

SACRAMENTO CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

December 19, 1961

SUBJECT: Redevelopment Project #3 Planning
 Old Post Office - 7th St. & K St.

Members in Session:

The Redevelopment Agency currently has under contract the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Architects, with the assignment to develop a plan for the entire west end commercial complex inclusive and comprehensive. In this area is the old post office site representing the easternmost point of redevelopment. It has been generally understood for several years that the Federal Government will eventually have no further use of the property. To assure eventual removal of the property it was included within the redevelopment project area.

It is felt that through the general public support of the Federal Government, and in this instance the Old Post Office site in particular, by many generations of Sacramentoans that the property might be turned back to the people (at a minimum cost to them). Reversion to a public use as a small piece of open space in the highly concentrated downtown of the future is indicated. We do not propose here to expound the merits of the idea. Suffice to say that throughout the country there is a recognition of the value of downtown open space -- Seagram, Lever Brothers, and Chase Manhattan Bank Buildings in New York come directly to mind.

Redevelopment of a core area of a business center has as an obligation the development of amenities for the future business district. It is not enough to simply rebuild block by block. The possibilities of a small active plaza tied into the K Street Mall should be thoroughly examined.

It is recommended to the Planning Commission that the Agency be requested to advise their consultant to explore the full possibilities of the idea of replacing the Old Post Office Site with an active plaza as a gathering place, a meeting place, if you will, for downtown shoppers, workers, and visitors.

Respectfully submitted,



R. L. RATHFON
Planning Director

Item 14
61-222