Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report &
Notice of Scoping Meeting

DATE: September 16, 2005

TO: Responsible Agencies, Agencies with Jurisdiction by Law, Trustee Agencies, Involved Federal Agencies, and Agencies/People Requesting Notice

FROM: City of Berkeley
Current Planning
ATNN: Greg Powell
2118 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704
Fax: (510) 981-7420

RE: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Notice of Scoping Meeting for the 700 University Avenue Project

NOP: The City of Berkeley (Lead Agency) will prepare an EIR for the proposed 700 University Avenue Project. The project site is located in West Berkeley bounded by an elevated portion of University Avenue to the north, Addison Street to the south, Fourth Street to the east, and the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks to the west. The proposed project includes demolition of Celia’s Restaurant and Brennan’s Restaurant, construction of two buildings with retail and residential uses, and renovation of the historic Southern Pacific Railroad Station for use as the relocated Brennan’s Restaurant. The proposed building on the north side of the project site would include ground-floor retail and 60 residential units; the proposed building on the south side of the project site would include 113 residential units. Additionally, a total of 199 vehicle-parking spaces and 24 bicycle-parking spaces would be provided on the project site.

Based on the project description and the Lead Agency’s understanding of the environmental issues associated with the project, the following topics will be analyzed in detail in the EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
Cultural Resources  
Geology & Soils  
Hazards & Hazardous Materials  
Hydrology & Water Quality  
Land Use & Planning  
Noise  
Transportation/Traffic  

For a more detailed description of the proposed project and discussion of the environmental issues related to the proposed project, please refer to the Initial Study that can be found on the Lead Agency’s website: http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/planning/

The Lead Agency solicits comments regarding the scope and content of the EIR from all interested parties requesting notice, responsible agencies, agencies with jurisdiction by law, trustee agencies, and involved agencies. Please send your written/typed comments (including a contact name) to the following:

City of Berkeley  
Current Planning  
ATTN: Greg Powell  
2118 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704  

Due to the time limits mandated by California law, written comments must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than October 17, 2005.

Notice of Scoping Meeting: Pursuant to California Public Resources Code §21081.7, 21083.9, and 21092.2, the Lead Agency will conduct a public scoping meeting for the same purpose of soliciting oral and written comments from interested parties requesting notice, responsible agencies, agencies with jurisdiction by law, trustee agencies, and involved federal agencies, as to the appropriate scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting will be held on October 13, 2005 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the following location:

City of Berkeley  
2118 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
2nd Floor Conference Room - AKA Sitka Spruce  

For additional information, please contact Greg Powell at (510) 981-7414

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X                               Date:

Greg Powell  
Senior Planner