

Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: November 24, 2008

From: JOHN F. BARNA, JR

File: Book Item 2.2c (8)
Action

Ref: Mitigated Negative Declaration – Park Boulevard at Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge Project (Resolution E-08-28)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Park Boulevard at Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge Project located in the City of San Diego and approve this project to be considered for future funding?

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Commission consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Park Boulevard at Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge Project and approve this project to be considered for future funding.

BACKGROUND: The Park Boulevard at Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge Project is located in downtown San Diego at the intersection of Park Boulevard and Harbor Drive. The project will construct a pedestrian bridge on the easterly side of the intersection of Harbor Drive and Convention Way near PETCO Park. The pedestrian bridge will provide pedestrian access over Harbor Drive, three heavy rail tracks used by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) and San Diego Imperial Valley Railroad, and three trolley tracks used by the Metropolitan Transit System.

The City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency acted as the lead agency for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). On February 8, 2005, the San Diego Redevelopment Agency and the San Diego City Council certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared and completed for this project under the CEQA and State and local regulations and guidelines. On June 2, 2006, the Federal Highway Administration determined that the project meets the criteria of and is properly classified as a Categorical Exclusion and therefore, preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act is not required.

The environmental process determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment with implementation of certain mitigation measures. Potentially significant impacts for hazards and hazardous materials due to four facilities within 1,000 feet were determined to be of potential concern. To mitigate this potentially significant impact to a less than significant level, hazardous waste release sites within the area will be delineated by the appropriate responsible party and remediated to the satisfaction of the designated lead agency. Impacts to cultural resources were also identified as significant since the Eighth Avenue Tidelands dump-site, in operation from the late 1800's until approximately 1940 may extend into the proposed development area. To mitigate this potential impact to a less than significant level, a qualified

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archaeologist will carefully monitor all excavation and grading activities while activity is underway. If resources are encountered in the course of ground disturbance, the archaeological monitor is empowered to halt grading and to initiate an archaeological testing program.

The project is programmed in the Proposition 1B Highway-Railroad Crossing Safety Account (HRCSA). On October 31, 2008, Commission staff was informed that, in the opinion of Caltrans, the scope described in the preferred alternative is consistent with the project scope set forth in the HRCSA project baseline agreement. Project costs are estimated to total \$27,000,000. The project is funded through a combination of HRCSA (\$6,000,000), STIP (\$2,000,000); Federal (\$2,800,000); Local (\$11,300,000) and Private (\$4,900,000) funds.

Attachments

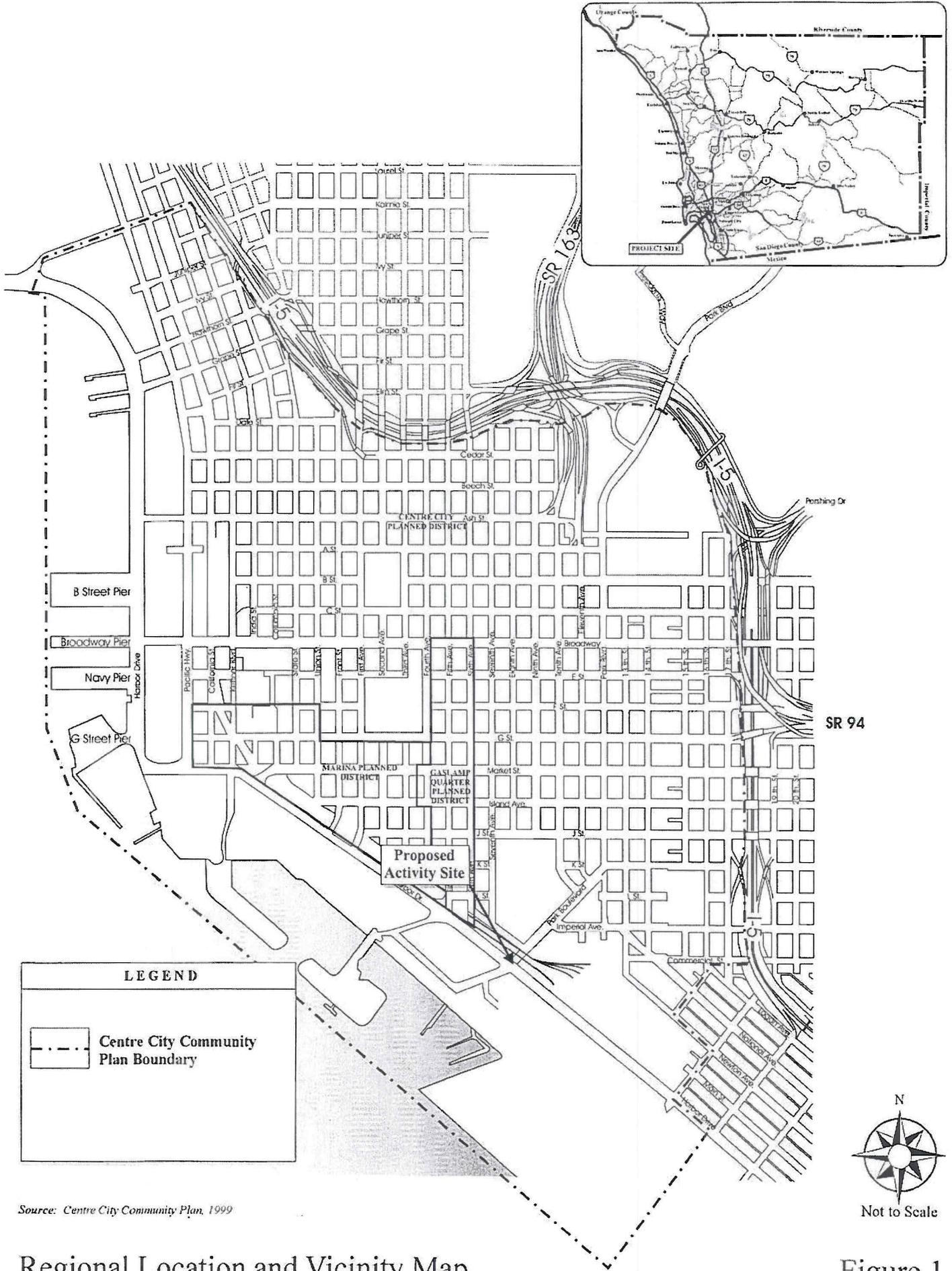
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

11-SD-00, PM 268.82/268.82

Resolution E-08-28

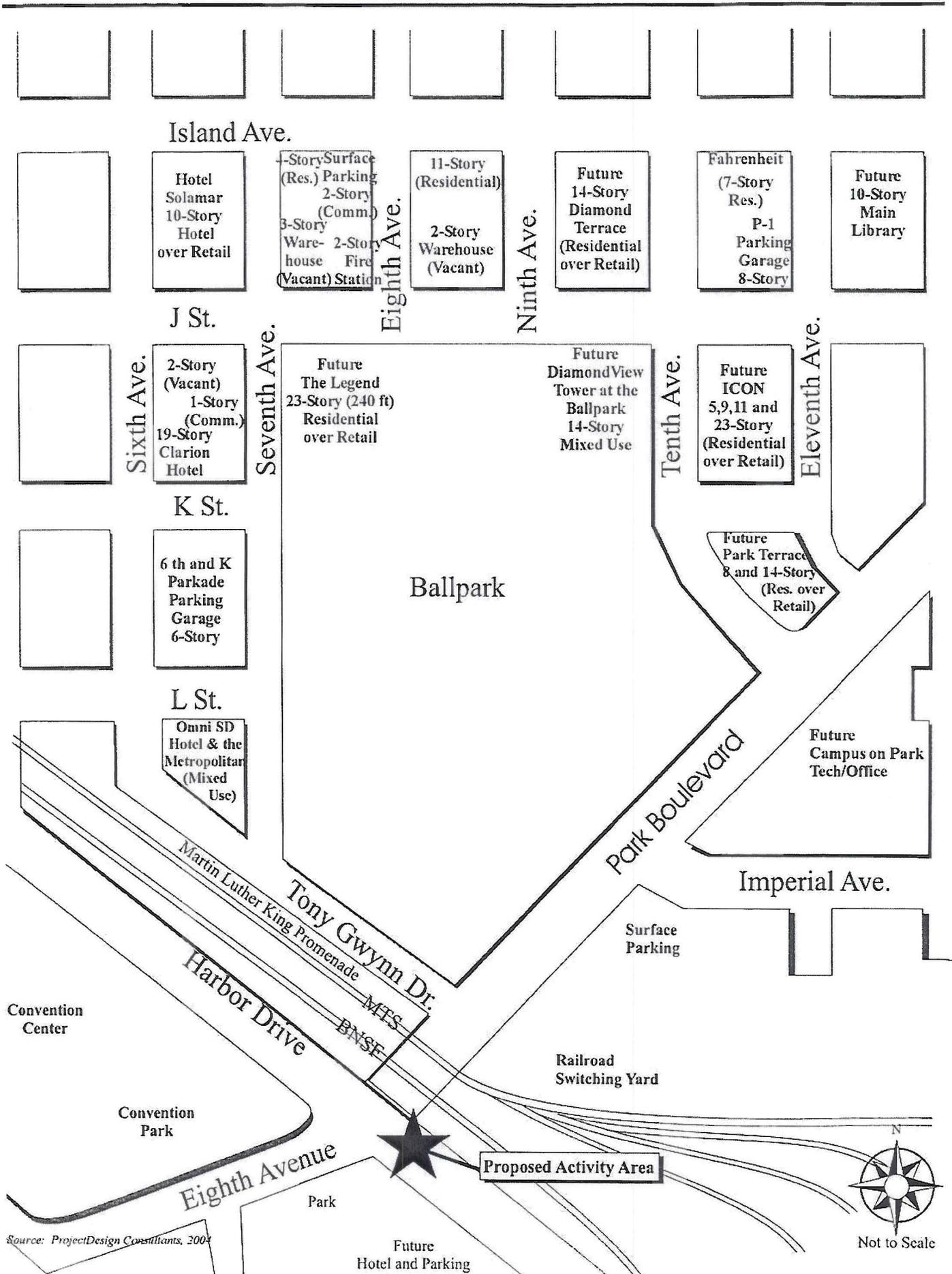
- 1.1** **WHEREAS**, the City of San Diego has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- Park Boulevard at Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge Project
- 1.2** **WHEREAS**, the City has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3** **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.4** **WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1** **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.



Source: Centre City Community Plan, 1999

Regional Location and Vicinity Map

Figure 1



Source: Project Design Consultants, 2004

Existing Surrounding Land Uses

Figure 2