3.0 POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT CAN BE MITIGATED TO A LEVEL OF INSIGNIFICANCE

The Final Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Report (Final EA/EIR) determined that five environmental issues resulting from the Hall of Justice Repair and Reuse Project would be reduced to a level of insignificance with the incorporation of the mitigation measures. These five environmental issues are geology and soils, traffic/circulation and parking (short term), public health and safety/hazardous materials, biological resources, and cultural resources (paleontological and archaeological resources).

3.1 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Significant Impact

The proposed project site, as with virtually all sites within the State of California, would be subjected to ground shaking from earthquakes. Based upon the seismologic and geologic conditions surrounding the site, the maximum level of ground motion that could ever be experienced at the project site with a Maximum Probable Earthquake (MPE) would be 0.50g (g equals 32 feet per second) and with Upper Bound Earthquake (UBE) would be 0.60g.[1]

Soils on the project site have been determined to have a medium expansion potential. If constructed over expansive soils, building foundations, concrete slabs, and roads can be cracked and heavily damaged during shrink-swell periods.

Finding

Changes or alterations that mitigate or avoid the significant effects to the environment related to geology and soils have been required in, or incorporated into, the project.

Facts

Incorporation of the mitigation measures described in Section 2.0 of the Final EA/EIR would eliminate or substantially lessen the significant impact to a level of insignificance associated with earthquakes and on-site soil conditions.

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1 Converse Consultants, Geotechnical Investigation Report, *Los Angeles County Hall of Justice, Los Angeles, California*, May 5, 2003.

Measure GS-1

All structures shall be designed in accordance with the Uniform Building Code (UBC) and applicable County codes to ensure safety in the event of an earthquake.

Measure GS-2

All recommendations contained in the project geotechnical engineering report shall be incorporated into the project to minimize impacts associated with site grading and structural design.

3.2 TRAFFIC/CIRCULATION AND PARKING

Significant Impact

Potential off-site impacts associated with construction activities are due primarily to employee trips and material hauling. These trips would occur both during on-site development and installation of needed project infrastructure and improvements off site and development activities on site.

Finding

Changes or alterations that mitigate or avoid the significant effects to the environment related to traffic/circulation and parking have been required in, or incorporated into, the project.

Facts

Incorporation of the mitigation measures described in Section 2.0 of the Final EA/EIR would eliminate or substantially lessen the significant impact to a level of insignificance.

Measure T-1

Trucks and construction materials and equipment should be staged on site, whenever feasible. If additional space is necessary, lane closure plans shall be submitted to the County and City of Los Angeles for approval.

Measure T-2

Temporary "Truck Crossing" warning signs shall be placed in each direction in advance of each site driveway used by construction vehicles.

Measure T-3

A flag person or persons shall be positioned at the project site to assist truck operators in entering and exiting the project area and to help minimize conflicts with other motorists.

Measure T-4

To the greatest extent possible, heavy-duty construction trucks shall be scheduled to arrive and depart before and after peak commuting periods of 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Measure T-5

A construction worker ridesharing plan shall be implemented to reduce construction-related trips.

Measure T-6

An off-site parking area for construction worker's personal vehicles shall be established during peak construction activity days/time periods when all worker vehicles cannot be accommodated on site.

Measure T-7

Once a site has been identified for hauling excess dirt, a haul route shall be developed which keeps trucks on major boulevards. The haul route shall be reviewed and approved by the County and City.

3.3 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Significant Impact

Repair and rehabilitation activities could expose persons and construction workers to impacts associated with asbestos-containing materials (ACM), lead-containing paint (LCP), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), universal waste, biologically and bacterially affected materials/industrial hygiene waste would be significant.

Finding

Changes or alterations that mitigate or avoid the significant effects to the environment related to public health and safety/hazardous materials have been required in, or incorporated into, the project.

Facts

Incorporation of the mitigation measures described in Section 2.0 of the Final EA/EIR would eliminate or substantially lessen the significant impact to a level of insignificance.

Measure HS-1

ACMs shall be removed or encapsulated under acceptable engineering methods and work practices by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor. Removal practices include, but are not limited to, containment of the area by plastic; negative air filtration; wet removal techniques; and personal respiratory protection and decontamination. The process shall be designed and monitored by a California Certified Asbestos Consultant. The abatement and monitoring plan shall be developed and submitted for review and approval by the appropriate regulatory agencies (currently the County of Los Angeles and South Coast Air Quality Management District).

Measure HS-2

Prior to the renovation of the building, all loose and peeling paint shall be removed and disposed of by a licensed and certified lead abatement contractor, in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Measure HS-3

The abatement contractor shall be informed of which paint on the buildings shall be considered as containing lead. The contractor shall take appropriate precautions to protect his/her workers, the surrounding community, and to dispose of construction waste containing lead paint in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Measure HS-4

All on-site fluorescent light ballasts shall be assumed to contain PCBs, unless labeled "Does Not Contain PCBs," and shall be removed prior to renovation activities and disposed of by a licensed and certified PCB removal contractor, in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Measure HS-5

All on-site fluorescent light tubes, and electronic waste shall be assumed to contain heavy metals and shall be removed prior to renovation activities and disposed of by a licensed and certified abatement contractor, in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Measure HS-6

All biological and bacterial waste shall be removed prior to renovation activities by trained and equipped personnel.

Measure HS-7

All medical waste, including spent needles, shall be properly categorized and removed by trained and equipped personnel prior to renovation activities.

Measure HS-8

All spent and partially used containers of chemicals shall be categorized/classified (acids, bases, etc.), lab packed, manifested, and removed prior to renovation activities by a licensed and certified abatement contractor, in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Significant Impact

Implementation of the proposed project would result in the removal of landscape trees that have the potential to support a number of bird species afforded protection pursuant to the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code.

Finding

Changes or alterations that mitigate or avoid the significant effects to the environment related to biological resources have been required in, or incorporated into, the project.

Facts

Incorporation of the mitigation measures described in Section 2.0 of the Final EA/EIR would eliminate or substantially lessen the significant impact to a level of insignificance.

Measure BIO-1

Within 15 days prior to exterior construction or site preparation activities that would occur during the nesting/breeding season of bird species potentially nesting on the site (typically March 1 through August 15), the applicant shall retain the services of a qualified biologist. The biologist shall conduct on-site surveys to determine if active bird nests, protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and/or the

California Fish and Game Code, are present within the construction zone. If active nests are found on or immediately adjacent to the site, a minimum buffer, as determined by the retained biologist, shall be temporarily fenced around the nest site. No construction activities shall be permitted within this nest zone until the young birds have fledged, as determined by the biologist.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Paleontological Resources

Significant Impact

Grading for the construction of the new parking structure would include the removal of earth materials down to the level of the basement excavation, up to depths of 48 feet below the existing ground surface. Because there is a possibility that paleontological resources may be present within the boundaries of the project site, these activities may impact undocumented paleontological resources. Destruction of presently unknown paleontological resources would be considered a significant impact.

Finding

Changes or alterations that mitigate or avoid the significant effects to the environment related to paleontological resources have been required in, or incorporated into, the project.

Facts

Incorporation of the mitigation measures described in Section 2.0 of the Final EA/EIR would eliminate or substantially lessen the significant impact to a level of insignificance.

Measure PR-1

A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to monitor construction excavations in those portions of the project site that are underlain by geologic units with paleontological sensitivity. Monitoring shall include inspection of exposed rock units and microscopic examination of matrix to determine if fossils are present. If a representative initial sample of the site reveals no significant fossil remains to the satisfaction of the paleontological monitor, then such monitoring may be terminated.

Measure PR-2

If fossils are present, the monitor shall collect matrix for processing. In order to expedite removal of fossil matrix, the monitor may request heavy machinery assistance to move large quantities of matrix out of the path of construction to designated stockpile areas. Testing of stockpiles shall consist of screen washing

small samples (200 pounds) to determine if significant fossils are present. Productive tests will result in screen washing of additional matrix from the stockpiles to a maximum of 6,000 pounds per locality to ensure recovery of a scientifically significant sample. Fossils recovered shall be prepared, identified by qualified experts, and listed in a database to allow analysis. At each fossil locality, field data forms shall be used to record the locality. Stratigraphic columns shall be measured and appropriate scientific samples submitted for analysis.

Archaeological Resources

Significant Impact

Existing construction fill below the project site has the potential to contain historical archaeological resources, which might be adversely affected due to construction and earth-moving activities. Consequently, potential impacts are considered to be significant.

Finding

Changes or alterations that mitigate or avoid the significant effects to the environment related to archaeological resources have been required in, or incorporated into, the project.

Facts

Incorporation of the mitigation measures described in Section 2.0 of the Final EA/EIR would eliminate or substantially lessen the significant impact to a level of insignificance.

Measure AR-1

All subsurface grading on the site shall be monitored by an archaeologist to ensure that no intact archaeological resources are impacted. In the event that archaeological resources are unearthed during project subsurface activities, all earth-disturbing work, within a radius to be determined by the monitoring archaeologist, must be temporarily suspended or redirected until the monitoring archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. After the find has been appropriately mitigated, work in the area may resume.

Measure AR-2

If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of

Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC will then contact the most likely descendant of the deceased Native American, who may then serve as a consultant on how to proceed with the remains (i.e., avoid, rebury).