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#23

Re: Sacramento Railyard Proposed Development (Railyards Specific Plan Draft EIR) SCH No. 2006032058

The location, height, and massing of new construction will diminish the Historic District's historic integrity. Twenty-five to 30 story buildings would affect the historic nature of the railyards and also the aesthetic quality of the Sacramento River Parkway. High rises should not be put right next to the river. I suggest lowering the allowable height of the proposed structures, so as not to interfere with natural and historic settings. I support the Alternative 3: Reduced Density/Intensity Alternative, limiting the height of buildings. It would also lower proposed housing densities, which are too high (10,000 – 12,500 units). Shading from high-rises will reduce the abundance of food sources for fish (aquatic plants and benthic macroinvertebrates).

The Historic District and Central Shops buildings, including the boiler shop and the erecting shop, should be part of the California State Railroad Museum. The Museum has already spent \$500,000 on a transfer table to mover trains back and forth, and is currently using the boiler shop and erecting shop (to restore and store cars and

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locomotives). No tall structures should be built next to these buildings. Also, a rail spur should connect this district to Old Sacramento to provide a historic rail link, signifying the Transcontinental Railroad, between the two areas. In addition, a museum and outdoor area should be included recognizing the significant contribution of the Chinese to the development of the railroad – they built the railroad.

I do not believe that the UPRR main line tracks should be moved, nor should the Sacramento Depot be moved. This would cause an adverse change to the Sacramento Depot and Railway Express Agency Building because they would require the demolition of platform amenities, which have been determined eligible as contributing elements to the National Register of Historic places – listed Depot. Also, the water tower should be retained at its present location.

Also, the plan appears to include many glass walls that will create a glare affecting people's vision, and heat islands causing more energy use. This should be avoided.

Lighting from the proposed development should be limited in height and have light shields to prevent light from going upward and outward. In this way the ability to see the stars along the Sacramento

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River Parkway will not be affected, and also the ability of nocturnal animals to carry on survival activities. This type of lighting will also not bother nearby existing neighborhoods.

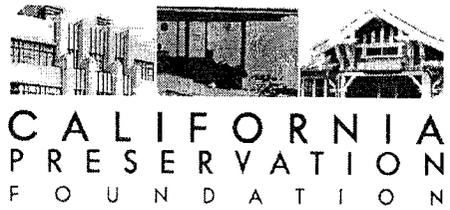
Furthermore, I think that more open space should be included in the plan than is currently proposed. Additionally, some of the existing vegetation should be retained, especially the Chinese Tree of Heaven, *ailanthus altissima* ("Chouchun" in Chinese). This tree was one of the first trees brought west. It was brought from China to the U.S. in 1784. It is used in traditional Chinese medicine and became a part of western culture. (It served as the subject of the best selling novel, '*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*' by Betty Smith.)

Finally, is anyone aware that an entire locomotive is buried in the railyard grounds? There are undoubtedly many other items buried there, all of which should be thoroughly explored before any development occurs. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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#23



October 23, 2007

Honorable Mayor Heather Fargo and City Council
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Dear Mayor Fargo,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the California Preservation Foundation, I submit this letter supporting the California State Parks proposal to create the Railroad Technology Museum in the two main surviving historic industrial buildings at the Sacramento Railyards and request that this be a guaranteed part of this project.

The California Preservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, membership-based organization whose mission is to provide statewide leadership, advocacy and education to ensure the protection of California's diverse cultural heritage and historic places.

California State Parks proposes to create the Railroad Technology Museum in the two main surviving historic industrial buildings. This will include an on-going restoration of historic railroad rolling stock. It would be both a "museum" display that can be visited and a learning/teaching facility dedicated to railroad technology. This would be an adjunct and major addition to the existing California State Railroad Museum.

We believe - that a museum would be a major tourism asset to the city - make it a unique destination spot - provide a long-term and sustainable function that highlights one of the countries most important historic sites.

State Parks analysis demonstrates that the addition of the shops and a restoration function would be a huge tourist draw - capitalizing on a unique aspect of Sacramento history and the importance of this Nationally significant historic resource and site.

We believe that the City of Sacramento has a role as a steward of these historic resources by ensuring the protection and continued use of these buildings, which are among the oldest in Sacramento and the Western United States. These unique and irreplaceable

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Cindy L. Heitzman

buildings are associated with the transcontinental railroad and the development of the Western United States.

The Railroad Technology Museum has a well developed and researched concrete proposal for development of the buildings and has the funding to execute this plan. They have a proven fund raising track record. We understand that that, in addition to the monies already raised for this purpose, Proposition 40 monies have been allocated and California State Railroad Museum Foundation is committed to raising more money for this project.

This proposal augments what is a major existing historic railroad facility and tourist attraction in Sacramento- the California State Railroad Museum. This addition will make Sacramento a national destination site for heritage tourism—one of the fastest growing segments of the tourism industry—and provide an important educational function by being a demonstration site, showcasing "hands on" restoration of historic railcars.

Sacramento has an unprecedented development opportunity to create a major new urban space within a walking distance of its historic downtown. We seek your support -- your leadership—to ensure that the Sacramento Railyards are preserved and used to insure further public understanding and appreciation of the development and importance of the railroad in Sacramento and in the growth of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Heitzman", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Cindy L. Heitzman
Executive Director

Cc: file