



## Historic Site Preservation Board Staff Report

Date: May 14, 2013  
Case No.: HSPB 33-A  
Application Type: Certificate of Approval for Exterior Modifications to a Class 1 site  
Location: 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Applicant: City of Palm Springs – Department of Public Works  
Zone: C-U (Civic Uses Zone)  
General Plan: Public / Quasi-Public

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### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

An application by the City of Palm Springs for a Certificate of Approval for installation of conduit to allow for the development of a Traffic Management Center.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Grant a Certificate of Approval for the proposed project.

### **PRIOR ACTIONS**

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

On October 2, 1996, the City Council conducted a public hearing and unanimously approved the Palm Springs City Hall as a Historic Site, Class 1.

On March 9, 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 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 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 1964, 1972 and 1984. The project scope entails trenching across the south lawn and parking areas of City Hall to install buried conduit between the Police Department Building and City Hall Public Works Department. The extent of visual modifications to City Hall by this project include a surface mounted metal conduit that will be located on the back (north) elevation and on the roof of the 1972 building addition. (see attached diagrams). After the trenching of the parking lot and lawn areas are complete, they would be restored to match the existing condition.<sup>1</sup>

## **CONCLUSION**

The addition of the conduit enclosure to the existing City Hall building is 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.

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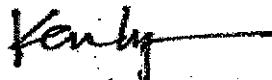
<sup>1</sup> The project will require patching the asphalt in the south side parking lot, however no changes to the shape or arrangement of this parking area are proposed. The parking lot is expected to be fully repaved in 2014.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

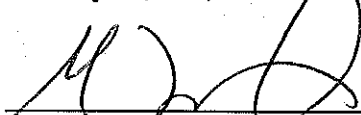
Environmental review is not required for this project pursuant to Section 15301, (existing facilities) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

## NOTIFICATION

There are no public notification requirements for this application.



Ken Lyon, RA, Associate Planner



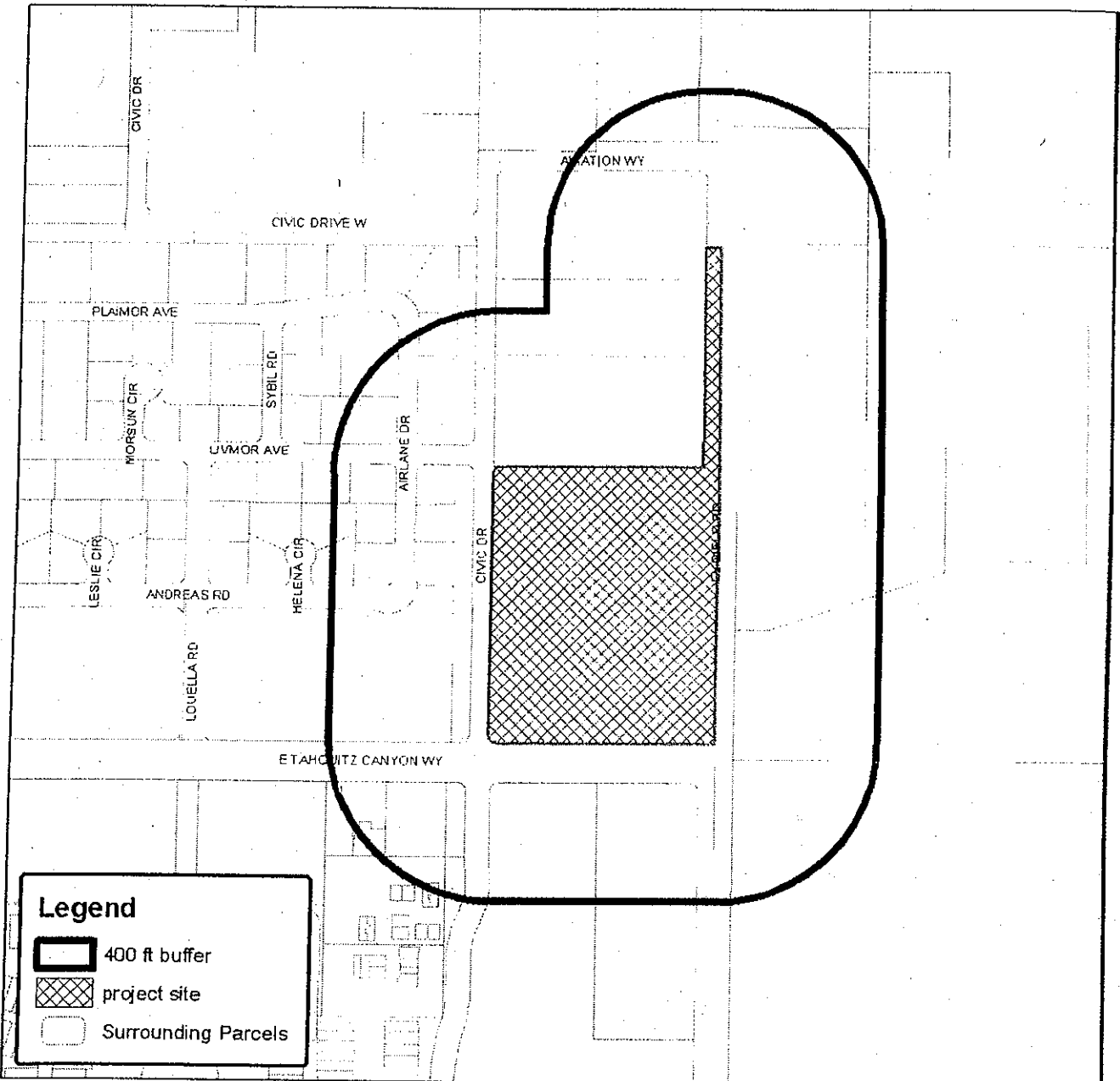
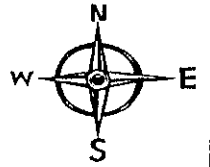
Margo Wheeler, AICP Director of Planning Services

## ATTACHMENTS




1. Vicinity Map
2. Memo from Public Works, February 27, 2013
3. Photographs (to be provided at the meeting)



# 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.

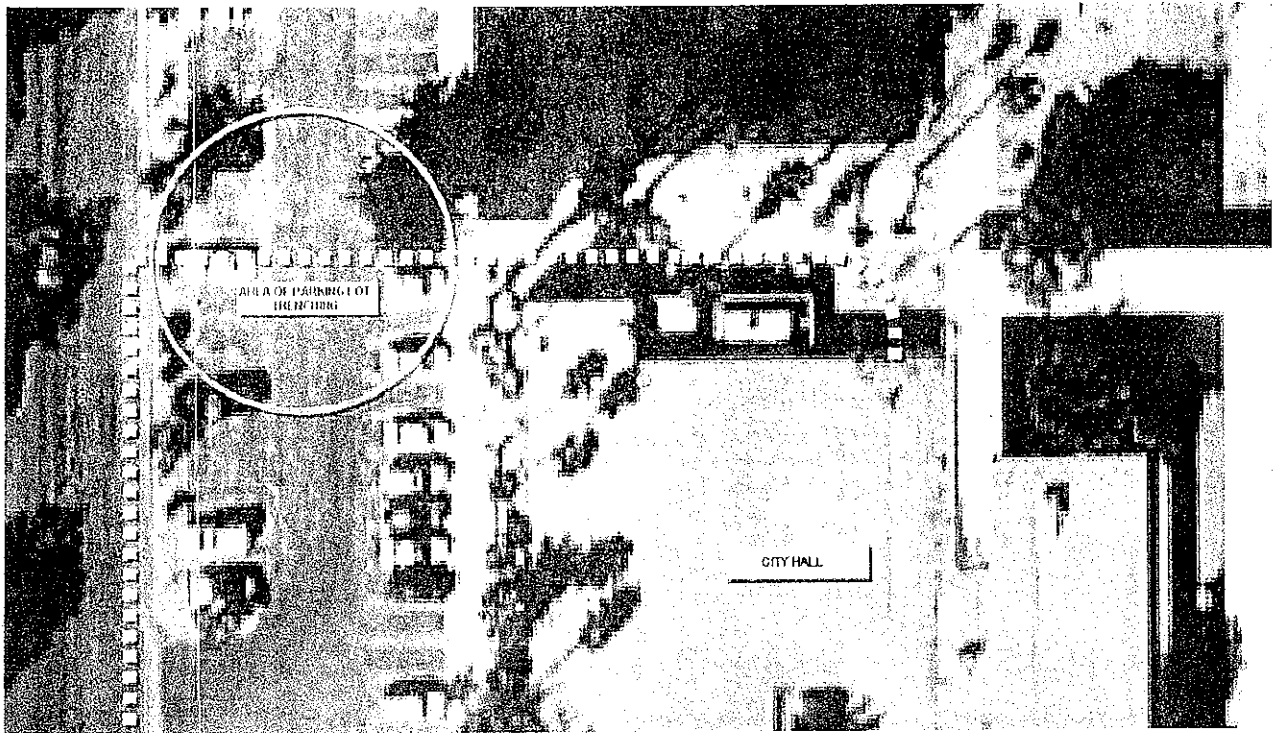
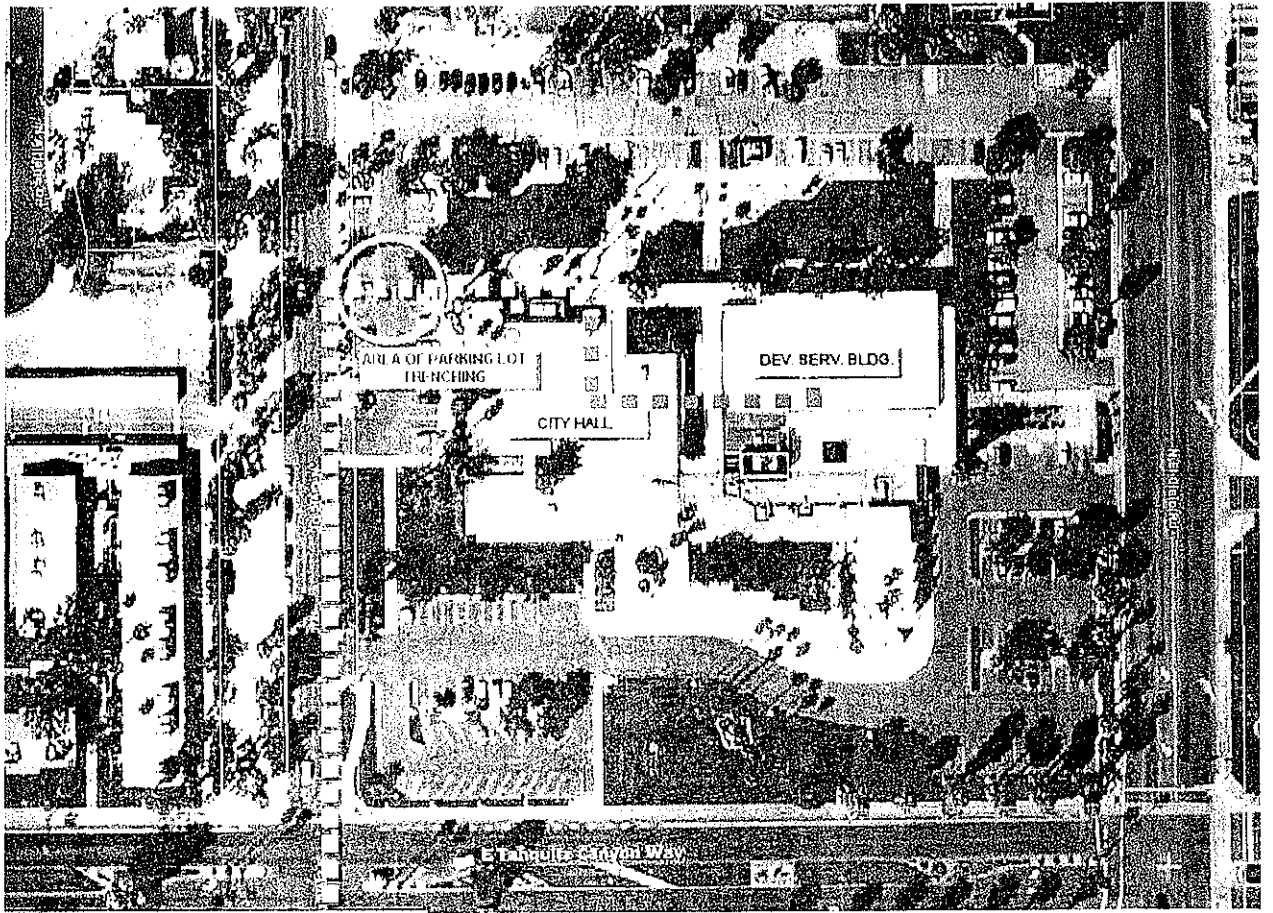
The Public Works Department was approved for a grant to construct a new Traffic Management Center (TMC). The TMC grant will install video cameras, connect and synchronize traffic signals at 80 intersections, transmit the data via a broad spectrum wireless to the IT Hub at the Police Station, and finally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

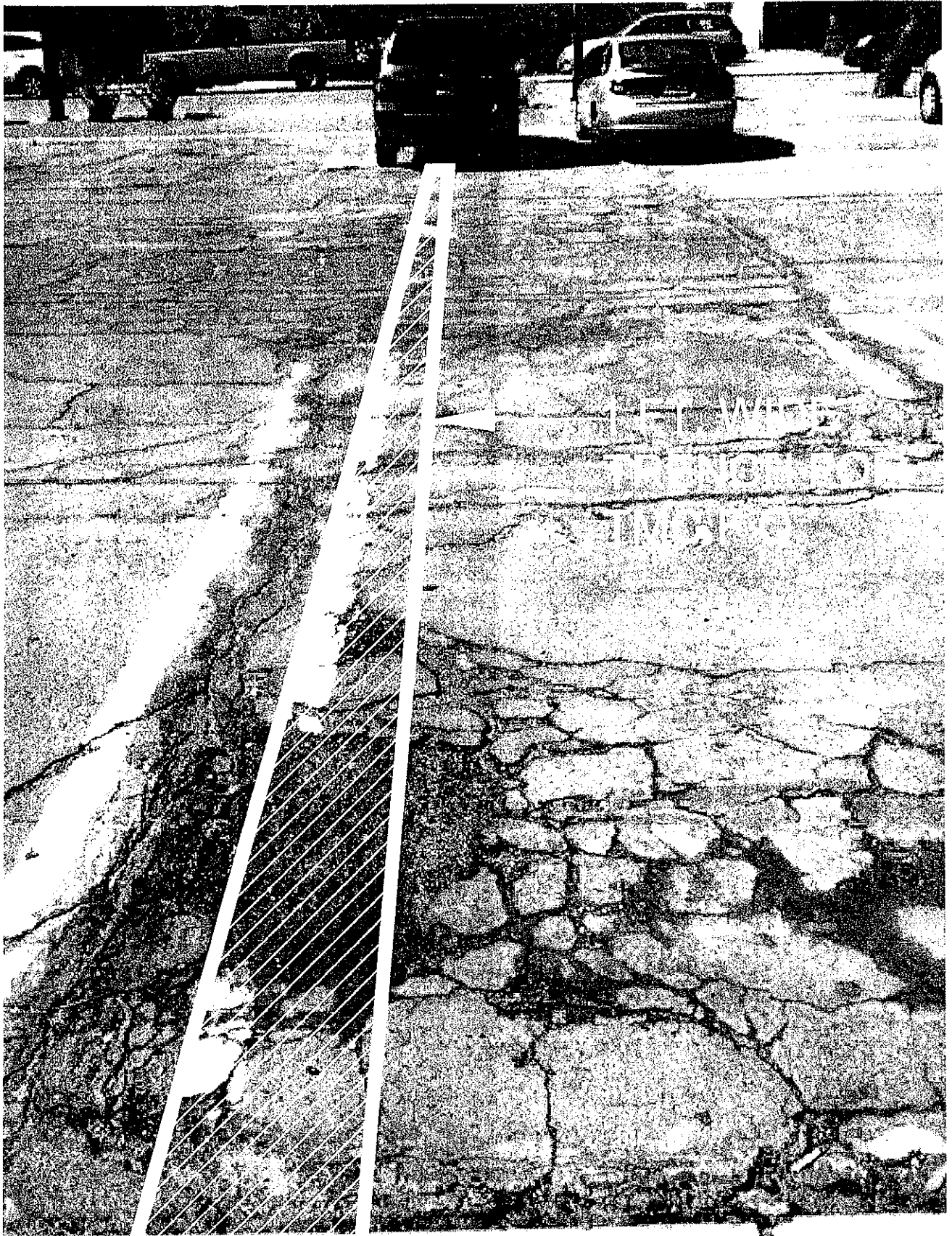
Cc: Dave Barakian, City Engineer and Public Works Director  
Savat Khamphou, Asst. City Engineer  
CP 08-04 File Copy



NEW TMC FIBER OPTIC (F.O.)

CP 08-04

EXHIBIT 1

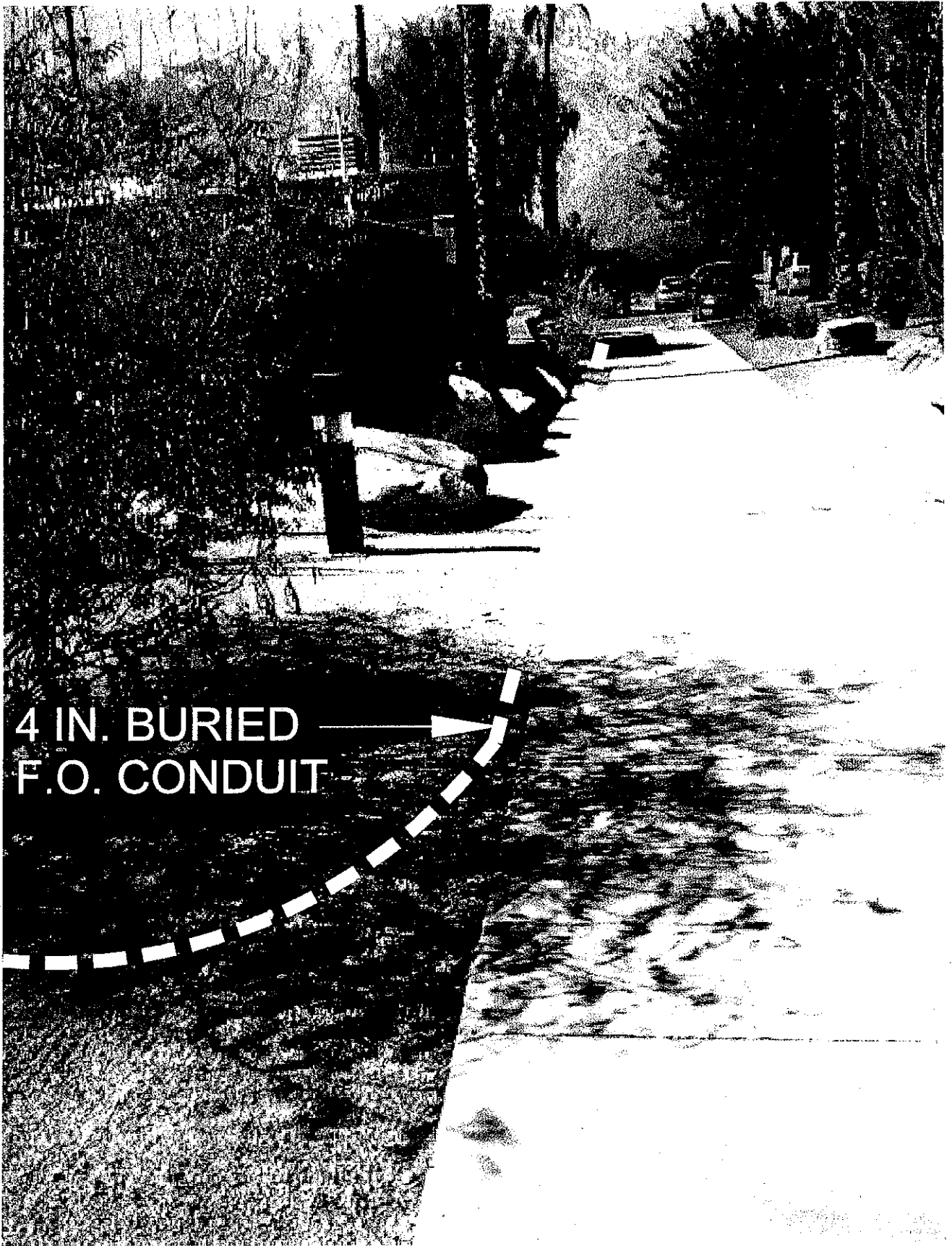


NEW TMC FIBER OPTIC (F.O.)

CP 08-04

EXHIBIT 2





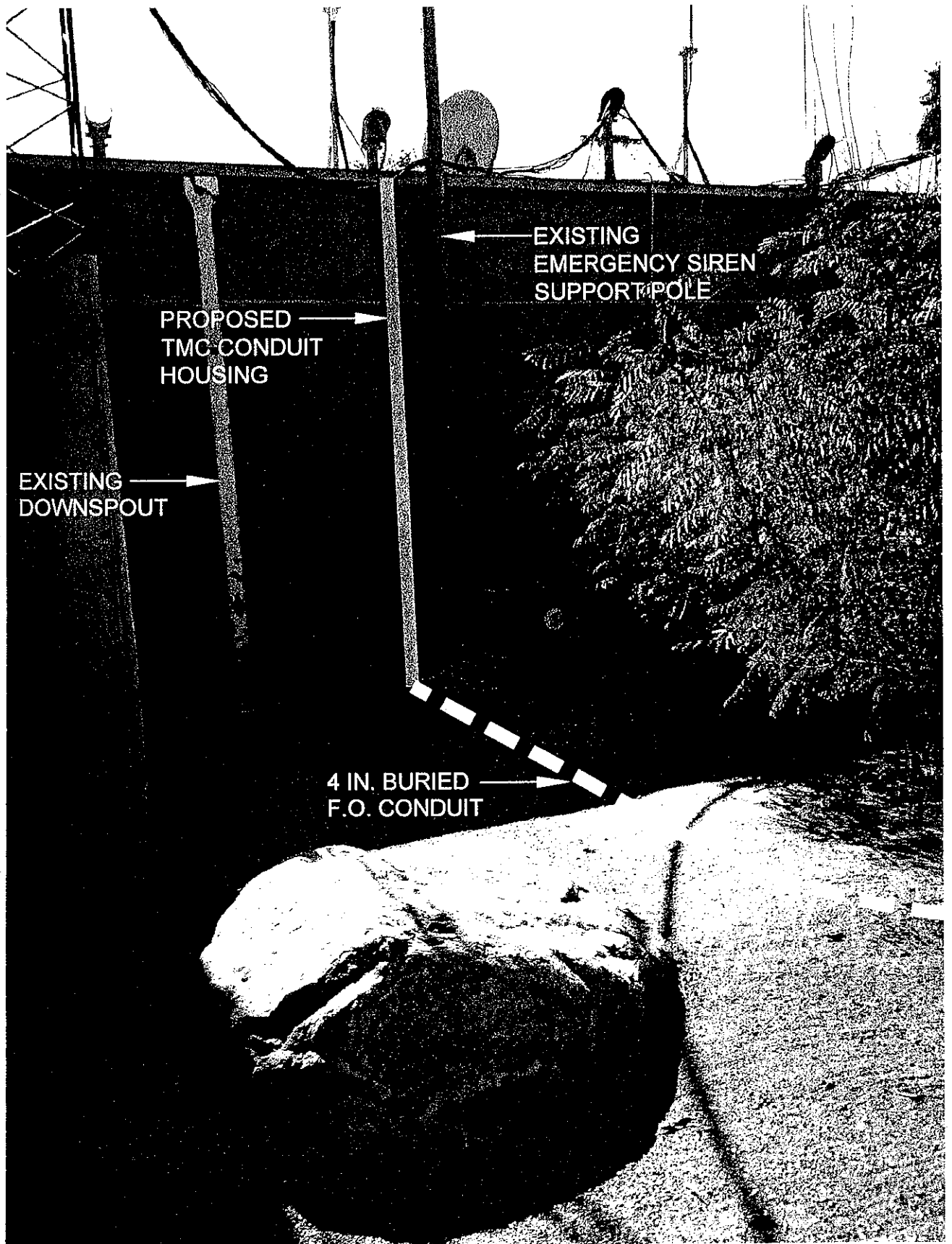
4 IN. BURIED  
F.O. CONDUIT

NEW TMC FIBER OPTIC (F.O.)

CP 08-04

EXHIBIT 3





NEW TMC FIBER OPTIC (F.O.)

CP 08-04

EXHIBIT 4