



Memorandum

To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC)
Matthew Webb, Chair

From: Community & Economic Development Agency, Design & Construction Services Dept.

Date: May 14, 2008

Re: **Temporary Use of Pocket Park between 23rd Avenue and East 12th Street for
The Seismic Retrofit of 23rd Avenue Overhead**

SUMMARY

The Community & Economic Development Agency plans to retrofit the bridge that carries 23rd Avenue over the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way between East 12th Street and Interstate 880 in order to meet current seismic safety standards. The retrofit requires strengthening the bridge foundations. The Community & Economic Development Agency wishes to use the pocket park adjacent to the bridge for material laydown, equipment storage, and access to the bridge during project construction. The park would be fenced off from public use for six to eight months and restored following completion of the retrofit.

BACKGROUND

Following the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, Caltrans conducted a seismic safety inspection of bridges in the City of Oakland. The 23rd Avenue Overhead Bridge, among others, was determined to be in need of seismic retrofit to meet current seismic safety standards and prevent a likely collapse in an earthquake. The design of the retrofit project has been completed and staff now is in the process of implementing the project.

The bridge is supported by five bents spaced along the length of the bridge. A bent is a structural engineering term for a beam supported by columns. The deck of the bridge sits on the beams. The seismic retrofit would require excavation around the existing bents to strengthen the bent footings, construction of infill walls between the columns of the bents at either end of the bridge, expansion of the columns of the other three bents, and addition of restraints to the two hinge connections on the bridge deck.

The bridge support columns can be reached from vacant City land on the west side of the bridge and the pocket park on the east side of the bridge. Both parcels of land are required to access the bridge supports and have enough room for material laydown and equipment storage. The pocket park between the 23rd Avenue Overhead Bridge and East 12th Street covers approximately 0.56 acre. The park is grassed except for a small circular concrete pad near the center of the area that contains a single children's merry-go-round surrounded by four park benches.

DISCUSSION

Staff has looked at all alternatives and determined that the project would require the use of the pocket park for equipment and material storage and staging. The entire pocket park would be fenced off to eliminate public access during the six to eight month construction period. During

the construction period, the existing recreational facilities would be protected from damage by fencing them off from construction activities. After project construction is completed, all equipment and materials would be removed from the laydown area, the children's merry-go-round and park benches would be refurbished, if required, and the park would be hydroseeded with grass to bring the area to pre-existing conditions.

Since this project is partially funded by federal funds, it must comply with Caltrans Section 4(f) for the use of parks. The commission's approval of the project will enable the City to obtain Caltrans approval on section 4(f).

RECOMMENDATION

The Community & Economic Development Agency recommends that the Park and Recreation Commission allow the temporary use of the 23rd Avenue pocket park for the seismic retrofit of the 23rd Avenue Overhead Bridge for material laydown, equipment storage, and access to the bridge during project construction. The park would be fenced off from public use for six to eight months and restored following completion of the retrofit.

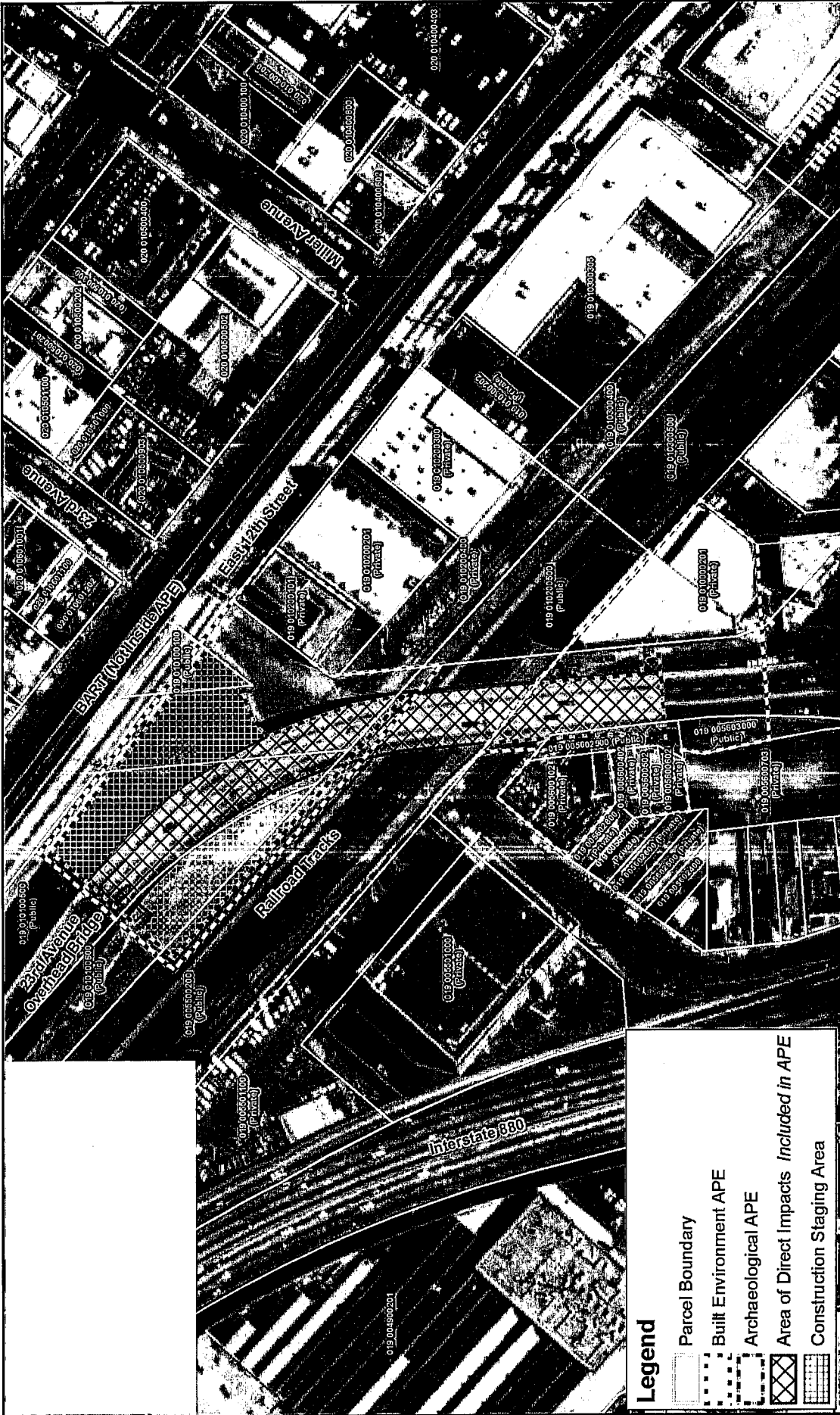
Respectfully submitted,



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Community and Economic Development Agency

Reviewed by:
Marcel Uzegbu, Acting Division Manager
Engineering Design Right of Way Division

Prepared by:
Emad Mirsaeidi, Supervising Civil Engineer



Legend

- Parcel Boundary
- Built Environment APE
- Archaeological APE
- Area of Direct Impacts *Included in APE*
- Construction Staging Area



Seismic Retrofit of 23rd Avenue Overhead Bridge (Bridge Number 33C-0148) District 4, Alameda County Federal ID No. STPLZ-5012 (028)

Area of Potential Effects