



## Historic Site Preservation Board Staff Report

Date: April 9, 2013  
Case No: HSPB - 33  
Application Type: Review of Proposed Exterior Modifications  
Location: 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Applicant: City of Palm Springs  
Zone: C-U (Civic Uses Zone)  
General Plan: Public / Quasi-Public  
From: Edward O Robertson, Principal Planner

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### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The request is an application by the City of Palm Springs for a Certificate of Approval to add conduit to the exterior of the Palm Springs City Hall building, a Class 1 historic site (HSPB #33). The conduit would allow for the development of a Traffic Management Center. Trenching in the parking lot and landscape areas are also proposed.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Historic Site Preservation Board grant a Certificate of Approval for the proposed project.

### **PRIOR ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE PROJECT**

On September 10, 1996, the Historic Site Preservation Board conducted a public hearing and unanimously recommended to the City Council designation of the Palm Springs City Hall as Historic Site, Class 1.

On October 2, 1996, the City Council conducted a public hearing and unanimously approved the Palm Springs City Hall a Historic Site, Class 1. The Council resolution included the following language:

*“Section 4. No permits for the exterior alteration to the ...Palm Springs City Hall...shall be granted without prior approval of the Historic Site Preservation Board and / or the City Council, pursuant to Chapter 8.05 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code; approved alterations shall maintain the historic architectural integrity of the building”.*

On March 10, 2010, the Historic Site Preservation Board initiated an amendment to the approved historic designation of the Palm Springs City Hall to expand the designation to include the site's landscape and parking area. The HSPB also adopted a 120-day Stay of Demolition on the landscape and parking areas.

On May 11, 2010, the Historic Site Preservation Board recommended to the City Council that the entire site be included in the historic designation of the City Hall.

On March 7, 2012, the City Council amended the historic designation of the City Hall to include the site ending at the curb of the north end of the rear City Hall parking lot, thereby excluding the dog park, the CO-Gen facility and landscape area, and the El Cielo Road right-of-way. The amendment also excluded all City Hall landscaping from the historic site designation.

#### **BACKGROUND AND SETTING:**

The site is located in the Civic Center District (C-C) zone, at the northwest corner of the eastern terminus of Tahquitz Canyon Way at El Cielo Road. City Hall, the Police and County government buildings to the south and the Palm Springs International Airport to the east define this part of the City as the community's government center. Certain common features define all these facilities, including low-rise buildings, significant street setbacks, parking lots in front of the buildings and predominantly low landscaping, usually in the form of lawns.

The original City Hall building was constructed in 1957, with major expansions completed in 1967, 1972 and 1984. The exterior conduit will be located on the back (north) elevation and on the roof of the 1972 building addition. The proposed enclosure would be formed sheet metal with a galvanized finish. Trenching of the parking lot and landscaping would also be required, but would be finished to match the existing condition. The request also notes that the parking lot is expected to be paved in 2014; at this time. No changes to the shape or arrangement of this parking area are proposed.

#### **CONCLUSION**

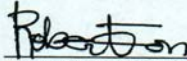
The addition of the conduit enclosures to the existing City Hall building located in an area out of view of the original 1957 building and is designed to screen fiber optic cable. Staff recommends that the Certificate of Approval be granted, subject to standard conditions.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:**

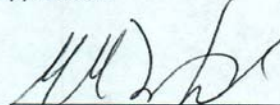
Environmental review is not required for this project pursuant to Section 15301, (existing facilities) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

**NOTIFICATION:**

There are no public notification requirements for this application.



Edward O. Robertson  
Principal Planner



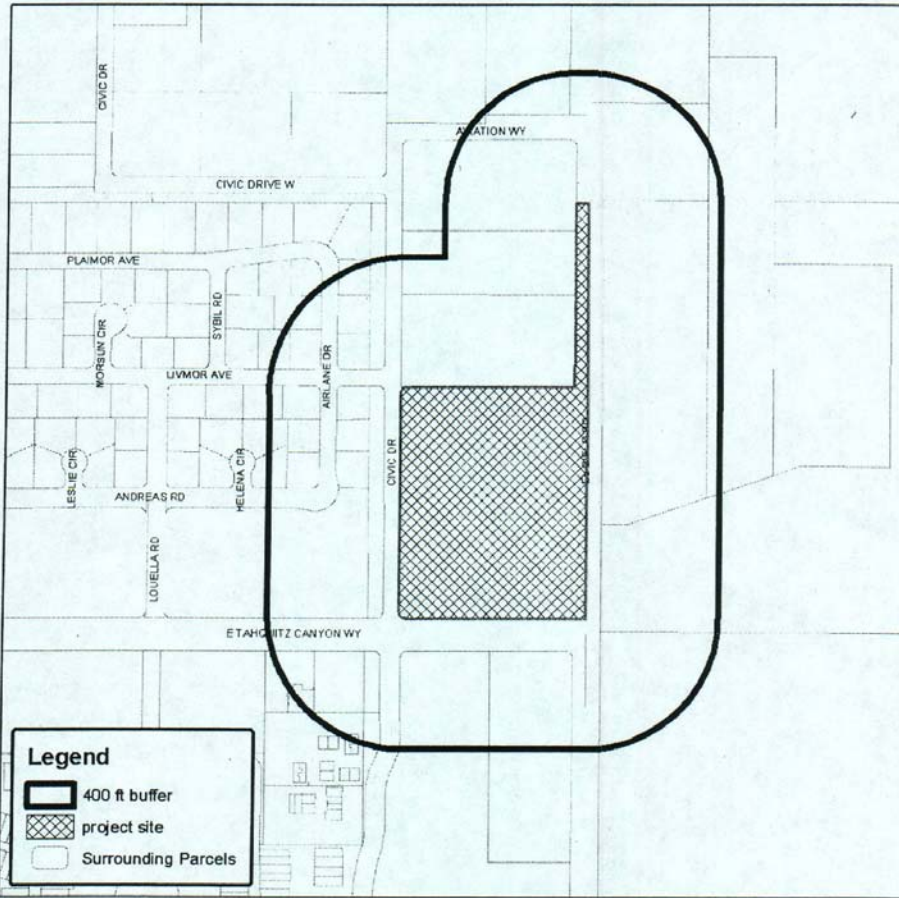
M. Margo Wheeler, AICP  
Director of Planning Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**




1. Vicinity Map
2. Memo from Public Works dated February 27, 2013
3. Site Exhibits



Department of Planning Services  
Vicinity Map



**Legend**

-  400 ft buffer
-  project site
-  Surrounding Parcels

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

**CASE NO:** HSPB 33-A

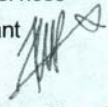
**APPLICANT:** City of Palm Springs  
Historic Site Preservation Board

**DESCRIPTION:** A request for a Certificate of Approval for exterior modifications to the Palm Springs City Hall, a Class 1 Historic designation (Case No. HSPB 33-A).

City of Palm Springs  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92263

Public Works/  
Engineering Department

# Memo

To: Craig Ewing, Director of Planning Services  
From: Felipe Primera, Engineering Assistant   
Date: February 27, 2013  
Re: CP 08-04: Traffic Management Center – New Conduit at South Side of City Hall.

Engineering requests a Certificate of Approval from the Historic Site Preservation Board for a conduit installation that will affect the western parking lot alongside Civic Drive and the south side of the City Hall Building.

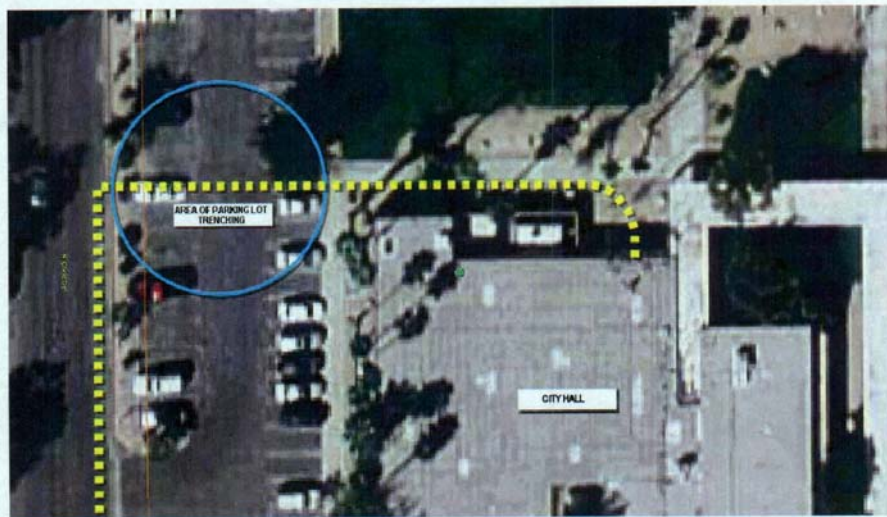
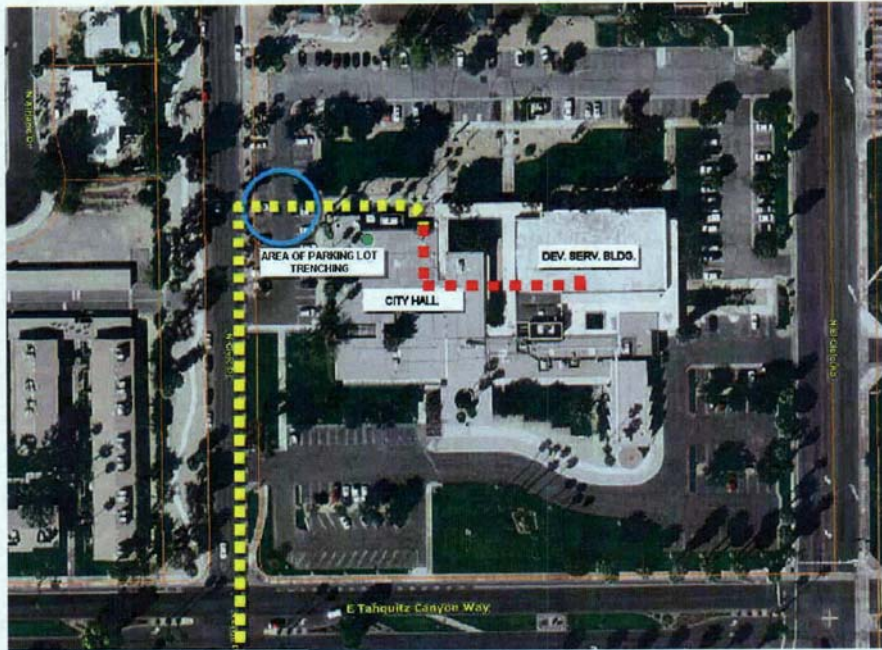
The Public Works Department was approved for a grant to construct a new Traffic Management Center (TMC). The TMC grant will install video cameras, connect and synchronize traffic signals at 80 intersections, transmit the data via a broad spectrum wireless to the IT Hub at the Police Station, and finally relay this information to the new TMC housed in the Public Works and Engineering Department.

One of the first phases for completion of this project is to connect the IT Hub at the Police Station with the new TMC center housed inside the Development Services building. To ensure the integrity of the data, the consultant is proposing a new fiber optic cable running from the Police Department along Civic Drive, turning east into the existing city parking lot and into the back of the building (Exhibit 1). This would require a trench across the western portion of the parking lot (Exhibit 2), continuing east alongside the existing sidewalk (Exhibit 3), turn south, and up a duct attached to the building (Exhibit 4), into the phone room, and finally through ceiling ducts to the new TMC room in the Public Works and Engineering Department.

The City Hall parking lot is expected to be repaved in 2014 and we would like the board's approval to complete the trenching prior to the repaving of the parking lot to prevent any trench patches. The only aesthetic change to the City Hall building will be adding a vertical duct along the back of the building to house the fiber optic conduit (Exhibit 4). This tube will be painted to match the existing building concrete block as closely as possible. We intend to bore under any existing sidewalk, avoiding any concrete patches, and any disturbed landscaping will be replaced in kind. The board's approval will help the consultant complete the final drawings and construction budget.

Enc: Exhibits 1-4

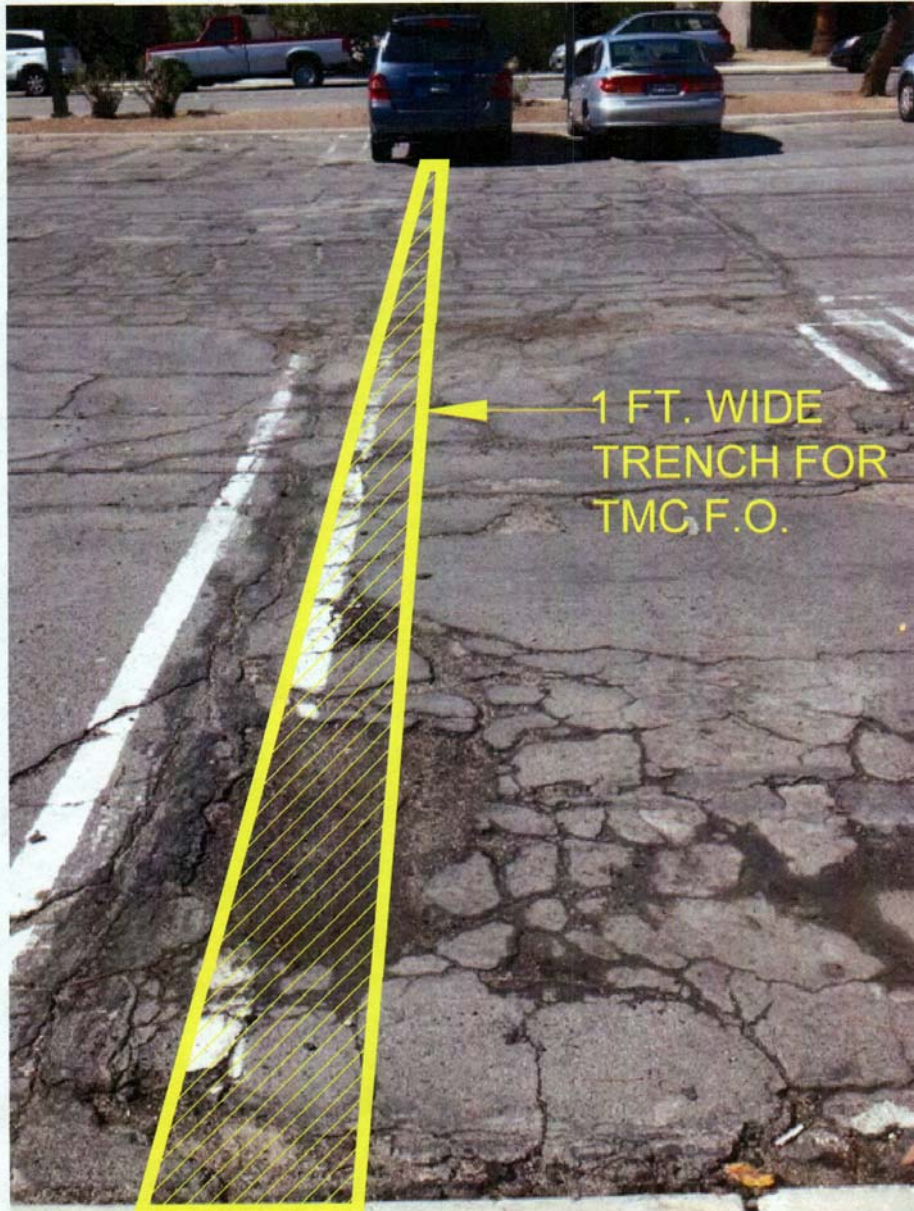
Cc: Dave Barakian, City Engineer and Public Works Director  
Savat Khamphou, Asst. City Engineer  
CP 08-04 File Copy



NEW TMC FIBER OPTIC (F.O.)

CP 08-04

EXHIBIT 1



1 FT. WIDE  
TRENCH FOR  
TMC F.O.

NEW TMC FIBER OPTIC (F.O.)

CP 08-04

EXHIBIT 2



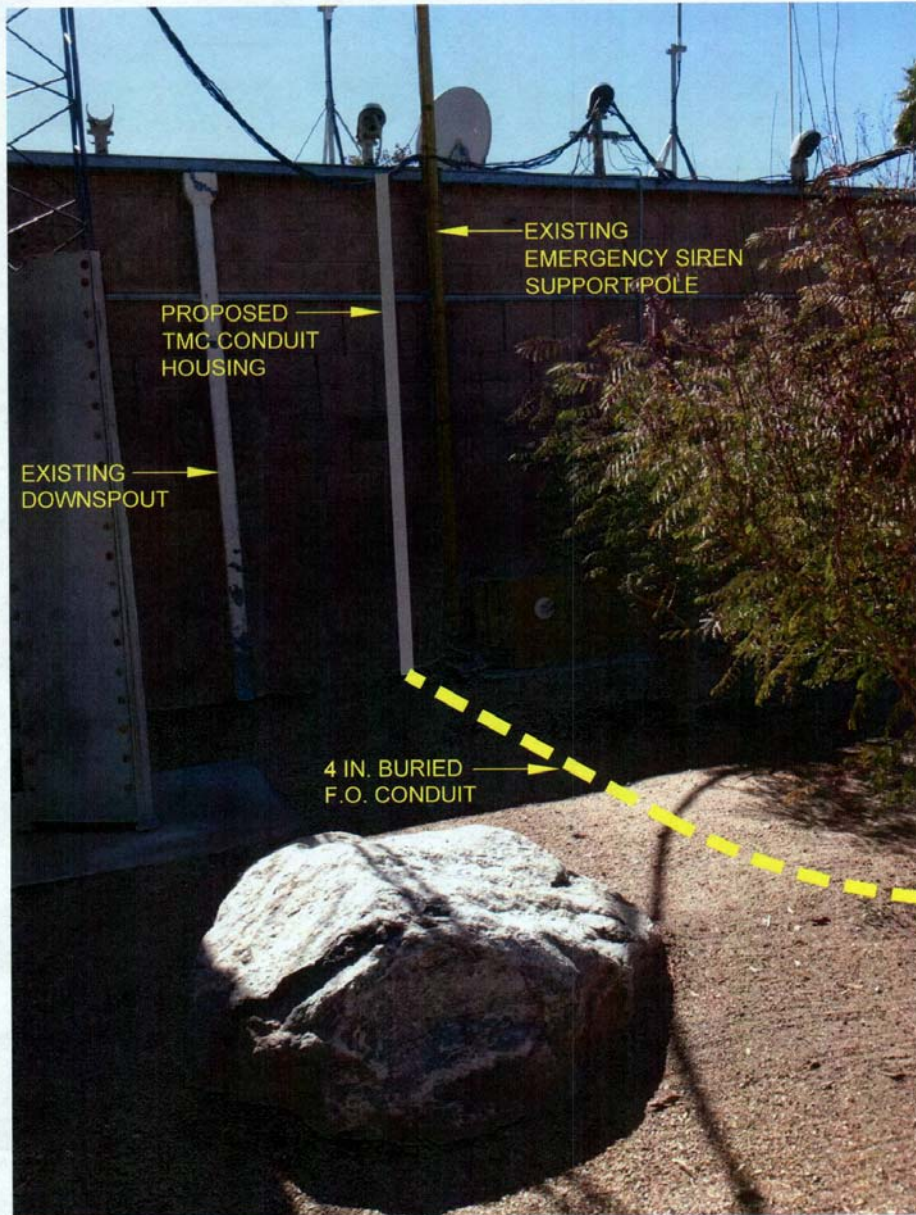
4 IN. BURIED  
F.O. CONDUIT

NEW TMC FIBER OPTIC (F.O.)

CP 08-04

EXHIBIT 3





NEW TMC FIBER OPTIC (F.O.)

CP 08-04

EXHIBIT 4