect on the environment.
- C. The initial study identified potentially significant effects of the Project. Revisions to the Project were made before the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study were released for public review. These revisions were determined by the City's Environmental Planning Services to avoid or reduce the potentially significant effects to a less than significant level, and, therefore, there was no substantial evidence that the Project as revised and conditioned would have a significant effect on the environment. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project was then completed, noticed and circulated in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines and the Sacramento Local Environmental Procedures as follows:
 - 1. On April 10, 2008 a Notice of Intent to Adopt the MND (NOI) dated April 10, 2008 was circulated for public comments for 30 days. The NOI was sent to those public agencies that have jurisdiction by law with respect to the proposed project and to other interested parties and agencies, including property owners within 500 feet of the boundaries of the proposed project. The comments of such persons and agencies were sought.
 - 2. On April 10, 2008 the project site was posted with the NOI, the NOI was published in the Daily Recorder, a newspaper of general circulation, and the NOI was posted in the office of the Sacramento County Clerk.
- D. The City Council has reviewed and considered the information contained in the MND, including the initial study, the revisions and conditions incorporated into the Project, and the comments received during the public review process and the hearing on the Project. The City Council has determined that the MND constitutes

an adequate, accurate, objective and complete review of the environmental effects of the proposed project.

- E. The City Council has final approval authority over the Project
- F. Pursuant to Guidelines section 15091(e), the documents and other materials that constitute the record of proceedings upon which the City Council has based its decision are located in and may be obtained from, the Office of the City Clerk at 915 I Street, Sacramento, California. The City Clerk is the custodian of records for all matters before the City Council.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

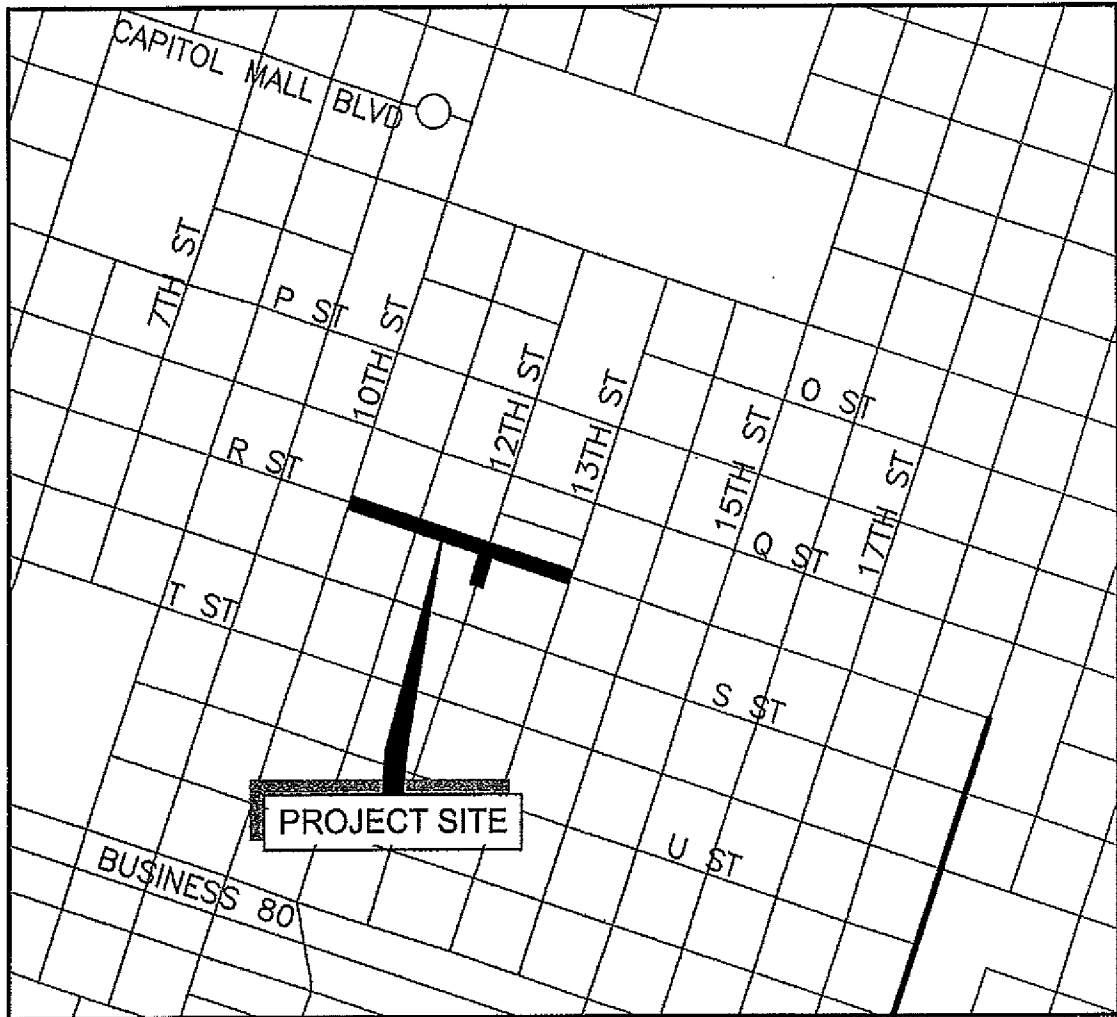
- Section 1. The preliminary design plan for the project is approved.
- Section 2. Based on its review of the MND and on the basis of the whole record, the City Council finds that the MND reflects the City Council's independent judgment and analysis and that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment.
- Section 3. With respect to the Project over which the City Council has final approval authority, the City Council adopts the MND for the Project.
- Section 4. Pursuant to CEQA section 21081.6 and CEQA Guidelines section 15074, and in support of its approval of the Project, the City Council adopts a Mitigation Reporting Plan to require all reasonably feasible mitigation measures be implemented by means of Project conditions, agreements, or other measures, as set forth in the Mitigation Reporting Plan.
- Section 5. Upon approval of the Project, the City's Environmental Planning Services shall file or cause to be filed a Notice of Determination with the Sacramento County Clerk and, if the project requires a discretionary approval from any state agency, with the State Office of Planning and Research, pursuant to section 21152(a) of the Public Resources Code and section 15075 of the State EIR Guidelines adopted pursuant thereto.

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- Exhibit A: Map of R Street Improvements Project (TU37/T15056200) – 1 page
- Exhibit B: Preliminary Design Plan – 1 page
- Exhibit C: Comments from the Preservation Commission – 1 page
- Exhibit D: Mitigated Negative Declaration

EXHIBIT A

Location map for:
R STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
10th STREET TO 13th STREET
PN: TU37 / T15056200



Map Contact: Boris Kiksman
Date: January 2008

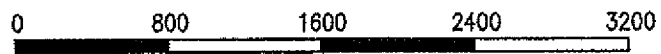


EXHIBIT B

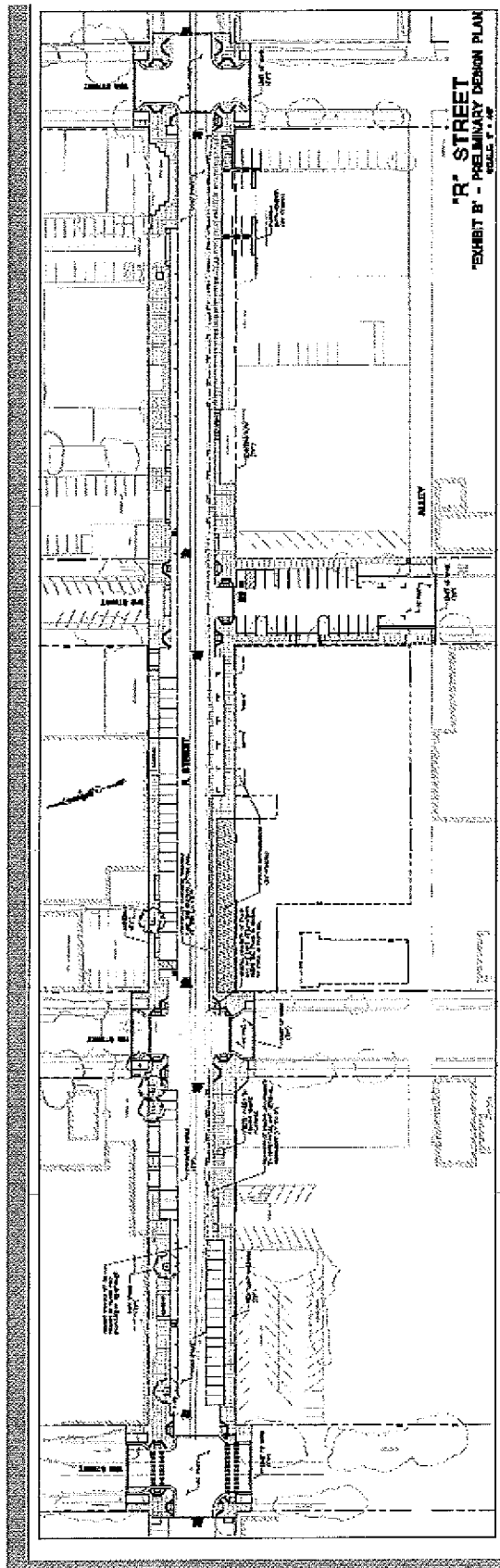


EXHIBIT C



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

300 RICHARDS BOULEVARD
3rd FLOOR
SACRAMENTO, CA
95811-0218

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 18, 2008
To: The Honorable Mayor Fargo and Members of the City Council
From: Timothy Brandt, AIA, Chair *TJB*
Preservation Commission
Cc: Design Commission
SUBJECT: R Street Streetscape Improvement Project (TU37/T16056200)

At its August 6, 2008 hearing, the Preservation Commission reviewed the proposed R Street Streetscape Improvement Project. The Preservation Commission has the following recommendations for the City Council regarding the project:

- Recommend the City Council approve the project;
- Nomination to the National Register
The Preservation Commission recognizes the tremendous amount of research conducted for this project and recommends that it be used to nominate the R Street Corridor as a Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. While many of the properties are not individually eligible, listing on the National Register as a Historic District could make property owners eligible to receive Federal Historic Tax Credits for rehabilitation projects. The research done for this project has provided much of the information necessary for such a nomination. Federal Tax Credits are an important incentive for historic property owners, providing a 20% credit for rehabilitation projects. The Preservation Commission requests that the City Council recommend the City move forward with this nomination.

