City of Santa Barbara
Planning Division

NOTICE OF EIR PREPARATION/ NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING HEARING

Date: September 2, 2011

To: City Clerk
Clerk of the Board
Neighbors and Interested Parties

From: Planning Division
City of Santa Barbara
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990
(805) 564-5470

Project Title: **Plaza de la Guerra Infrastructure Improvement Project**

Project Location: Plaza de la Guerra is located on the south side of De la Guerra Street between State and Anacapa Streets. The project area includes Plaza de la Guerra and a portion of De la Guerra Street right-of-way.

Project No.: MST2007-00496

APN: 037-092-037

General Plan: Major Public and Institutional

Zones: P-R (Park and Recreation) and C-2 (Commercial)

Public Scoping Hearing: **September 22, 2011**, City Council Chambers, Santa Barbara City Hall, Plaza de La Guerra, 735 Anacapa Street. 1:00 P.M. *See note time below.

Public Comment Period: **Friday, September 2, 2011** through **Monday, October 3, 2011.**

Project Description: This parcel includes City Landmarks: "City Hall and California Pepper Tree." The project consists of lowering the grade of the lawn area to be flush with the U-road; replacing the U-road surface and sidewalks in concrete; eliminating five curbside parking spaces in the U-road; adding one parking space on De la Guerra Street; widening the sidewalk by 4.5 feet on the western side of the Plaza; adding a new crosswalks across De la Guerra Street at the Plaza entry; installing new amenities including lighting; replacing and upgrading of underground utilities including electrical, water, gas and sewer lines; relocating the electrical main panel from the lawn area; relocating flag poles; installing landscape improvements (tree replacement and lawn/turf reduction); and installing removable bollards and truncated domes between the lawn and road surface.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Scope of Analysis: The City of Santa Barbara will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an EIR to evaluate impacts of the proposed project. The purpose of an EIR is to provide decision-makers and the public with information that enables them to consider the environmental consequences of the proposed project. The EIR would identify potentially significant effects, and any feasible means of avoiding or reducing these effects through project redesign, the imposition of mitigation measures, or implementation of alternatives to the project. An analysis of the project's impacts on Historic Resources and Circulation will be included in the EIR.

An Initial Study, describing potentially significant impacts (Cultural Resources) as well as potentially significant, but mitigable, and less than significant impacts in other issue areas, is available for review at the City Planning Division located at 630 Garden Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and every other Friday, or online at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/eir. Please check our website to verify office closure dates.

Comments: Comments on the proposed EIR scope of analysis are invited from public agencies, community interest groups, and individual members of the public. We request the views of public agencies as to the scope and content of environmental information be germane to agency statutory responsibilities for the project. Some agencies may need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering approvals for the project. Please provide the name of an agency contact persons, if applicable.

Written comments on the EIR scope of analysis identified in the Initial Study should be sent at the earliest possible date, but **received not later than Monday, October 3, 2011, at 4:30 p.m.** Please send your written comments to the attention of Kathleen Kennedy, Associate Planner, at the above address or KKennedy@SantaBarbara.CA.gov.

***NOTE**: The Commission meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, and this meeting will have several items, including this hearing. An agenda with all items to be heard on Thursday, September 22, 2011 will be available on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 630 Garden Street. Agendas and Staff Reports are also accessible online at www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov/pc Environmental documents can be viewed online at www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov/eir. Please note that online Staff Reports may not include some exhibits. Agenda items are subject to change. It is recommended that applicants and interested persons plan to arrive at 1:00 P.M. However, for longer agendas, all parties are encouraged to monitor Channel 18 and when the item prior to the application of interest begins, come to the Commission hearing. Continuances will not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Meetings can be viewed live on City TV-18, or on your computer. Follow this link and scroll down to Planning Commission: http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/Video/ Meeting rebroadcast schedule can be found at http://www.citytv18.com/schedule.htm.

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to gain access to, comment at, or participate in this meeting, please contact the Planning Division Office at (805) 564-5470 ext. 4535. If possible, notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements in most cases.

Signature: Kathleen Kennedy

Kathleen Kennedy, Associate Planner

Telephone: (805) 564-5470