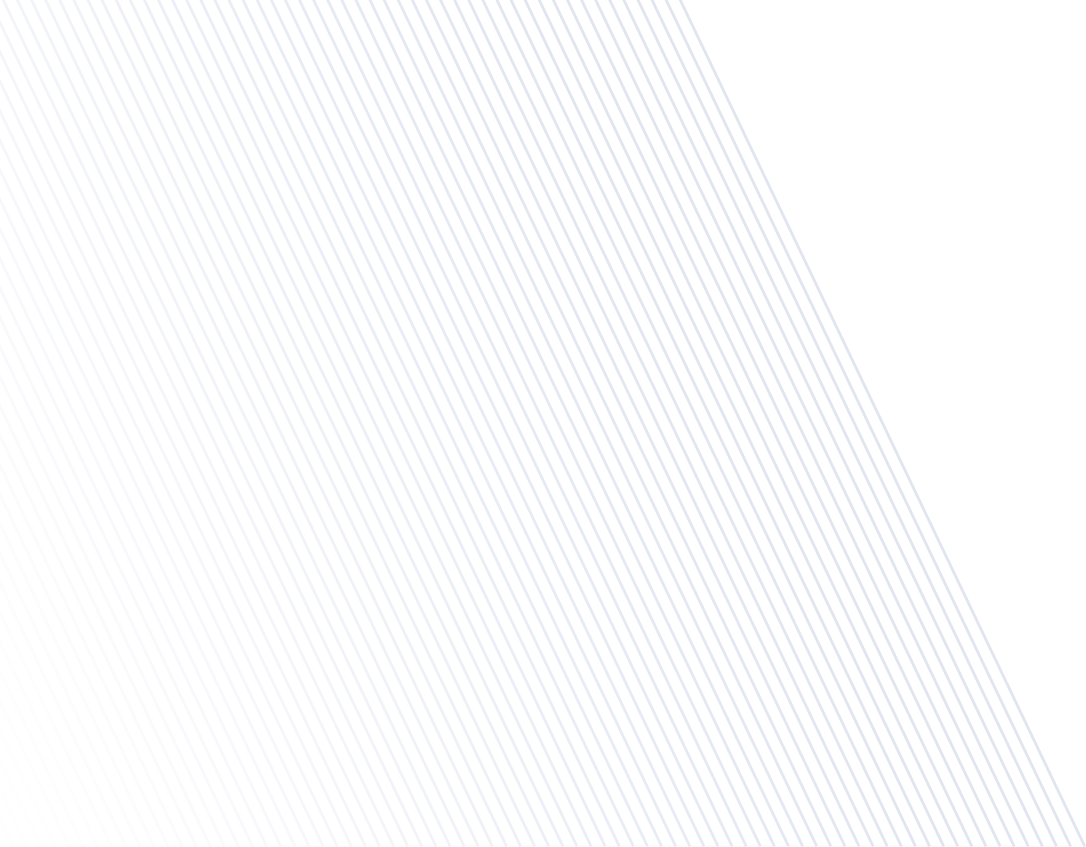
Ascent Environmental logo

Final Environmental Impact Report

**Jesse M. Unruh  
Building Renovation Project**



SCH#2019039120

Prepared for:



California Department of General Services

707 3rd Street, MS-509

West Sacramento, CA 95605

October 25, 2019

Final Environmental Impact Report

Jesse M. Unruh  
Building Renovation Project



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Prepared for:

California Department of General Services

707 3rd Street, MS-509

West Sacramento, CA 95605

Contact:

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18010209.01 October 25, 2019

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIA CVC American Institute of Architects, Central Valley Chapter

Caltrans California Department of Transportation

CAP 1997 Capitol Area Plan

CHBC California Historical Building Code

CRHR California Register of Historical Resources

DGS California Department of General Services

HSCC California Historic State Capitol Commission

NRHP National Register of Historic Places

PRC Public Resources Code

SCH State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit

SHPO State Historic Preservation Officer

SMUD Sacramento Municipal Utility District

SOIS Secretary of Interior Standards

# introduction

## Overview

On July 16, 2019, the California Department of General Services (DGS) distributed to public agencies and the general public a draft environmental impact report (Draft EIR) prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.) for the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project in downtown Sacramento. The building would be renovated to ensure the safety and comfort of the tenants, and to avoid falling into an irreversible state of disrepair.

The Draft EIR was made available for a period of 45 days during which comments from agencies, organizations, and individuals were received. The public review period ended on August 30, 2019. A total of 165 comment letters were received on the document. There were three attendees at the August 20, 2019 public hearing, hosted by DGS, but no formal comments were provided at the hearing.

This final environmental impact report (Final EIR) has been prepared under the direction of DGS in accordance with the requirements of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 15000 et seq.). The Final EIR consists of the Draft EIR and this document, which includes comments received on the Draft EIR, responses to those comments, and revisions to the Draft EIR.

This document is divided into five chapters:

Chapter 1, “Introduction,” provides an overview of the environmental review process and a summary of the proposed Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project.

Chapter 2, “Responses to Comments,” reproduces public comments received on the Draft EIR and presents responses to those comments.

Chapter 3, “Revisions to the Draft EIR,” identifies changes made to the Draft EIR since its publication and public review. The changes are presented in the order in which they appear in the Draft EIR and are identified by the Draft EIR page number. Text deletions are shown in ~~strikethrough~~, and text additions are shown in underline.

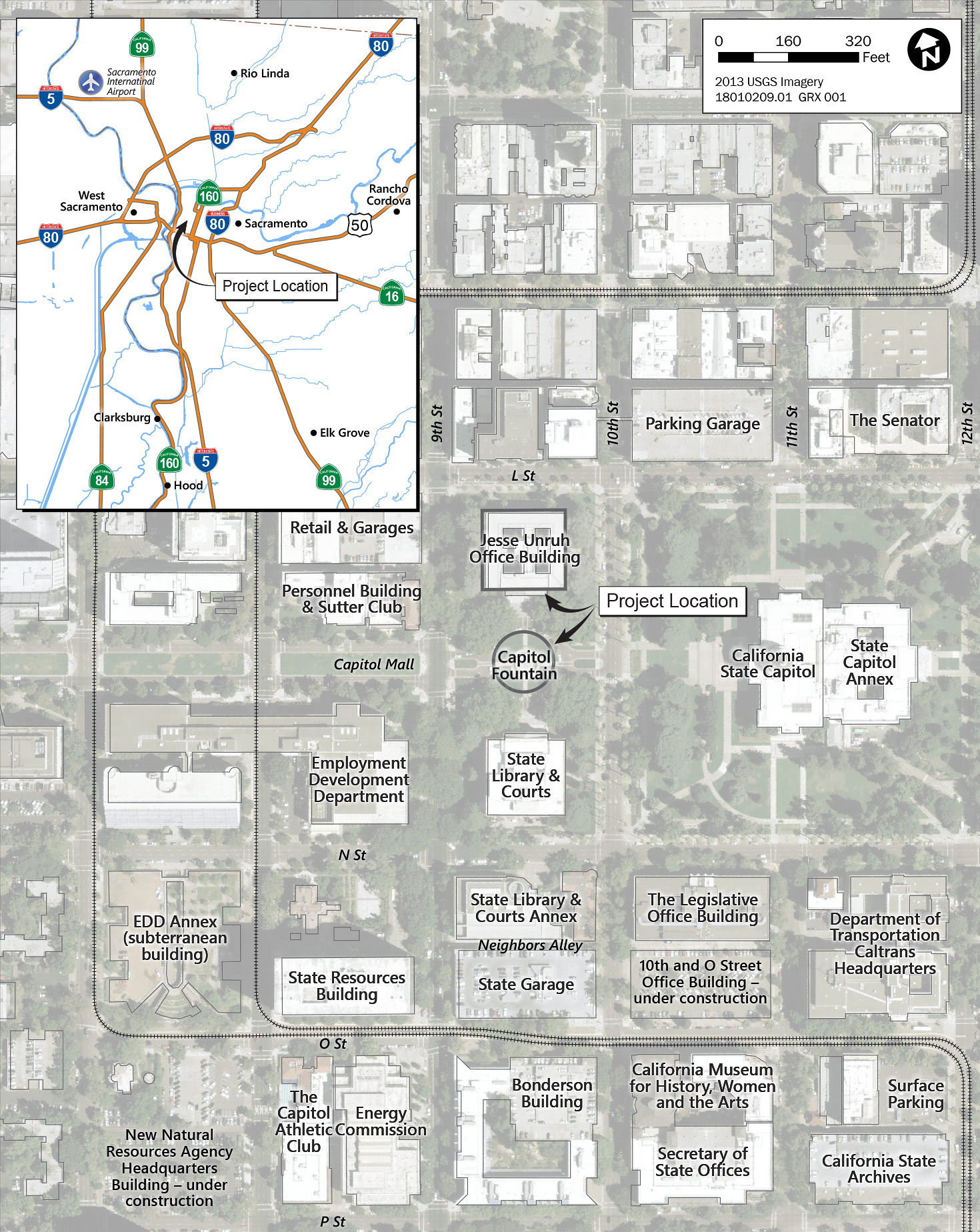
Chapter 4, “References,” lists references cited in this document.

Chapter 5, “List of Preparers,” identifies the preparers of the document.

## Summary Description of the Project

### Project Location

The Jesse M. Unruh Building is located at 915 Capitol Mall in the City of Sacramento in a prominent area on Capitol Mall. The building is immediately north of the Capitol fountain, which is also part of the project site. The Unruh Building and the Capitol fountain are located immediately west of the California State Capitol and north of the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building. The project site includes nearly the entire city block bounded by L Street to the north, 10th Street to the east, Capitol Mall to the south, and 9th Street to the west as well as the roundabout with the Capitol fountain (Figure 1-1).



Source: Sacramento County 2008. Adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019.

Figure 1-1 Site Location

### Synopsis of Project Characteristics

The following is a synopsis of the project characteristics. For further information on the proposed project, see Chapter 3, “Project Description,” of the Draft EIR. The DGS Real Estate Services Division is responsible for the planning, permitting, and implementation of the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project, which would be funded by the State through the State Projects Infrastructure Fund, as administered by the California Department of General Services (DGS). The building is within the Capitol Area covered by the 1997 Capitol Area Plan (CAP) and is designated as “Office.” The Capitol fountain area is identified in the CAP as “Parks and Open Space” (DGS 1997).

The Jesse M. Unruh Building was constructed on land donated to the State by the City of Sacramento in 1913 and was first occupied in 1929. The building has since been continuously occupied for more than 85 years. The building is part of the “Capitol Extension Group,” along with the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building and the California State Capitol Building, and is part of a registered historic district.

The building has received limited updates since its original construction. An air conditioning system was installed in the 1950s, the building underwent a seismic retrofit in the 1990s, and a new roof was installed in 2016. An infrastructure study completed in 2008 and updated by DGS in 2013, identified a variety fire and life safety, building code, and other infrastructure deficiencies as well as the presence of hazardous materials needing remediation.

The project would involve a comprehensive renovation to extend the useful lifespan of the building by approximately 50 years and improve tenant safety and comfort. The renovation would incorporate upgrades to fire and life safety and accessibility; repairs to historic elements that are deteriorating or causing deterioration; hazardous materials removal; replacement of plumbing; replacement of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system; replacement of the electrical, telecommunications, and security systems; landscaping; and renovation of the elevators. The project would include restoration of historic elements, as feasible, and provide a new office layout for existing tenants. The project would also involve the decommissioning and removal of the Capitol fountain. The project goal is to achieve Zero Net Energy and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) v4 Silver certification.

## Major Conclusions of the Environmental Analysis

The Draft EIR evaluated the potential for the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project to result in physical environmental effects related to archaeological, historic, and tribal cultural resources; transportation and circulation; utilities and infrastructure; air quality; greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; energy; noise; hazards and hazardous materials; and biological resources. As summarized in Table 2-1 of the Draft EIR, the project’s impacts were determined to be less than significant for all resources except archaeological, historic, and tribal cultural resources and biological resources; however, Mitigation Measures 4.3-1 through 4.3-4 and 4.11-1 through 4.11-3 reduce the project’s impacts on these resources to less-than-significant levels. The project would not result in any significant and unavoidable adverse impacts (i.e., impacts that cannot be reduced to less than significant levels with feasible mitigation).

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# Responses to Comments

This chapter contains comment letters received during the public review period for the Draft EIR, which concluded on August 30, 2019. In conformance with Section 15088(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, written responses were prepared addressing comments on environmental issues received from reviewers of the Draft EIR.

## List of Commenters on the Draft EIR

Table 2-1 presents the list of commenters, including the numerical designation for each comment letter received, the author of the comment letter, and the date of the comment letter.

Table 2-1 List of Commenters

| Letter No. | Commenter | Date |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | AGENCIES |  |
| A1 | Uzma Rheman, Transportation Planner  California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 3 | July 19, 2019 |
| A2 | Nicole Goi, Regional & Local Government Affairs  Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) | August 26, 2019 |
| A3 | Scott Morgan, Director, State Clearinghouse  State of California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research  State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit (SCH) | August 30, 2019 |
| A4 | Richard Cowen, Chair  California Historic State Capitol Commission (HSCC) | August 30, 2019 |
|  | ORGANIZATIONS |  |
| O1 | Genevieve Vargas, AIA  American Institute of Architects, Central Valley Chapter (AIA CVC) | August 28, 2019 |
| O2 | William Burg, President  Preservation Sacramento | August 28, 2019 |
| O3 | Bill George, President  Sacramento Historical Society | August 28, 2019 |
| O4 | Dan Visnich  California Capitol Historic Preservation Society | August 29, 2019 |
| O5 | Cindy Heitzman, Executive Director  California Preservation Foundation | August 30, 2019 |
|  | INDIVIDUALS |  |
| I1 | Crystal Gorton | August 23, 2019 |
| I2 | P. Hooley | August 23, 2019 |
| I3 | Liz Kanter | August 23, 2019 |
| I4 | Dylan Musgrove | August 23, 2019 |
| I5 | Mattie Parfitt | August 23, 2019 |
| I6 | Cameo Rockwell | August 23, 2019 |
| I7 | Zach Sapunor | August 23, 2019 |
| I8 | Michael Sestak | August 23, 2019 |
| I9 | Dara Slivka | August 23, 2019 |
| I10 | Jerry Sloan | August 23, 2019 |
| I11 | Tina Sorvari | August 23, 2019 |
| I12 | Lynne Taylor | August 23, 2019 |
| I13 | Emily Wright | August 23, 2019 |
| I14 | Debra Banes | August 24, 2019 |
| I15 | Heidi Corcoran | August 24, 2019 |
| I16 | Romer Cristobal | August 24, 2019 |
| I17 | Bonnie Hansen | August 24, 2019 |
| I18 | Earl Lagomarsino | August 24, 2019 |
| I19 | Eric Levinson | August 24, 2019 |
| I20 | Cathy Palmer | August 24, 2019 |
| I21 | Kathe Potter | August 24, 2019 |
| I22 | Shannon Ross | August 24. 2019 |
| I23 | Luree Stetson | August 24, 2019 |
| I24 | Linn Tyer | August 24, 2019 |
| I25 | Jason Yuen | August 24, 2019 |
| I26 | Tracy Anderson | August 25, 2019 |
| I27 | Cynthia Mac Leay | August 25, 2019 |
| I28 | Glenn Miles | August 25, 2019 |
| I29 | Michael Myers | August 25, 2019 |
| I30 | Rich Borgquist | August 26, 2019 |
| I31 | CJ Chaffee | August 26, 2019 |
| I32 | Marilyn Champa | August 26, 2019 |
| I33 | Mary Kay Edson | August 26, 2019 |
| I34 | Janet Kurnick | August 26, 2019 |
| I35 | Kathy Les | August 26, 2019 |
| I36 | Frank Lindsen | August 26, 2019 |
| I37 | John H. Nicolaus | August 26, 2019 |
| I38 | Shinteya | August 26, 2019 |
| I39 | Gretchen Steinberg | August 26, 2019 |
| I40 | Randee Tavarez | August 26, 2019 |
| I41 | Sheila Van Noy | August 26, 2019 |
| I42 | Donna Springer | August 26, 2019 |
| I43 | Joanne Crosta | August 26, 2019 |
| I44 | LaRue Carnes | August 27, 2019 |
| I45 | Joe Wolfenden | August 27, 2019 |
| I46 | Jan Summers | August 27, 2019 |
| I47 | Sandy Khan | August 27, 2019 |
| I48 | Will Rose | August 28, 2019 |
| I49 | Patricia Gayman | August 28, 2019 |
| I50 | Jennifer Stanley | August 28, 2019 |
| I51 | Linda McFarland | August 28, 2019 |
| I52 | Whitney Johnson | August 28, 2019 |
| I53 | Alexa Roberts | September 5, 2019 |
| I54 | Dennis Blegen | August 28, 2019 |
| I55 | Phyllis Ehlert | August 28, 2019 |
| I56 | Laurie Steffen | August 28, 2019 |
| I57 | Clayton Whitehead | August 28, 2019 |
| I58 | Sean de Courcy | August 29, 2019 |
| I59 | Mark Harrington | August 29, 2019 |
| I60 | Dan Allison | August 29, 2019 |
| I61 | Michael Barton | August 29, 2019 |
| I62 | Gary Binkerd | August 29, 2019 |
| I63 | Carole Cory and Jan Stevens | August 29, 2019 |
| I64 | Michael Munson | August 29, 2019 |
| I65 | Barbara Steinberg | August 29, 2019 |
| I66 | Gregory VanAcker | August 29, 2019 |
| I67 | Emily Wright | August 29, 2019 |
| I68 | Ellen Binkerd | August 29, 2019 |
| I69 | Jason Braga | August 29, 2019 |
| I70 | Vivian Gerlach | August 29, 2019 |
| I71 | Debbie Towne | August 29, 2019 |
| I72 | Malissa Enea | August 29, 2019 |
| I73 | Catherine Turrill Lupi | August 29, 2019 |
| I74 | Catherine Metz | August 29, 2019 |
| I75 | Brett Cole | August 29, 2019 |
| I76 | Mary Swisher | August 29, 2019 |
| I77 | Dennis Davis | August 29, 2019 |
| I78 | Karen Davis | August 29, 2019 |
| I79 | Nancy Wagner-Edgar | August 29, 2019 |
| I80 | Mary Ann Low | August 29, 2019 |
| I81 | Gaylin Rezek | August 29, 2019 |
| I82 | Kathleen Green | August 29, 2019 |
| I83 | Pat Paul | August 29, 2019 |
| I84 | Eleanor Andrade | August 30, 2019 |
| I85 | Joyce Childs | August 30, 2019 |
| I86 | Colleen Fescenmeyer | August 30, 2019 |
| I87 | Debbie Gorman | August 30, 2019 |
| I88 | Michael Seaman | August 30, 2019 |
| I89 | Christine Thorntona | August 30, 2019 |
| I90 | Cassie Webb | August 30, 2019 |
| I91 | Brad Clark | August 30, 2019 |
| I92 | Terry Coulombe | August 30, 2019 |
| I93 | Deb Harms | August 30, 2019 |
| I94 | Garrett McCord | August 30, 2019 |
| I95 | Cynthia Mitchell Speakman | August 30, 2019 |
| I96 | Beverly Meeker Tobey | August 30, 2019 |
| I97 | Rob Turner | August 30, 2019 |
| I98 | Barada | August 30, 2019 |
| I99 | Sharon Grafton | August 30, 2019 |
| I100 | Dennis Perez | August 30, 2019 |
| I101 | Mj Guajardo | August 30, 2019 |
| I102 | Richard Simas | August 30, 2019 |
| I103 | Sherry Collins | August 30, 2019 |
| I104 | Glenn Miltenberger | August 30, 2019 |
| I105 | Cathy Palmer | August 30, 2019 |
| I106 | Gerald Filice | August 30, 2019 |
| I107 | Jackie Whitelam | August 30, 2019 |
| I108 | John Hodgson | August 30, 2019 |
| I109 | Roxanne Miller | August 30, 2019 |
| I110 | Erika Bradley | August 30, 2019 |
| I111 | Javier Torres | August 30, 2019 |
| I112 | Yeshe Dorje | August 30, 2019 |
| I113 | Cecily Hastings | August 30, 2019 |
| I114 | Bryan Nuxoll | August 30, 2019 |
| I115 | George Nordstrom | August 30, 2019 |
| I116 | Chuck Robuck | August 30, 2019 |
| I117 | Michaelle Longhofer | August 30, 2019 |
| I118 | Marina Texeira | August 30, 2019 |
| I119 | Martha Paterson-Cohen | August 30, 2019 |
| I120 | Vito Parisi | August 30, 2019 |
| I121 | Melba Hinojosa | August 30, 2019 |
| I122 | Melanie Balfour | August 30, 2019 |
| I123 | Amelita Manes | August 30, 2019 |
| I124 | Fiona Renton | August 30, 2019 |
| I125 | Dani Butler | August 30, 2019 |
| I126 | Carole Harris | August 30, 2019 |
| I127 | Helene Meyer | August 30, 2019 |
| I128 | Richard Casias, RCC Group | August 30, 2019 |
| I129 | Jack and Gayle | August 31, 2019 |
| I130 | Deborah Marvin | August 31, 2019 |
| I131 | Andrea Noah | August 31, 2019 |
| I132 | Debra Castaneda | August 31, 2019 |
| I133 | aj | August 31, 2019 |
| I134 | Dianna Hansen | August 31, 2019 |
| I135 | Diane Hollingshead | August 31, 2019 |
| I136 | James Ashcraft | August 31, 2019 |
| I137 | Jean Wright | August 31, 2019 |
| I138 | Sally Peterson | August 31, 2019 |
| I139 | Angela Vine | August 31, 2019 |
| I140 | Kathleen Kelly | August 31, 2019 |
| I141 | Gayle Dax-Conroy | August 31, 2019 |
| I142 | Matt Millspaugh | August 31, 2019 |
| I143 | Cynthia Young | August 31, 2019 |
| I144 | Allison Post Harris | August 31, 2019 |
| I145 | Catherine O’Brien | August 31, 2019 |
| I146 | Todd Clobes | September 1, 2019 |
| I147 | Claire Yazigi | September 1, 2019 |
| I148 | Michele Chouinard | September 1, 2019 |
| I149 | Diana Mollart | September 1, 2019 |
| I150 | Betsy Vallejo | September 1, 2019 |
| I151 | Doug Wright | September 1, 2019 |
| I152 | Julie Newlin | September 1, 2019 |
| I153 | Marisa Warnock | September 3, 2019 |
| I154 | Dan Dillon | September 8, 2019 |
| I155 | Marian Moe | September 10, 2019 |
| I156 | Judith Alsop | September 10, 2019 |

## Master Response: Capitol Fountain

Most of the comments received on the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft EIR were related to concerns about DGS’ proposal to decommission and remove the Capitol fountain. As described in Chapter 3, “Project Description,” the Capitol fountain is in the middle of the roundabout directly in front of (west of) the State Capitol Building, south of the Jesse M. Unruh Building, and north of the Library and Courts Building. The Capitol fountain was constructed in the 1920s, has been non-operational since 2010, and is deteriorating.

As stated in Section 4.3, “Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources,” in Section 4.3.2, page 4.3-17, of the Draft EIR, the Capitol fountain is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) under Criteria A and 1, respectively, as a contributing element to the NRHP-listed Capitol Extension Group Historic District. The Capitol fountain was evaluated for listing in the NRHP/CRHR in accordance with Section 15064.5 (a)(2)-(3) of CEQA Guidelines and using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code. As such, the Capitol fountain is a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

DGS has proposed removal of the fountain because there are issues with electrical shortages in the fountain lighting, failure of mechanical equipment, cracks in the concrete coping around the perimeter and in the tiles within the bowl, leaks in the fountain bowl and associated valves, and a possible drain line collapse. DGS is also concerned about the use of water to run the fountain in a drought-prone state. Although water would be recirculated within the fountain, it would still be subject to water loss through evaporation, leakage, and splash. It is also possible that the fountain could use recycled water, reserving higher-quality potable water for municipal uses. However, there are not currently recycled water lines that could serve such water to the fountain. DGS is proposing instead to replace the fountain with appropriate hardscape and landscape features that maintain the roundabout plaza between the Jesse M. Unruh Building and the Library and Courts Building.

The existing condition of the Capitol fountain, its eligibility for listing in the NRHP as a contributing element to the Capitol Extension Group Historic District, and assessment of the project’s impact to the feature are discussed in the Draft EIR, in Section 4.3, “Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources,” in Section 4.3.2, page 4.3-17, and in Impact 4.3-4: Potential for Impacts on Historic Architectural Resources on page 4.3-22. The Draft EIR evaluates the impact of the project, including removal of the Capitol fountain, on the project site’s baseline conditions, which are the physical environmental conditions of the site (the environmental setting) at the time of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Draft EIR. The NOP was published on March 22, 2019. The Capitol fountain was non-operational at this time; the project impact was therefore considered against this baseline condition.

As stated in Impact 4.3-4, page 4.3-22, of the Draft EIR, the project proposes to decommission and remove the Capitol fountain. The fountain plaza, which includes the fountain and the roundabout, is one of three historic architectural features that comprise the NRHP-listed Capitol Extension Group. The loss of the fountain would impair one of the qualities that qualifies the grouping for listing in the NRHP, which would be a substantial adverse change to the historical resource (Capitol Extension Group). However, impact to the Capitol Extension Group would be reduced to a less-than-significant level because mitigation requires DGS to ensure that removal and any on-site replacement in place of the fountain be completed in a manner that is sensitive to the original structure’s scale and placement within the Capitol Extension Group. Replacement features shall not screen or block the view of either the Capitol building to the east or the Capitol Mall to the west and shall not disrupt the Beaux-Arts character of the Capitol Extension Group and park-like setting that is critical to the historic composition of the District. The area of the fountain and plaza shall continue to have pedestrian-oriented and vehicular circulation consistent with current patterns and continue to represent an extension of the Capitol Park. DGS is required to use available preservation planning tools to perform this mitigation, such as the Jesse M. Unruh Building Historic Structure Report, the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and relevant National Park Service Preservation Briefs. This mitigation would reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level because the Capitol Extension Group would continue to have a low-profile landscaped roundabout that allows views to the Capitol and the Capitol Mall, maintains character-defining traffic and pedestrian circulation patterns, and maintains the symmetrical axis between the grouping’s pair of buildings typical of the Beaux Arts style that helps define the character of the Capitol Extension Group. The Capitol Extension Group would retain a strong ability to convey its historical significance.

Eligibility determinations for all historic-era built-environment resources considered as part of the project are currently under review by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) as part of the Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5024 consultation process between DGS and the SHPO. This consultation process is ongoing. As stated in Section 4.3.1, page 4.3-4 of the Draft EIR, PRC § 5024 and 5024.5 are a separate regulatory process from CEQA. For further information on the PRC § 5024 & 5024.5, consult the [OHP website](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27964) (URL: http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\_id=27964).

Many commenters expressed support for Alternative 2 in Chapter 7 of the Draft EIR, the Full Historic Restoration Alternative (see Section 7.4.2), which would include restoration of the Capitol fountain. As explained in Chapter 7, “Alternatives,” of the Draft EIR, the State CEQA Guidelines require EIRs to describe “… a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. An EIR need not consider every conceivable alternative to a project. Rather, it must consider a range of potentially feasible alternatives that will avoid or substantially lessen the significant adverse impacts of a project, and foster informed decision making and public participation. An EIR is not required to consider alternatives that are infeasible. The lead agency is responsible for selecting a range of project alternatives for examination and must publicly disclose its reasoning for selecting those alternatives. There is no ironclad rule governing the nature or scope of the alternatives to be discussed other than the rule of reason.” Alternative 2: Restore Historic Features of the Jesse M. Unruh Building and Capitol Fountain Alternative is considered as a potentially feasible alternative that would avoid or substantially lessen the significant adverse historic resources impacts of the project. DGS will consider the analysis in the Draft EIR, the comments on Draft EIR, the potential for environmental impacts, and alternatives to the project in the decision-making process. DGS recognizes the number of comments supporting preservation and restoration of the Capitol fountain and will consider this in rendering a decision about this project element. DGS must address its consideration of both the environmental impacts of the project, the adoption of mitigation to reduce such impacts, and the consideration of alternatives to the project in its CEQA Findings document.

## Comments and Responses

The written comments received on the Draft EIR and the responses to those comments are provided below. The comments are reproduced in their entirety and are followed by the response(s). Where a commenter has provided multiple comments, each comment is provided, organized by an identifying letter and comment number (e.g., A4-1, A4-2, A4-3, etc.). Please see Attachment A for reproductions of the original comment letters, with individual comments identified by a line and comment number in the margin.

## Agencies

Letter A1 **California Department of Transportation**

Uzma Rehman

July 19, 2019

Comment A1-1

Thank you for submitting the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project for review. We don’t have any comments at this time.

Let us know if anything changes.

Response A1-1

DGS appreciates Caltrans’ review. Caltrans will be informed of future actions related to the CEQA process and DGS will continue to coordinate with Caltrans staff through the project construction process.

Letter A2 **Sacramento Municipal Utility District**

Nicole Goi, Regional & Local Government Affairs

August 26, 2019

Comment A2-1

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project (Project, SCH 2019039120). SMUD is the primary energy provider for Sacramento County and the proposed Project area. SMUD’s vision is to empower our customers with solutions and options that increase energy efficiency, protect the environment, reduce global warming, and lower the cost to serve our region. As a Responsible Agency, SMUD aims to ensure that the proposed Project limits the potential for significant environmental effects on SMUD facilities, employees, and customers.

It is our desire that the Project DEIR will acknowledge any Project impacts related to the following:

* Overhead and or underground transmission and distribution line easements. Please view the following links on smud.org for more information regarding transmission encroachment:
* [SMUD Design & Construction Services](https://www.smud.org/en/Business-Solutions-and-Rebates/Design-and-Construction-Services) (URL: https://www.smud.org/en/Business-Solutions-and-Rebates/Design-and-Construction-Services)
* [Transmission Line Right of Way](https://www.smud.org/en/Corporate/Do-Business-with-SMUD/Land-Use/Transmission-Right-of-Way) (URL: https://www.smud.org/en/Corporate/Do-Business-with-SMUD/Land-Use/Transmission-Right-of-Way)
* Utility line routing
* Electrical load needs/requirements
* Energy Efficiency
* Climate Change
* Cumulative impacts related to the need for increased electrical delivery
* The potential need to relocate and or remove any SMUD infrastructure that maybe affected in or around the project area

More specifically, SMUD would like to have the following details related to the electrical infrastructure incorporated into the project description:

SMUD appreciates the inclusion of the estimated electrical infrastructure requirements as well as future energy needs. Current existing infrastructure is accurately described. We have no further comments to provide at this time.

We aim to be partners in the efficient and sustainable delivery of the proposed Project. Please ensure that the information included in this response is conveyed to the Project planners and the appropriate Project proponents.

Environmental leadership is a core value of SMUD and we look forward to collaborating with you on this Project. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this DEIR. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact SMUD’s Environmental Management Specialist, Rob Ferrera, at Rob.Ferrera@smud.org or 916.732.6676.

Response A2-1

DGS appreciates SMUD’s review. The Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft EIR describes SMUD’s electrical service to the building in Section 3.3, and addresses impacts related to utilities in Section 4.5, impacts related to electrical demand and energy efficiency in Section 4.8, impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in Section 4.7, and cumulative impacts related to these resources in Chapter 5. DGS will continue to coordinate with SMUD regarding electrical infrastructure throughout project design and construction.

Letter A3 **Governor’s Office of Planning and Research**

Scott Morgan, Director, State Clearinghouse

August 30, 2019

Comment A3-1

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named EIR to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on 8/29/2019, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2019039120/3.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Response A3-1

The letter documents that the State Clearinghouse submitted the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft EIR to selected state agencies and that, as of the close of the comment period on August 29, 2019, no state agency comments were received. The project complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents pursuant to CEQA.

Letter A4 **California Historic State Capitol Commission**

Richard Cowan, Chair

August 30, 2019

Comment A4-1

The Committee’s major comments concern:

* confusing, unclear, and mixed use of terms and descriptions of the project and alternatives;
* inadequate rationale for the “primary project” to not require use of the Secretary of the Interior’s Rehabilitation Standards and the California Historical Building Code, which would allow for a project that can consider technical and economic feasibility, achieve all the project objectives, and provide a project with NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS, and, thereby, would not need to consider mitigation measures;
* inclusion of an alternative proposal that is not feasible, would be impractical, and would not meet project objectives;
* inadequate documentation and, thereby, analysis of historic features and characteristics of elements in the project area, especially relative to the project site and landscape, and the Capitol fountain; and,
* inadequate analysis of, and conclusions relative to, project impacts, especially relative to the Capitol fountain.

Response A4-1

DGS appreciates the California Historic State Capitol Commission’s review and input on the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project and Draft EIR. This comment provides a summary of the Commission’s following detailed comments provided in the letter. Please see the responses A4-2 through A4-37 below, which address this list of concerns.

Comment A4-2

HISTORIC STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION

Comments on the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project DEIR

Sec 1.1 PROJECT REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

1-1. “The project would include restoration of historic elements as feasible and….”

Is the use of the term “restoration,” as used here, to be considered as the project would use the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards (SOIS) for Restoration? Is the use of the term

“feasible,” as used here, to be considered technically and economically feasible as per CEQA definition?

This use of “restoration,” here, for the primary/proposed project description, is confusing, since the proposed Alternative 2 in this document also uses “Restoration” per the SOIS.

It is recommended that the primary/proposed project description clearly state use of the SOI “Rehabilitation” Standards, throughout, for work that would involve all historic resources in the project, including the building, the fountain, and the site, including its site design and historic landscape features. Then, “Restoration” could be used (though not advised; see below) for an alternative to the proposed project.

Note both the SOIS for Rehabilitation, along with the California Historical Building Code (CHBC), incorporates consideration of feasibility, which can more effectively achieve other project objectives while minimizing impacts to historical resources.

“The project would also involve renovation or modification of the Capitol fountain.”

Note that “renovation” is not a term used in SOIS. Recommend use “Rehabilitation” per SOIS, which would guide historically appropriate and feasible work on the fountain and ensure impacts that would be less than significant.

Note that this sentence describes the proposed project – renovation or modification – but later sections of the document indicate the fountain is proposed to be removed, which would be a very different project. This inconsistency within the document needs correcting, and hopefully corrected to eliminate any reference to removal of the fountain.

How would the SOIS be used in the project’s approach to the fountain?

Would the SOIS be used in developing options for the “modification” of the fountain, which could then adequately eliminate or mitigate project impacts to this significant historical resource?

Why is the project goal so limited vs. the significance of the historical resources involved?

The LEED v4 Silver and Net Zero Energy goals and the historic rehabilitation per SOIS are not mutually exclusive. Especially when also incorporating use of the California Historical Building Code (CHBC).

Response A4-2

Use of the term “restoration,” in the context of this paragraph and in the Draft EIR generally, is intended to describe the proposed project for the lay reader and is not intended to adhere to specific regulatory definitions. However, the project as proposed is for “rehabilitation.” Therefore, for greater clarity, the text on page 1-1 of the Draft EIR is revised as follows:

The project would ~~include restoration of historic elements as feasible and~~ provide a new office layout for existing tenants.

The title of the project is the Jesse M. Unruh Building “Renovation” Project, because the building is in need of a major renovation to correct existing fire and life safety deficiencies. The project objectives are listed in Section 3.2 of the Draft EIR; one of the stated objectives is to “complete the renovations in such a manner that retains the overall historic nature of the resource.” Please see Section 4.3, “Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources,” which describes the historic resources, evaluates the project’s potential impacts to those resources, and imposes mitigation to lessen the project’s impacts. This section discusses the Secretary of Interior Standards (SOIS), particularly in Impact 4.3-4 and Mitigation Measures 4.3-4a and 4.3-4b. The Draft EIR analysis of historical resources is supported by the Historic Resources Technical Report provided in Appendix B of the Draft EIR, which evaluates the Jesse M. Unruh Building and the Capitol fountain. Furthermore, Alternative 2, Full Historic Restoration Alternative, is intended to present an alternative to decision makers that would avoid the significant, but mitigable, impacts to historic resources, the Jesse M. Unruh Building and the Capitol fountain, and therefore is intended to be a full ”restoration” of historic elements.

To clarify, the project as proposed includes the decommissioning and removal of the Capitol fountain, and is presented and evaluated as such throughout the Draft EIR. Please see Response A4-3, below, which provides specific revision to clarify text in the Draft EIR.

Zero Net Energy (ZNE) and LEED Silver certification are goals of State-owned building projects. Executive Order B 18-12 ordered that all new State buildings and major renovations beginning design after 2025 be constructed as ZNE facilities, with an interim target for 50 percent of new facilities being ZNE that begin design after 2020. This should not be confused for the project objectives. The wording of the sentence in this section could be more clear, and is revised as follows:

~~The project goal is~~ The project seeks to be designed in such a way as to achieve Zero Net Energy (ZNE) and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) v4 Silver certification.

Comment A4-3

Sec 1.5 PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

p. 1-4. The NOP includes the potential for renovation or modification of the Capitol fountain as part of the project.

In the DEIR document, there are two very different descriptions of the project as related to the Capitol fountain, in various sections of the document, as follows:

Sec 1.1 PROJECT REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

p. 1-1

In the project synopsis, relative to the fountain project, the terms “renovation or modification” are used; however, in ….

Sec. 2.2.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT

p. 2-3

In the first paragraph in this section, it states “The project would also involve the decommissioning and removal of the Capitol fountain.” Then, in ….

Sec 3.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND NEED

p. 3-1

…. this section states, “The project includes modification of the Capitol fountain…”

Then, in ….

Table 3-1 Proposed Interior and Exterior Building Renovations, under EXTERNAL RENOVATIONS, for Capitol fountain’s listing in the table, it states “fountain decommissioned and removed”.

The inconsistencies in what the fountain project would or would not be, and inadequate discussion of “need,” require corrections.

It is recommended that the correction state that the proposed project would be the rehabilitation of the fountain, per SOIS and CHBC.

Response A4-3

It is correct that the Notice of Preparation (NOP), published in March 2019, stated that the project may involve renovation or modification of the Capitol fountain, because that was earlier in the project planning process. As stated in Section 3.4, “Project Characteristics,” of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would involve the decommissioning and removal of the Capitol fountain. This information regarding this project element was also noted in the published Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR for public review, which was published in July 2019. The environmental impact analyses throughout Chapter 4 of the Draft EIR evaluated the construction and operational effects of removing the Capitol fountain.

The text of the last paragraph on page 1-1 of the Draft EIR incorrectly stated that “The project would also involve renovation or modification of the Capitol fountain.” This text is hereby revised as follows:

The project would involve a comprehensive renovation to extend the useful lifespan of the building by approximately 50 years and improve tenant safety and comfort. The renovation would incorporate upgrades to fire and life-safety and accessibility; repairs to historic elements that are deteriorating or causing deterioration; hazardous materials removal; replacement of the plumbing, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); replacement of the electrical, telecommunications, and security systems; landscaping; and renovation of the elevators. The project ~~would include restoration of historic elements as feasible and~~ provide a new office layout for existing tenants. The project would also involve ~~renovation or modification~~ the decommissioning and removal of the Capitol fountain. The project goal is to achieve Zero Net Energy and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) v4 Silver certification.

For clarification, the text in Section 2.2.4, “Characteristics of the Project,” in Chapter 2, “Executive Summary,” is hereby revised as follows:

The project includes ~~modification~~ decommissioning and removal of the Capitol fountain, which is located in the middle of the roundabout directly in front of the State Capitol, south of the Jesse M. Unruh Building and north of the Library and Courts Building. There are currently issues with electrical shortages in the fountain lighting, failure of mechanical equipment, leaks in the fountain bowl and associated valves, and a possible drain line collapse.

For further clarification, the text in the last paragraph of Section 3.1, “Project Background and Need,” on page 3-1 of the Draft EIR is hereby revised as follows:

The project includes ~~modification~~ decommissioning and removal of the Capitol fountain, which is located in the middle of the roundabout directly in front of the State Capitol, south of the Jesse M. Unruh Building and north of the Library and Courts Building. The Capitol fountain was constructed in the 1920s, has been non-operational since 2010, and is deteriorating. There are issues with electrical shortages in the fountain lighting, failure of mechanical equipment, leaks in the fountain bowl and associated valves, and a possible drain line collapse.

DGS has proposed removal of the fountain because there are issues with electrical shortages in the fountain lighting, failure of mechanical equipment, cracks in the concrete coping around the perimeter and in the tiles within the bowl, leaks in the fountain bowl and associated valves, and a possible drain line collapse. DGS is also concerned about the use of water to run the fountain in a drought-prone state. Although water would be recirculated within the fountain, it would still be subject to water loss through evaporation, leakage, and splash. It is also possible that the fountain could use recycled water, reserving higher-quality potable water for municipal uses. However, there are not currently recycled water lines that could serve such water to the fountain. DGS is proposing instead to replace the fountain with appropriate hardscape and landscape features that maintain the roundabout plaza between the Jesse M. Unruh Building and the Library and Courts Building.

As evaluated in Draft EIR Impact 4.3-4: Potential for Impacts on Historic Architectural Resources, the Jesse M. Unruh Building would be subject to risk of adverse physical change as a result of project-related physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration per CEQA Guidelines 15064.5(b)(1). The project characteristics, which are described in Chapter 3, “Project Description,” of the Draft EIR include interior renovations such as floor construction, installation of new stairwells, window and door replacement, and exterior renovations such as repairs and replacement of various elevation features and changes to the immediate landscape. These actions have the potential to result in an adverse physical change to the historical resource if such activities impair qualities of the Jesse M. Unruh Building that qualify it as a historical resource. Furthermore, the decommissioning and removal of Capitol fountain would adversely affect one of the three historic architectural features that comprise the NRHP-listed Capitol Extension Group. The planning and design of this design-build project is ongoing and final construction-ready designs are not complete at this point in the process. Therefore, the amount of detail is not available to document meeting SOIS for all character defining features with a primary significance or as feasible for secondary significance status, and in instances in which actions required to secure human safety are not compatible with the SOIS, meeting the CHBC. The CEQA process requires that potential environmental impacts are disclosed, evaluated, and mitigated. Therefore, Section 4.3 of the Draft EIR provides description of identified historic resources on the project site and Impact 4.3-4 discloses the potentially significant impact to those resources. Mitigation Measures 4.3-4a and 4.3-4b require the application of the SOIS for all character defining features with a primary significance or as feasible for secondary significance status, and in instances in which actions required to secure human safety are not compatible with the SOIS, the application of the CHBC. These mitigation measures shall be implemented and tracked per a mitigation, monitoring, and reporting program. Mitigation Measure 4.3-4a would minimize or eliminate the potential for the project to impair the qualities that qualify the Jesse M. Unruh for listing in the NRHP and status as a CEQA historical resource. The Jesse M. Unruh Building would retain a strong ability to convey its historical significance. Mitigation Measure 4.3-4b would minimize the impact caused by the proposed project to a less-than-significant level because the Capitol Extension Group would continue to have a low-profile landscaped roundabout that allows views to the Capitol and the Capitol Mall, maintains character-defining traffic and pedestrian circulation patterns, and maintains the symmetrical axis between the grouping’s pair of buildings typical of the Beaux Arts style that helps define the character of the Capitol Extension Group. The Capitol Extension Group would retain a strong ability to convey its historical significance.

Comment A4-4

Sec 2.2.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

p. 2-4. The last bullet states, “Complete renovations in such a manner that retains the overall historic nature of the resource.”

Why would the objective, for such significant historical resources involved, be so vaguely worded, especially when it could be “self-mitigating” by wording the objective to state that the project would involve Rehabilitation per SOIS and the CHBC for all the historical resources involved, including the building, the fountain, and the site, including its design and landscape features?

Response A4-4

The objective expresses the intention of DGS to retain the historic nature of the resource. While DGS intends to meet SOI standards, if feasible, it is also possible that, as project design is completed and building renovations are implemented, an issue may arise in the building that cannot be adequately addressed while still meeting SOI standards. If this situation arises, DGS would design the solution to be as sensitive to the historic nature of the resource as possible, while still maintaining the safety and efficiency objectives.

Comment A4-5

Sec 2.4 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

p. 2-4. It is noted here that Alternative 2 would assume SOIS Restoration treatment.

An alternative to the project calling for “restoration” would be confusing and inadequate relative to the project description noted above, which also uses the term “restoration.”

Also, since alternatives to a proposed project should be feasible, both economically and technically, and achieve most if not all of the project objectives, using the “Restoration” Standards as an alternative would be impractical and could not achieve the project objectives. Restoration Standards return and restore the historically and architecturally significant features of the property to their era of significance. In the case of the historic elements of the project – the Unruh Building, the Capitol fountain, and we suggest their park design and historic landscape settings – returning to the time of their early era of significance, which for the Unruh Building ends at 1952 – would not be able to reflect current and CHBC codes for structural, fire & life-safety, HVAC, accessibility, or energy efficiency or sustainability.

Sec 2.4.1 ENVIRONMENTALLY-SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE

Why consider a NO PROJECT alternative, involving a deteriorating and safety-challenged historical property, to be environmentally superior when NO PROJECT would likely result in cumulative and ultimately significant impacts to the historic resource – by allowing the property to continue to deteriorate with no corrections of the problems identified in the building, especially with safety and health risks that would continue, and likely result in the loss of tenants willing to remain and ultimately the potential loss of the historic resource due to its “demolition by neglect” ?

Response A4-5

Please see Responses A4-2 and A4-3 regarding terminology utilized in the Draft EIR.

The comment expresses disagreement with the use of the term “restoration” in Alternative 2 and suggests that this alternative would be infeasible. As explained in Chapter 7, “Alternatives,” of the Draft EIR, the State CEQA Guidelines require EIRs to describe “… a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. An EIR need not consider every conceivable alternative to a project. Rather, it must consider a range of potentially feasible alternatives that will avoid or substantially lessen the significant adverse impacts of a project, and foster informed decision making and public participation. An EIR is not required to consider alternatives that are infeasible. The lead agency is responsible for selecting a range of project alternatives for examination and must publicly disclose its reasoning for selecting those alternatives. There is no ironclad rule governing the nature or scope of the alternatives to be discussed other than the rule of reason.” Alternative 2: Restore Historic Features of the Jesse M. Unruh Building and Capitol Fountain Alternative is considered as a potentially feasible alternative that would avoid or substantially lessen the significant adverse historic resources impacts of the project, which is an alternative to be considered by DGS in the decision-making process for the project. As illustrated in Table 7-1 of the Draft EIR, the Full Historic Restoration Alternative would be environmentally superior action alternative because it would avoid potential impacts to the character defining features of the historic building and would reduce operational impacts because there would be no additional employees and no additional vehicular trips. However, full historic restoration under Alternative 2 would hinder DGS’ ability to meet the project objectives, which are to implement fire-life safety improvements, ADA upgrades, infrastructure upgrades, and hazardous material removal, because preservation and restoration of the historic elements of the building would be prioritized over other building improvements. It is anticipated that this would result in various building code and fire and life safety measures being infeasible to implement. Therefore, Alternative 2 would not serve the safety and comfort of State employees with an up-to-code building. DGS will address its consideration of both the environmental impacts of the project, the adoption of mitigation to reduce such impacts, and the consideration of alternatives to the project in its CEQA Findings document.

As explained in Chapter 7, “Alternatives,” of the Draft EIR, the State CEQA Guidelines require that a “no project” alternative be considered (CCR Section 15126.6[e]). The purpose of describing and analyzing a no project alternative is to allow decision makers to compare the impacts of approving a proposed project with the impacts of not approving the proposed project. Therefore, Alternative 1 in Chapter 7 of the Draft EIR is the No Project-No Development Alternative.

Comment A4-6

Sec 2.5 AREAS OF CONTROVERSY AND ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED

p. 2-5. Since concerns identified in our review of this document involve not just the city street trees, it is recommended that a new bullet be added:

* historic site design and landscape features, including trees on the project site and within the public rights-of-way.

Response A4-6

DGS acknowledges the concerns regarding historic design and landscape features. The Draft EIR correctly describes the existing conditions of the project site and evaluates the project’s potential physical environmental effects on those conditions. The project does not propose alteration of the landscaping, pathways, or memorials/statues around the Jesse M. Unruh Building. As explained in Chapter 3, “Project Description,” of the Draft EIR, Section 3.4.6, the project site would be temporarily disturbed due to construction. Measures would be implemented during construction to prevent damage to nearby buildings and site features. Impact 4.11-3 of the Draft EIR discloses that the project may involve pruning or removal of trees on the project site, including on State-owned property and City of Sacramento street trees. Mitigation Measure 4.11-3 requires a tree removal plan by a certified arborist. DGS will ensure implementation of the tree removal, protection, replanting, and replacement plan during project construction and operation. After project construction is complete, the project site would be maintained, as it is currently.

Comment A4-7

Table 2-1 Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures

p. 2-8. Chart Impact 4.3-4 “Potential for Impacts on Historic Architectural Resources” Historical resources involved are not limited to “architectural.”

Response A4-7

The title of Impact 4.3-4 is hereby revised as follows:

Impact 4.3-4: Potential for Impacts on Historic ~~Architectural~~ Resources

Comment A4-8

Mitigation 4.3-4a: Adherence to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Historic Structure Report, the SOI Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, the California State [sic] Historical Building Code, and/or relevant NPS Preservation Briefs.

“…and include mitigation measures in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (SOIS) or the California Historical Building Code (CHBC).”

Since CHBC is based on SOIS, why use “or” in the sentence above? It is recommended to use “and”.

“…the historical significance and condition of the building is considered in the development of proposed renovation work.”

Why just “consider” the significance? It should be the guide for the treatment, which should be referred to as “rehabilitation” and not “renovation”. If using SOIS Rehabilitation Standards, the significance of the historical resources would be appropriately addressed.

In addition, why just the historical significance and condition of the building and not the other historical features involved in the project including the Capitol fountain and the entire project’s site, including its historic design and historic landscape features?

p. 2-9. “In instances when DGS must address human safety issues not compatible with the SOIS, DS will adhere to the CHBC to the extent feasible.”

Why is this sentence needed? The SOIS and CHBC both consider feasibility and provide a range of solutions to appropriately address safety issues when found in historical properties, buildings and sites.

If project activities involving historical resources do not comply with SOIS, then the impact is not Less-Than-Significant (LTS). Ensure LTS by compliance with the SOIS.

To ensure the project will not have any significant impacts on historical resources, why not include, as a mitigation measure that the project will comply with the SOI’s Rehabilitation Standards and the CHBC, especially relative to features identified as having primary and secondary significance?

Was a Historic Structure Report conducted for the Capitol fountain? Such a report will help in understanding the significant features and characteristics of a fountain, which needs to include its water spray height and pattern. When significant features and characteristics are not adequately understood, impacts to those features and characteristics will also be inadequately evaluated.

Was a Historic Landscape Report conducted for the project site? Such a report will help in understanding the significant design and landscape features of the site, including in the public rights-of-way.

The last paragraph is excellent!

Mitigation Measure 4.3-4b: “Adherence to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Historic Structure Report, the SOI’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and relevant NPS Preservation Briefs”

p. 2-10. “Decommissioning, removal, and any on-site replacement in place of the fountain…” cannot be considered a Less-Than-Significant (LTS) impact, since those actions would not comply with the SOIS, and therefore would not be considered LTS.

The proposed mitigation measure would not reduce the impacts to the fountain to LTS. Since a fountain, and especially this fountain, is not simply an open area, but also includes a water feature with specific vertical spray characteristics and patterns, eliminating that significant feature of this fountain would have very significant impacts on the historical resource and the historic setting.

This impact could be easily avoided by rehabilitation of the fountain using SOIS for Rehabilitation.

Response A4-8

The language in Mitigation 4.3-4a: Adherence to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Historic Structure Report, the SOI Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, the California State [sic] Historical Building Code, and/or relevant NPS Preservation Briefs is hereby revised as follows:

…and include mitigation measures in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (SOIS) ~~or~~ and the California Historical Building Code (CHBC).

DGS will apply the SOIS and CHBC, as feasible, but when life safety is an issue, DGS will incorporate the standard building code in tandem with the CHBC and SOIS (as allowed in the CHBC Section 8-105.2) to achieve life safety solutions. The less than significant conclusion in Impact 4.3-4 is based on the application of the SOIS, CHBC, and federal Preservation Briefs, not just on meeting SOIS, and thus the incorporation of standard building codes to meet life safety concerns remains consistent with the conclusion of less than significant.

As discussed previously, the terminology utilized in the Draft EIR, “renovation” is used to generally summarize the proposed project for the lay reader and is not intended to adhere to specific regulatory definitions.

Additionally, the title of the project is the Jesse M. Unruh Building “Renovation” Project, because the building is in need of a major renovation to correct existing fire and life safety deficiencies. It is used appropriately in the context of this mitigation measure.

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, Response A4-2, and Response A4-4, above.

As stated on page 4.3-7 of the Draft EIR, much of the environmental setting and evaluations pertaining to historic architectural resources within the study area is summarized from two supporting documents: The *Draft Office Building No. 1 Historic Resources Technical Report* (HSR) (addresses the Jesse M. Unruh Building, the Capitol fountain, and landscaping features, provided in Draft EIR Appendix B), and the *Draft Part 1 Historic Structure Report* (Page & Turnbull 2019). Completion of the *Historic Structure Report Part 2*, on which the design will be based, is forthcoming. . The HSR Part 1 includes the following elements, related to landscape:

* Historic contexts for Ecole des Beaux Arts, Beaux Arts Classicism, City Beautiful Movement, City Beautiful Movement in Sacramento
* Developmental history of Unruh Building including brief description of development of site, landscaping, and fountain
* Physical description of building’s existing site and landscape features, including the fountain plaza
* Evaluation of significance
  + Site design and landscaping discussed as part of building’s expression of City Beautiful Movement/Ecole des Beaux Arts
  + Separate evaluation of significance for the “fountain plaza”
* List of character-defining features, including several site and landscaping features (fountain, sidewalks, parking strips, traffic circle, general plantings)
* Site plan significance diagram, showing features of Primary, Secondary, or no significance
* Condition assessment of plantings, irrigation features, and fountain

The HSR Part 2 will include the following, related to landscape:

* Summary of environmental impacts and mitigation related to Capitol fountain from Draft EIR
* Treatment recommendations and alternatives for site and landscaping features, such as plantings, irrigation features, and the fountain

DGS will prioritize protection of the project site’s landscaping during construction, and where necessary pruning or removal of trees or landscaping is required for project implementation, the tree or vegetation shall be treated in accordance with the SOI Standards with guidelines for the treatment of cultural landscapes, and in consultation with SHPO. The landscaping will continue to be maintained, supporting the expression of the City Beautiful Movement/Ecole des Beaux Arts site design.

The comment recommends revisions to Mitigation Measure 4.3-4a that would require adherence to the SOIS. Mitigation Measure 4.3-4a and 4.3-4b are drafted as intended. The comment questions why Mitigation Measure 4.3-4a does not address the Capitol fountain. The Capitol fountain is addressed in Impact 4.3-4 and mitigated per Mitigation Measure 4.3-4b.

Although the comment expresses disagreement with the conclusions of the Draft EIR, the comments do not provide evidence to suggest that the analysis in the Draft EIR is inadequate.

Comment A4-9

Options for the fountain’s efficient use of water are many, including using reclaimed water (as the City of Sacramento does at the fountain in Cesar Chavez Plaza; see attached photo), and potential use of rain-water through development of water retention schemes in the Capitol Mall’s turf area

Impact 4.5.2: Adequacy of Water Supplies

p. 2-12. If the project will conform to LEED v4 Silver certification, with presumably much more efficient water use from completion of the project, why would there be an increase in water demand?

The project goals would seem to include reduction from current water demand, even with an increased number of employees. This should be doable.

Response A4-9

As explained in Draft EIR Section 3.4.2, “Tenant Elements and Assumptions,” it is anticipated that the number of occupants in the building would remain at 470. However, if the final designs for office space provide for additional work spaces, there could be some modest increase in employees. For purposes of this EIR, a conservative estimate of a 10 percent increase is assumed. This would result in an increase of 47 employees for a total of 517 employees in the renovated building. The Draft EIR therefore evaluates the potential environmental effects of an additional 47 employees.

As explained in Draft EIR Section 3.4, “Project Characteristics,” the project’s sustainability goals are to exceed the 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, achieve Zero Net Energy, and achieve the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED v4) Silver certification. Therefore, water and energy efficiency features would be installed in the renovated building. To provide a conservative evaluation of the project’s potential impacts related to water demand and energy (electricity) usage, the Draft EIR assumed a 10 percent increase in demand to track with the 10 percent increase in building occupants. This is a conservative approach, because the occupancy may not increase and efficiency measures would be implemented. Nonetheless, even with accounting for a 10 percent increase in occupants, there is sufficient water and energy supply. Please see Draft EIR Impact 4.5-2: Adequacy of Water Supplies and Draft EIR Impact 4.8-1: Wasteful, Inefficient, or Unnecessary Consumption of Energy, During Project Construction or Operations.

Also, see Master Response: Capitol Fountain as well as SMUD’s comment letter in Comment A2-1 and Response A2-1.

Comment A4-10

Table 2-1 Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures

p. 2-14. 4.8 Energy. Chart Impact 4.8-1: “Wasteful, Inefficient, or Unnecessary Consumption of Energy, During Project Construction or Operations”

Why would this document state there would be increased energy demand/use from the project, especially with project goals of Net Zero Energy and LEED v4 Silver?

This matter needs to be adequately evaluated due to the assumption in the DEIR that SMUD may require a new vault and other infrastructure for the project due to a presumption of energy demand. The new vault and other trenching for these new items could have significant impacts on the Unruh building historic site, its design and landscape features, most importantly trees.

The project, with the LEED and Net Zero Energy provisions, should be designed to ensure a reduction in energy demand/use from the project and minimize the need for additional energy/electrical capacity to the building.

Table 2-1 Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures

p. 2-18. Biological Resources. Chart Impact 4.11-3: “Conflict with Applicable Local Policies Protecting Biological Resources”

MM 4.11-3: Remove and Replace Trees Consistent with the City of Sacramento Tree Preservation Ordinance

The city’s General Plan Policy ER 3.1.3: Trees of Significance, “ensuring the design of development projects provides for the retention of these trees whenever possible.”

The proposed mitigation would only have a DGS survey and plan developed before construction for the removal and replanting of trees impacted by construction. This is not the design phase of the project where options for excavation alignments and locations could be considered relative to potential to avoid impacts to the trees. The proposed mitigation measure would not comply with the city policy.

To ensure LTS, the mitigation measure needs to include a pre-design phase evaluation -- by a qualified certified arborist and a cultural landscape historian -- of the site in order to include design options for “excavation (e.g. utility work) and construction” that could avoid and minimize impacts to these significant resources. That process could involve a LTS impact, where allowing removal, regardless of replanting, would not, especially when involving large, mature trees and their role in carbon sequestration and lessening of a heat island effect.

Response A4-10

Please see Response A4-9 above regarding the conservative estimates of potential increase in employees. Both SMUD and the State Fire Marshal have requested that a new electrical vault be located on the exterior of the Jesse M. Unruh Building. The conceptual plan for the new vault locates a 24’x34’x12’ vault on the western side of the building, located underground, with surface features restored after installation. The Draft EIR evaluated construction and operation of the proposed project, including ground disturbing activities related to utility connections and tree pruning or removal. The comments do not provide evidence to suggest that the analysis in the Draft EIR is inadequate.

The building renovation would be designed to minimize impacts to trees. However, Impact 4.11-3 of the Draft EIR discloses that the project may require pruning or removal of trees on the project site, including on State-owned property and City of Sacramento street trees. If this becomes necessary, Mitigation Measure 4.11-3 requires a tree removal plan by a certified arborist. DGS will ensure implementation of the tree removal, protection, replanting, and replacement plan during project construction and operation. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.11-3 would reduce potentially significant impacts associated with tree removal to a less-than-significant level by providing replacement trees and complying with the City’s Tree Preservation Ordinance. The State would continue to maintain project site landscaping as currently. In addition, please see Draft EIR Section 4.7, “Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change,” for a summary of the current state of climate change science and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions sources in California; a summary of applicable regulations; quantification of project-generated GHG emissions and discussion about their potential contribution to global climate change. Please also see Response A4-8, above, regarding concerns about landscaping as a cultural/historic site feature.

Comment A4-11

Sec 3.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

p. 3-2. See question on same issues at p. 2-3, Sec. 2.2.3.

Sec 3.3. PROJECT LOCATION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

p. 3-2. Why does this describe the project location as being “…north of the Capitol fountain…” when work on the fountain is proposed to be part of the project?

Sec 3.4 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

p. 3-2. “To the degree feasible, the project would be conducted in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior’s (SOI) Standards and Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings as administered by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)”

Note this sentence’s use of SOI Rehabilitation Standards differs, though in a good way, from the project description.

Note that Rehabilitation Standards already include consideration of feasibility.

Response A4-11

The location of the Jesse M. Unruh building and block that it is located on is described as being north of the Capitol fountain. As described above in Response A4-2, the Draft EIR describes and evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, including the decommissioning and removal of the Capitol fountain. Please also see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, Response A4-2, and Response A4-4, above.

Comment A4-12

Sec 3.4.1. BUILDING RENOVATIONS AND UPGRADES

p. 3-5. “Internal Renovations” Electrical Systems

The last bullet in this section mentions potential SMUD requirement for “additional 12kV underground infrastructure within the site to accommodate any additional transformer requirements as part of the project.”

Also, note that the bullet above it mentions that this could involve “a new underground vault sufficient to meet the entire needs of the installed electrical service as part of any renovation or improvements.”

This matter is also discussed under “External Renovations” below.

The extent of the potential “new underground vault” that would be required and its potential significant impacts on the site and landscape features of the project area needs to be robustly evaluated and clearly identified along with measures that would lessen potential impacts and/or alternatives to avoid the impact altogether.

Both the extent of the new, if any, electrical demand from the project, and the significant design and landscape features of the site, need to be carefully evaluated. If the electrical demand decreases due to the Zero Net Energy and LEED v4 Silver aspects of the project, there would be less need for new large (in both cost and size of underground vault and trenching) infrastructure projects.

Once need for new electrical infrastructure is identified, minimizing impacts from the location and size of any ground excavations needs to be considered as part of the project design phase, not pre-construction.

It is recommended that the location of new ground-disturbing, tree-disturbing, and tree-root disturbing infrastructure be placed in areas under streets or other paved areas of the project site, unless tree-roots are likely to be in some of these areas also.

Where is the need for increased electrical demand/use, and identification of any new infrastructure needed, evaluated, and evaluated adequately in order to be able to ensure minimal impacts to historical and landscape resources?

Sec 3.4.4 ENERGY USE

p. 3-6. If the project is proposed to be designed to exceed 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, to achieve Zero Net Energy and LEED v4 Silver certification, why would there be a need for a new vault sufficient to meet the entire needs of the installed electrical services as part of any renovation or improvement?

Even with additional employees, wouldn’t there be a significant reduced energy need from current use?

In the last paragraph on this page: If renovation is to be Zero Net Energy, etc., why would there be a need to increase capacity in a new emergency generator from 110-kilowatts to 750-kilowatts? These electrical issues are significant, in terms of both costs and the impact of the new infrastructure on historical resources at the project.

Response A4-12

DGS is and will continue to coordinate with SMUD regarding electrical service for the renovated office building. As stated above, both SMUD and the State Fire Marshal have requested that a new electrical vault be located on the exterior of the Jesse M. Unruh Building. The conceptual plan for the new vault locates a 24’x34’x12’ vault on the western side of the building, located underground, with surface features restored after installation. The Draft EIR evaluated construction and operation of the proposed project, including ground disturbing activities related to utility connections and tree pruning or removal. The comments do not provide evidence to suggest that the analysis in the Draft EIR is inadequate.

Also, see SMUD’s comment letter in Comment A2-1, Response A2-1, Response A4-6 regarding landscaping and trees, and Response A4-9 regarding energy use and efficiency.

Comment A4-13

Sec. 4.2 EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

p. 4-2. Under what provision of CEQA related to aesthetics would removal of the fountain, the most prominent feature in the round-a-bout and especially when it is spraying water, and in its placement relative to the view of the State Capitol’s primary west façade, not be considered a change to the aesthetic character of the site? Aesthetically, this fountain with its vertical spray pattern is a significant element of the historic district and vista to the State Capitol building.

The analysis and the conclusion as stated in this DEIR on this matter is seriously flawed, inadequately considered, and not correct.

Response A4-13

The Draft EIR evaluates the impact of the project, including removal of the Capitol fountain, on the project site’s baseline conditions, which are the physical environmental conditions of the site (the environmental setting) at the time of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Draft EIR. The NOP was published on March 22, 2019. The Capitol fountain was non-operational at this time; the project impact was therefore considered against this baseline condition. Therefore, Alternative 1, The No Project-No Development Alternative, considered the continued existing conditions of the project site, including the Capitol fountain remaining in its non-operable condition. As explained in Sections 4.2 of the Draft EIR, although the Capitol fountain would be removed due to the project, that portion of the roundabout plaza between the Jesse M. Unruh Building and Library and Courts Building would be maintained as an open paved and landscaped space, maintaining views from Capitol Mall to the State Capitol. The landscaping around the Unruh building and the street tree canopy would be maintained. The local aesthetic character, as experienced by viewer groups in the area, would not be substantially altered. The project would not result in the substantial degradation of the existing visual character or quality of the site or its surroundings. Although the comment disagrees with the conclusion in the Draft EIR, the comments do not provide evidence to suggest that the analysis in the Draft EIR is inadequate.

Comment A4-14

Sec 4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

p. 4.3-1. Sec 4.3.1 REGULATORY SETTING/FEDERAL

Why is there reference here to Section 106 of the NHPA?

Is there any federal funding or permitting involved in the project? If not, why include reference to Section 106?

If there is no Section 106 “trigger,” then the paragraph two statement about it as the “…main federal regulatory framework guiding cultural resources…” is not correct.

The discussion here should be related to the projects’ listing and eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

Response A4-14

There is no federal involvement in the project. However, the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility are included in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The reference to Section 106 is hereby deleted from Draft EIR page 4.3-1, as follows

**~~Section 106 of the~~ National Historic Preservation Act**

Federal protection of resources is legislated by (a) the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended by 16 U.S. Code 470, (b) the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979, and (c) the Advisory Council on Historical Preservation. These laws and organizations maintain processes for determination of the effects on historic properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

~~Section 106 of t~~The NHPA and accompanying regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 800) constitute the main federal regulatory framework guiding cultural resources investigations and require consideration of effects on properties that are listed in, or may be eligible for listing in the NRHP. The NRHP is the nation’s master inventory of known historic properties. It is administered by the National Park Service and includes listings of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, and cultural significance at the national, state, or local level.

Comment A4-15

p. 4.3-5 and 4.3-6. Sec 4.3.1 REGULATORY SETTING/LOCAL

It should be noted in the document that the project site is included in both a National Register historic district and Sacramento Register listing, and, therefore, should be considered an historical resource for CEQA purposes.

Critically, the significant features and characteristics of the historic district – building, fountain, and site, including design and landscape features – need to be adequately evaluated and identified in order to be able to determine impacts and provide for measures to avoid or mitigate those impacts.

Response A4-15

As stated on page 4.3-15 of the Draft EIR, the Jesse M. Unruh Building is listed in the NRHP, CRHR, and has been designated by Sacramento City Council and is included in the Sacramento Register of Historic & Cultural Resources. As such, the Jesse M. Unruh Building is a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. The Capitol fountain is listed in the Sacramento Register as one of several “key elements” to the Capitol Historic District, so it is listed in the Sacramento Register as a contributing resource to a historic district. It is not listed individually.

Please also see Response A4-3, A4-6, and A4-8.

Comment A4-16

SEC 4.3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

p. 4.3-7 Historical Architectural Resources Study Area

Why call this “Architectural”? Built environment resources can and do include more than just “architectural” feature, as this project and its project area certainly do.

First sentence states, “The study area for the evaluation of historic architectural resources includes two built environment resources, the Jesse M. Unruh Building and the Capitol fountain…”

The historic setting of both the building and the fountain is also part of the historic built environment and needs to be included and evaluated as part of this document.

Why limit the historical resources discussion, which could inappropriately and inadequately limit evaluation of impacts and development of measures to mitigate or avoid impacts altogether?

Response A4-16

As stated on page 4.3-7 of the Draft EIR, the study area for the evaluation of historic architectural resources includes the two built-environment resources, the Jesse M. Unruh Building and the Capitol fountain. Much of the environmental setting and evaluations pertaining to historic architectural resources within the study area is summarized from two supporting documents: The *Draft Office Building No. 1 Historic Resources Technical Report* (Appendix B of the Draft EIR), and the *Draft Part 1 Historic Structure Report* (Page & Turnbull 2019). Please also see Response A4-8 regarding concern about historic landscape.

Comment A4-17

p. 4.3-11 History of the Capitol Area

Why is there no mention of the construction and development of the Library & Courts Building and the (now named) Unruh Building and the round-a-bout and Capitol fountain in this history?

Response A4-17

The referenced Draft EIR section describes the history of the surrounding area. The Capitol Extension Group, including the Jesse M. Unruh Building and the Library and Courts Building, is described in the next section, “Historic Setting.”

Comment A4-18

p. 4.3-12 Historic Setting

Note reference in the second full paragraph to “…carefully planned park space”.

The DEIR’s stated assessment of not a significant impact of the removal of the fountain is distinctly at odds with the statement. Fountains of the era such as this one were planned with significant vertical spray features and characteristics that are part of the designed landscape.

p. 4.3-17 The Capitol Fountain

Since the DEIR correctly identifies the fountain as a contributing “element” or resource to the National Register-listed Capitol Extension Group [Historic District], under what interpretation of the SOIS would the fountain’s removal not be considered a significant, and totally avoidable, impact?

Note that the DEIR states “…the fountain represents a major character-defining role with the permanent establishment of Sacramento as California’s undisputed capital city and seat of state government.”

This is a significant historical resource for CEQA purposes and only its rehabilitation in compliance with SOIS would lessen any impacts to LTS.

Response A4-18

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, Response A4-2, Response A4-3, and Response A4-8, above.

Please refer to the impact analysis on page 4.3-22 of the Draft EIR and Mitigation 4.3-4b. Although the comment expresses disagreement with the conclusions of the Draft EIR, the comments do not provide evidence to suggest that the analysis in the Draft EIR is inadequate.

Comment A4-19

Sec. 4.3.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES METHODOLOGY

p. 4.3-17. In the first paragraph, why is there no mention of the historic site and landscape features?

These features need to be evaluated for their historic and cultural significance in order to be able to evaluate possible impacts to these features and to develop appropriate measures to mitigate or avoid these impacts.

In regards to the second paragraph, the project site/s are areas that were developed as part of the original city grid and historic resources are likely to be found, especially while pursuit of proposed excavation for utilities is underway. Archaeological testing of areas where any excavation might be considered should be performed pre-construction and even, ideally, pre-design to avoid or lessen potential for impacts.

Response A4-19

Regarding questions about landscape features, please refer to Response A4-8, above.

Project related impacts to archaeological resources are evaluated in Draft EIR Impact 4.3-1 and Impact 4.3-2 and are mitigated by Mitigation Measures 4.3-1 and Mitigation Measure 4.3-2.

Comment A4-20

p. 4.3-21 Impact 4.3-4 “Potential for Impacts on Historic Architectural Resources”

It appears that the “significant impact” from the project for the building and fountain is appropriately stated in this section, but the discussion is inappropriately limiting to historic

“architectural” resources and inadequately evaluates potential impacts to all the project site’s historical resources, including the historic site, and its design and landscape features, including those within the public rights-of-way.

The discussion on the building notes the potential for significant impacts from “…changes to the immediate landscape”, but no evaluation of the historic significance of these landscape features is provided in the document.

Consideration should be given to current Capitol Park tree-management and maintenance work, along with plans for approved future phases involving the El Soldado monument and plaza.

Note that the “changes to the immediate landscape” phrase is found only under the heading of the building vs. the historic district of the historic site, which needs to be addressed and evaluated.

Response A4-20

Please see Responses A4-6, A4-7, and A4-8, above.

Comment A4-21

p. 4.3-21 and 4.3-22 MITIGATION 4.3-4a

Since CEQA and SOIS references feasibility considerations, how will the public be able to confirm that the most historically appropriate design and treatment will be selected by DGS, since specific project design needs and options have not yet been developed, nor stated in this document?

Response A4-21

As described, DGS has a preservation architect under contract as part of the project criteria team. The preservation architect’s role is to prepare a Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the Unruh Building in accordance with NPS Preservation Brief 43 and include mitigation measures in conformance with the SOIS and CHBC. Implementation of Mitigation 4.3-4a would minimize the impact caused by the proposed project to a less-than-significant level by the application of the SOIS for all character defining features with a primary significance or as feasible for secondary significance status, and in instances in which actions required to secure human safety are not compatible with the SOIS, the application of the CHBC. In turn, Mitigation Measure 4.3-4a will minimize or eliminate the potential for the project to impair the qualities that qualify the Jesse M. Unruh for listing in the NRHP and status as a CEQA historical resource. The Jesse M. Unruh Building would retain a strong ability to convey its historical significance.

Comment A4-22

p. 4.3-22 MITIGATION 4.3-4b

The analysis supporting the LTS impact after the proposed mitigation is seriously flawed and without substance or credibility. The proposed project would remove (demolish) the historically significant Capitol fountain. This would have a significant impact that cannot be mitigated to LTS.

Response A4-22

Mitigation 4.3-4b would minimize the impact caused by the proposed project to a less-than-significant level because the Capitol Extension Group would continue to have a low-profile landscaped roundabout that allows views to the Capitol and the Capitol Mall, maintains character-defining traffic and pedestrian circulation patterns, and maintains the symmetrical axis between the grouping’s pair of buildings typical of the Beaux Arts style that helps define the character of the Capitol Extension Group. The Capitol Extension Group would retain a strong ability to convey its historical significance. Although the comment expresses disagreement with the conclusions of the Draft EIR, the comments do not provide evidence to suggest that the analysis in the Draft EIR is inadequate.

Comment A4-23

p. 4.5-13 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Impact 4.5-1: “New or Expanded Utility Infrastructure”

While there may be a LTS impact on utility systems, if the project’s Zero Net Energy and LEED v4 Silver certification goals are achieved, would there not be a reduction in demand for energy, as there apparently would also be a reduction in demand for water use, and, thereby reduce the need for expanded utility infrastructure?

On-site trenching and excavation for potentially new SMUD vault and irrigation water supply infrastructure could significantly impact the historic site, both its design and landscape features, especially its trees, including city street trees.

Response A4-23

Please see Response A4-3, Response A4-8, Response A4-9, and Response A4-12.

Comment A4-24

p. 4.5-14 Impact 4.5-2: “Adequacy of Water Supplies”

In the third full paragraph from the top of the page, the third sentence states that the project would use drought-tolerant native planting as another water-saving measure of the project.

This could result in a significant impact on the historic landscape features, especially the trees, which are not necessarily “drought-tolerant native planting.”

Since this could be a significant impact on historical resources, measures to mitigate or avoid the impacts, and treatments following the SOIS for Cultural Landscapes, should be evaluated.

Where in this document is there any evaluation, or historic landscape report, on the site, its historic design and landscape features?

Response A4-24

Please see Response A4-6, Response A4-8, and Response A4-10.

The text on page 4.5-14 of the Draft EIR is hereby revised as follows:

The Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project would include water conservation measures that exceed 2019 Title 24 water efficiency requirements and meet LEED v4 Silver standards. All plumbing fixtures in the building would be low-flow/high‐efficiency fixtures. Where it would not affect potential historic landscape features of the project site, ~~Landscaping would use~~ drought tolerant native planting would be used as another water-saving design measure of the project.

Comment A4-25

Sec: 4.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

pp. 4.7-3 & 4.7-4.

“Executive order also calls for state agencies to reduce overall water use at facilities from a 2010 baseline by 10 percent by 2015 and by 20 percent by 2020.” …AND…

p. 4.8-8. ENERGY – notes that “Building renovations would be designed to consume 15% less energy than the mandatory energy efficiency standards set in the 2019 California Green Building Standards for non-residential buildings…”

These orders, along with measures to achieve LEED v4 Silver and Zero Net Energy would presumably also result in reduced water and energy demand from the completed building.

If so, what rationale would there be for a new SMUD vault? …for new trenching? …other site excavation…? …and the potentially significant impacts those activities would have on the historic setting, both its design and landscape features?

Response A4-25

Please refer to Response A4-9 regarding energy and water efficiency and the SMUD vault, and Responses A4-6 and A4-8 regarding landscape features.

Comment A4-26

Sec 4.11 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

p. 4.11-1. Reference is made to the “data reviewed in preparation of this analysis …”

Who conducted the “reconnaissance-level survey” of the project site? There is no reference to it in the References section of the DEIR.

Did this reconnaissance survey include experts in historical cultural landscape and certified arborists with expertise in Capitol Park and this site’s significant collection of trees?

p. 4.11-2. Notes, City’s 2035 General Plan Policy ER 3.1.2 – Manage & Enhance the City’s Tree Canopy” … and, Policy ER 3.1.3: Trees of significance: “ensuring the design of development projects provides for the retention of these trees whenever possible.”

Note, “design of…projects”…not just after design is done and construction starts.

Response A4-26

Please see Chapter 9, Report Preparers, of the Draft EIR, which lists the report preparers of all EIR sections, including Biological Resources. The surveys referred to in this section were performed by a qualified biologist.

Please also see Response A4-8 and Response A4-10.

Comment A4-27

Sec 4.11.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

4.11-3. This section references, “….non-operational Capitol fountain…” and “…urban landscaping…” “Urban landscaping is described as “large landscape trees associated with the Capitol Park Arboretum”.

The historic and cultural landscape features and characteristics of the site are not adequately identified or evaluated in this document.

Response A4-27

Section 4.11 is focused on evaluation of biological resources. Please see Section 4.3 regarding cultural resources. Please refer to Response A4-5 regarding baseline environmental conditions. Please see Response A4-8 regarding landscape features.

Comment A4-28

Sec 4.11.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

p. 4.11-9 and 4.11-10. This includes Thresholds of Significance where implementing the project would have a significant impact related to the biological resources if it would:

At 5th bullet: “conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; “

Impact 4.11-3 Conflict with Applicable Local Policies Protecting Biological Resources

p. 4.11-13 Biological Resources – Identifies “Implementation of project could result in the direct loss or temporary disturbance of trees protected under the City of Sacramento Tree Preservation Ordinance. This impact would be potentially significant.” …and…

“Loss or disturbance of City Street Trees would conflict with tree protection requirements in the City of Sacramento Tree Preservation Ordinance. This impact is considered potentially significant.”

MITIGATION MEASURE 4.11-3: Remove and Replace Trees Consistent with the City of Sacramento Tree Preservation Ordinance.

First, a full evaluation by a qualified certified arborist (including arborists involved with the Capitol Park Arboretum), prior to the project design, could be used to ensure the project is designed to avoid, minimize or re-design excavation, trenching and other activities that could have potential significant impacts on the trees on the site and city street trees. Note this would need to be done in the design phase vs. waiting until pre-construction and just removing and replacing trees that were in the way…totally avoidable.

Second, this mitigation is not adequate to minimize the impact to LTS, since the project, even with the mitigation, would occur just prior to construction, and would (potentially something that could be avoided) result in tree removal…losing large mature trees by replanting, would result in significant impacts to historical resources, as well as result in lost carbon sequestration and cooling effects of the existing trees.

Response A4-28

Please see Response A4-6, Response A4-8, and Response A4-10.

Comment A4-29

Sec 5.2 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

pp. 5-3 & 5-4. Related Projects

Include more discussion related to the Capitol Annex Project’s proposed expansion into Capitol Park, including a proposed new visitors center at the west entry to the Capitol, expanded new underground parking garage, and potential for an expanded footprint to the Annex building site itself…and with potential for significant impacts to the historic Capitol Park setting and particularly its historic landscape features, and most notably Capitol Park trees – potentially significant adverse cumulative impact from the project’s implementation. With the impact from the construction of the Unruh project, as proposed in this DEIR, on trees, including city street trees, without mitigation measures that would adequately minimize the impact to LTS levels, this would be a serious cumulative impact…upon both biological resources as well as on historical resources.

p. 5-6. Note the significant loss of trees, both as historical resources and biological resources, in the Sacramento Commons project.

Response A4-29

The comment requests additional description of the Capitol Annex Project, but offers no evidence of how the description provided in the Draft EIR is lacking. The comment disagrees with the conclusion in the Draft EIR does not provide evidence to suggest that the analysis in the Draft EIR is inadequate. Please see Response A4-6, Response A4-8, and Response A4-10.

Comment A4-30

p. 5-8. Historic Structures

Again, historic and cultural “resources” include more than just “structures”; include design and landscape features of sites as well.

The proposed mitigation measures in the document do not reduce historical resources impacts to LTS. As currently described in this document, with mitigation measures as currently proposed, the project would have a significant contribution to the significant cumulative impact of the loss and degradation of historical resources…and not just historic “structures.”

Measures that would reduce impacts to LTS are feasible, available and extremely workable in achieving project objectives and goals. Such measures should include rehabilitation of all primary and secondary significant features following SOIS and CHBC, the rehabilitation vs. removal/demolition of the fountain, and full analysis of the site and its historic design and landscape features, then following SOIS and CHBC in the design of any site work associated with the project.

Response A4-30

Although the comment expresses disagreement with the conclusions of the Draft EIR, the comments do not provide evidence to suggest that the analysis in the Draft EIR is inadequate. Please see Response A4-2, Response A4-3, and Response A4-8, above.

Please refer to the impact analysis on page 4.3-22 of the Draft EIR and Mitigation 4.3-4b.

Comment A4-31

Sec 5.3.9 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

p. 5-9.

The mitigation measures proposed in this document, related to the significant impact of this project on the policy of protecting trees, including city street trees, is not adequate to reduce the impact to LTS.

The project’s cumulative impacts relative to trees would have a considerable contribution to an adverse cumulative condition with respect to biological resources, and, notable also potentially to climate change, with the loss of carbon sequestration and loss of significant tree canopies that reduce heat island effect.

Response A4-31

The comment disagrees with the conclusion in the Draft EIR regarding the mitigable impact to protected City street trees and the contribution to cumulative tree impacts.

Please see Response A4-6, Response A4-8, and Response A4-10.

Comment A4-32

Sec 6.2 SIGNIFICANT & UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

p. 6-3.

There are significant impacts to biological and historical resources from the project and proposed mitigation measures do not reduce impacts to LTS.

Measures can be developed that could reduce impacts to LTS and/or avoid the impacts altogether.

Until those measures are developed and adopted as part of the project, the project would have significant – but avoidable—impacts.

Response A4-32

Although significant impacts are identified in relation to archaeological resources, potential discovery of human remains, historic resources, nesting raptors and other native nesting birds, bat roosts, and trees protected by the City of Sacramento Tree Preservation Ordinance, all of these impacts are properly mitigated to less-than-significant levels, as presented in Sections 4.3 and 4.11 of the Draft EIR. Therefore, the project would not result in significant and unavoidable impacts. Although the comment expresses disagreement with the conclusions of the Draft EIR, the comments do not provide evidence to suggest that the analysis in the Draft EIR is inadequate.

Comment A4-33

Sec 7.4 ALTERNATIVES SELECTED FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS

p. 7-4. Alternative 2: Restore Historic Features of the Jesse M. Unruh Building and Capitol Fountain See language conflict “restoration” with project description, which implies this would not be an alternative to the project.

Why not use SOI Rehabilitation Standards throughout the project and avoid having to have any impacts to historical or cultural resources, and avoid the need to evaluate alternatives relative to historical or cultural resources, especially when used in combination with the CHBC?

Where is the “detailed analysis” of this “alternative”?

An alternative citing the Restoration Standards for the Unruh Building would be impractical and would not achieve project objectives, and therefore is not an adequate option to propose for an alternative.

Response A4-33

Please see Response A4-5. Analysis of Alternative 2 is provided on pages 7-7 and 7-8 of the Draft EIR.

Comment A4-34

Sec 7.4.2 Full Historic Restoration Alternative

p. 7-7.

Note, in discussion of Alternative 2, the last sentence refers to Alternative 1, not 2.

A new project description, or mitigation measure for the proposed project as described, that would utilize SOI Rehabilitation Standards and CHBC, including LEED v4 Silver certification elements, etc., could significantly reduce the costs of this project while achieving project goals and objectives, and avoid, or lessen to LTS levels, impacts to historical resources.

A project utilizing SOI Rehabilitation standards would not be as costly an undertaking as using Restoration standards and could effectively achieve project objectives and goals.

Response A4-34

It is not clear what “Note, in discussion of Alternative 2, the last sentence refers to Alternative 1, not 2.” refers to.

DGS notes the commenters recommendation to adhere to SOI rehabilitation standards and CHBC. Please refer to Responses A4-2 and A4-3.

Comment A4-35

Sec 7.5 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE

p. 7-9.

Since NO-PROJECT alternative would likely result in further deterioration of the building without needed upgrades and allowing safety problems to go uncorrected, and ultimately the loss of tenants and also the building, this is not an environmentally superior outcome.

Response A4-35

The comment’s input regarding the need for building renovation is consistent with the project purpose and need. The No Project Alternative would not address the needed fire/life safety improvements. However, as discussed in Section 7.5 of the Draft EIR, the avoidance of construction impacts and impacts to archaeological and historic resources due to the project would reduce environmental impacts in comparison to the proposed project.

Comment A4-36

Sec 8 REFERENCES

p. 8-3. Archaeological, Historical and Tribal Cultural Resources mentions Page & Turnbull 2019 Jesse M. Unruh Building Historic Structure Report.

Did they or any other qualified firm prepare an HSR on the fountain?

Did they or any other qualified firm prepare a Historic Cultural Landscape Report on the sites involved, including the historic design and landscape features?

Where is the referenced HSR…Any appendices? Please provide.

Response A4-36

As stated on page 4.3-7 of the Draft EIR, much of the environmental setting and evaluations pertaining to historic architectural resources within the study area is summarized from two supporting documents: The Draft Office Building No. 1 Historic Resources Technical Report (addresses both the Jesse M. Unruh Building and the Capitol fountain, provided in Draft EIR Appendix B), and the Draft Part 1 Historic Structure Report (Page & Turnbull 2019). Completion of the Historic Structure Report Part II, on which the design will be based, is forthcoming. Please see Response A4-8, Response A4-10, and Response A4-24. regarding landscape.

Comment A4-37

Sec 4.11 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

p. 8-11.

There is no reference here to the reconnaissance survey of the site mentioned in the biological resources chapter.

Who did it, and what are their qualifications? What did they survey? Where is that report?

END OF COMMENTS

Response A4-37

The biological resources reconnaissance information was provided in Section 4.11 of the Draft EIR; there was not a stand-alone biological resources report. As provided in Chapter 9, “Report Preparers,” Ascent Environmental prepared the biological resources evaluation.

## Organizations

Letter O1 **American Institute of Architects, Central Valley Chapter**

Genevieve Vargas, AIA

August 28, 2019

Comment O1-1

The Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects, Central Valley Chapter, has become aware of a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) regarding the Jesse Unruh Building, and potential removal of the Capitol Fountain. The fountain is a listed contributor on the California Register of Historical Places, and is an iconic element in our City that simply should not be demolished without appropriate mitigation.

We urge the Department of General Services to either select Alternate 2 (restoring the fountain and the Unruh Building), or consider renovating the Unruh building and not the fountain, or removing the fountain from the EIR completely. In all options, preserving the Capitol Fountain as a key contributing element of significant historic value.

Response O1-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter O2 **Preservation Sacramento**

William Burg, President

August 28, 2019

Comment O2-1

Please find attached public comment letter regarding the above-named project by the Board of Directors of Preservation Sacramento. We urge DGS to select either Alternative 2, restoring the building and fountain, or consider an unmentioned alternative, restoring the building but not the fountain, and leaving the fountain in its current state.

The Board of Directors of Preservation Sacramento wishes to comment on the above-named Environmental Impact Report, specifically regarding removal of the Capitol Fountain, a listed contributor to a National Register of Historic Places district, and thus also listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. Removal of the Fountain represents a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource that is in no way justified or even required by the stated goals of this project, and it is not clear why the fountain was included in this EIR at all. We urge the Department of General Services to either select Alternative 2 (restore the fountain and the Unruh Building) or select another alternative not considered by this EIR, restoring the Unruh Building but leaving the fountain in place without restoration or demolition. This alternative allows all of the resources currently available to be committed to building restoration and avoids the adverse change to the significance of a listed historical resource.

The synopsis provided in Section 1.1 describes the scope of the project as intended to extend the useful lifespan of the Jesse M. Unruh Building via upgrades to building systems including fire and life safety and accessibility, and repairs and restoration to historic elements. Per Section 1.1, the project “would also involve renovation or modification of the Capitol fountain.” It is not clear why the fountain is included within the project when the environmental review process for the adjacent Library & Courts building, recently restored by DGS, did not, but as a historic component of the project, removal of the fountain does not meet the purpose and intended use of the EIR. Per the EIR, in Section 4.3.2, the fountain represents a major character-defining role in the Capitol Extension Group Historic District as one of only three contributing elements, and the central element in the district. The fountain itself is identified in the EIR as a significant resource with a high degree of historic integrity.

The proposed mitigation measure, 4.3-4A, would not minimize the impact caused by the project. Utilization of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties as part of the restoration of the Unruh building has no bearing on the effects of removal on the fountain, as it is separate from the building and demolition is not necessary to restore the building. The EIR also claims that the fountain’s removal will be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards, but this cannot be done in accordance with the Standards, because removal of a historic property violates the Standards in all respects. The impacts, or lack of impacts, of removal upon the adjacent buildings and circulation patterns is also irrelevant, because the impact claimed as mitigated is the loss of the fountain. Thus, this mitigation measure is invalid because it does not reduce the impact of the project to a less-than-significant effect.

Public agencies should not approve projects as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen the significant environmental impacts of those projects. Because demolishing the fountain is a significant environmental effect not necessary to achieving the goals of the project, demolition of the fountain should be removed as an element of the project.

Alternative 2, restoration of the Unruh building and fountain, is an acceptable alternative, as it would restore both the building and the fountain, achieving the goals of the project and restoring both historical resources. The only justification provided in the EIR for removal of the fountain is limiting the project’s expense, while ignoring the fact that removing the fountain is also an expense. This expense can be avoided by a simple alternative not included in the EIR—restore the building but not the fountain. If DGS selects this option, impacts to historical resources are clearly avoided and project objectives can be achieved. If DGS selects to remove the fountain, they will be removing a historic resource without appropriate mitigation, and exposing the State of California to potential legal liability.

Response O2-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, and the responses to the comments in Letter A4, above.

Letter O3 **Sacramento Historical Society**

Bill George, President

August 28, 2019

Comment O3-1

The Board of Directors of the Sacramento Historical Society is opposed to the proposed removal of the Capitol Fountain as part of a project intended to restore the Jesse M. Unruh Building. The fountain is an important piece of the state capitol complex, and should be preserved for future generations. We ask the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, in the draft environmental impact report, which includes restoration of the fountain.

Please keep us informed of your actions regarding this matter.

Response O3-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter O4 **California Capitol Historic Preservation Society**

Dan Visnich

August 29, 2019

Comment O4-1

The California Capitol Historic Society supports the position of Preservation Sacramento and the Historic State Capitol Commission regarding the Capitol Fountain. The Capitol is an integral element of the historical environment of the Capitol setting. It occupies a most prominent feature at the visual termination of the Capitol Mall and its preservation is not only a historical feature of the Capitol landscape but a visual delight. There is no compelling reason, neither from a fiscal nor environmental aspect to remove it. The fountain’s significance is emphasized by the fact that its restoration is supported by disparate community entities such as *The Sacrament Bee* \* as well as historic preservation groups.

Response O4-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter O5 **California Preservation Foundation**

Cindy Heitzman, Executive Director

August 30, 2019

Comment O5-1

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Preservation Foundation regarding the restoration of the Jesse M. Unruh Building. In particular, we are concerned about the proposal to demolish the historic Capitol Fountain as part of this project.

The California Preservation Foundation (CPF) is a membership‐based organization whose mission is to “provide statewide leadership, advocacy and education to ensure the protection of California’s diverse cultural heritage and historic places.” Since 1977, the CPF has assisted thousands of individuals and organizations in their efforts to protect historic and cultural resources throughout California.

We have received numerous inquiries about this proposal and are compelled to express our concern over this proposal. The historic Capitol Fountain, completed circa 1928, is one of three listed contributors to the Capitol Annex National Register Historic District, which includes the Jesse M. Unruh Building and the Stanley Most Library and Courts Building.

The only reason for its demolition that can be extrapolated from the report is that there are “issues with electrical shortages in the fountain lighting, failure of mechanical equipment, leaks in the fountain bowl and associated valves, and a possible drain line collapse.” We believe that the deficiencies cited do not warrant the fountain’s demolition. This is unnecessary and will compromising the integrity of this National Register. Deferring its repair should not impact the work on the Unruh Building nor involve great expense to the State.

We reviewed the Jesse M. Unruh building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report and ask that the Department of General Services select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which includes restoration of the fountain.

Response O5-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

## Individuals

Letter I1 **Crystal Gorton**

August 23, 2019

Comment I1-1

Please do not remove the fountain at the Capitol. It’s iconic and adds beauty to the area. There is no reason to remove it. The minimal amount it costs to maintain is trivial in comparison to what it brings to the community and state as a whole.

Response I1-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I2 **P. Hooley**

August 23, 2019

Comment I2-1

I urge you to save the historic Capitol Fountain, which was built in 1929. Perhaps while you’re restoring the Unruh Building, you can spend the time and money to preserve this beautiful amenity. Sacramento is the perfect place for a fountain and this one deserves to regain its former beauty.

Response I2-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I3 **Liz Kanter**

August 23, 2019

Comment I3-1

Please do not destroy the Capitol fountain. It has history which cannot be replicated.

There’s no reason to tear it out.

Please save Sacramento history!

Response I3-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I4 **Dylan Musgrove**

August 23, 2019

Comment I4-1

I would like Alternative 2 chosen to save the fountain and have it restored as part of the Jesse Unruh building restoration project.

Response I4-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I5 **Mattie Parfitt**

August 23, 2019

Comment I5-1

I have just learned that the State of California plans to remove the Capitol Fountain, located between the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building and the Jesse Unruh Office Building. This 1929 fountain is a listed contributor to the Capitol Annex National Register Historic District, and the State needs to have a justifiable reason for removing it. There is NO justifiable reason to remove the fountain. It was shut off in 2010 so the State cannot claim it wastes water and requires maintenance.

The State Capitol is the most visited tourist destination in Sacramento. This fountain was, and should be, a functioning and well-maintained point of civic pride. If it were running it would attract attention from visitors and locals alike. In the past, the State has claimed “water conservation” as a reason for shutting it off, but in fact the fountain uses a water recycling system, so it consumes the same amount of water per day as one flush of a toilet. Since the State has restored the gorgeous Library and Courts Building and now plans to restore the Unruh Building, it only makes sense to restore the fountain to its previous beautiful (and functional) condition. Removing it is ludicrous. Removing it is a slap in the face to all who enjoy the State Capitol and its surrounding area. Removing it is just plain wrong.

Save the fountain and get it running again!

Response I5-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I6 **Cameo Rockwell**

August 23, 2019

Comment I6-1

I follow a page on Facebook called “Preservation Sacramento” and they recently posted (post is copy and pasted below signature block) about the plan to possibly remove the Capitol Fountain. I am emailing to inquire whether this is actually true or not? I don’t believe everything I read, which is why I am emailing to ask.

I truly hope that the plan to destroy the fountain is not the first choice, and that restoration is the first choice so it runs again. I’m moving closer to the Capitol (from Land Park to 5th & N St), and look forward to jogs around Capitol Park - please don’t destroy the fountain, taking away from the aesthetics of going up Capitol Mall towards the West steps.

I’m all about modernizing the city and improvements, but destroying something that is already potentially beautiful -- to build...what exactly? I don’t think sounds logical.

So, if it is true that the plan is to destroy the fountain, what is the intent behind it? What will be the view headed east on Capitol towards the west steps? Why instead isn’t the fountain being restored so it can run? Why do so many American and European cities with beautiful old fountains still run, but we can’t even have a fountain built in the 20s restored and running?

I’m disappointed daily how our state and city deals with the outdated and broken infrastructure, homeless issues, etc. Then, add on these kind of issues that show not only are our state’s and city’s decision makers’ priorities are scewed and misplaced.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Response I6-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I7 **Zach Sapunor**

August 23, 2019

Comment I7-1

I’m writing to entreat you to please select Alternative 2 and save the capitol fountain! The fountain is part of the shared legacy of native Sacramentans and Californians. It contributes to the beauty of the area and highlights the nobility of civic duty.

Thank you for your consideration.

Response I7-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I8 **Michael Sestak**

August 23, 2019

Comment I8-1

I encourage the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2:

Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the fountain, or, at least, do not demolish the fountain at this time.

Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever.

Please DO NOT DEMOLISH THE FOUNTAIN.

Response I8-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I9 **Dara Slivka**

August 23, 2019

Comment I9-1

I am writing in support of preserving and restoring the Capitol fountain. Being a city of trees and rivers, a water element at our State Capitol is relevant, beautiful, and peaceful. The last thing we need is more hardscape. There are some things worth preserving, and this fountain is one of them. Please put our money to work to restore and preserve it, not demolish and replace. I am all for change when it adds value but not when it takes it away.

Response I9-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I10 **Jerry Sloan**

August 23, 2019

Comment I10-1

Restore the Capital Circle Fountain. DO NOT DESTROY IT!!!

Response I10-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I11 **Tina Sorvari**

August 23, 2019

Comment I11-1

Please implement Alternative 2: *Restore Historic Features of the Jesse M. Unruh Building and Capitol Fountain Alternative*, which would renovate the fountain rather than destroy a historical resource. Or, at the very least, the component of this alternative that repairs the fountain, making it operable again. I don’t want DGS employees working in a dangerous building, either. But, you don’t have to throw the baby out with the bathwater, so don’t. Reconsider and present another alternative that retains and restores the fountain. We’ve heard various excuses from DGS since 2010 for the fountain’s state of disrepair. There is still an opportunity to restore a piece of historic art that has been neglected for too long. The fountain, working as intended, could be a real landmark destination.

Mitigation 4.3-4b: *Adherence to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Historic Structure Report, the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and relevant National Park Service Preservation Briefs* does not come close to reducing the impact of demolishing the fountain to a less than significant level. The aesthetic connection to the other buildings would be broken regardless of what replacement features DGS might construct. This really is one of those times that we should stop and think. This could be a source of pride and beauty for everyone to enjoy. Please stop the madness and restore a piece of our cultural heritage.

Response I11-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I12 **Lynne Taylor**

August 26, 2019

Comment I12-1

As I understand it, The State of California’s Department of General Services, as part of a project intended to restore the Jesse M. Unruh Building, has proposed removing the historic Capitol Fountain, built in 1929. While the restoration of the Unruh Building is a worthwhile project, intended to follow the recent restoration of the adjacent Library & Courts Building, there is no need to remove the Fountain, and its removal from the end of Capitol Mall in the rotunda between 9th and 10th Street represents an irreplaceable and unjustified loss of a historic resource. Please select Alternative 2 and Save The Capitol Fountain!

Response I12-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I13 **Emily Wright**

August 26, 2019

Comment I13-1

Please select option 2 and restore the historic fountain as you restore the Jesse Unruh building.

Response I13-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I14 **Debra Banes**

August 24, 2019

Comment I14-1

Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report. Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the fountain, or, at least, do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever.

Response I14-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I15 **Heidi Corcoran**

August 24, 2019

Comment I15-1

I’m writing to express my displeasure upon learning if the State’s plan to remove the Capitol Fountain, a historic landmark. The DGS report doesn’t clearly give a valid reason for its removal. Please consider restoring the fountain and preserving a piece of our history.

Response I15-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I16 **Romer Cristobal**

August 24, 2019

Comment I16-1

Please do NOT destroy a part of our state history. The fountain is an attractive addition to the state capitol. Many people take pictures at that spot especially those getting married.

The water for the capitol fountain is recycled water. Turn it on. Do not destroy the Capitol fountains. We do not want to look back years from now and ask why did we destroy the Capitol fountains!

Response I16-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I17 **Bonnie Hansen**

August 24, 2019

Comment I17-1

Please save the capitol building fountain. It would be a terrible waste of taxpayers’ money to tear it out. Our historical structures matter! Please honor the public response to this and save the fountain. Don’t fight Sacramento’s vibrant history community.

Response I17-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I18 Earl Lagomarsino

August 24, 2019

Comment I18-1

As a fifth generation Sacramentan I wish to express my uttermost dismay over the proposed removal of the historic Capitol Fountain that sits in front of the Jesse M. Unruh building in the rotunda between 9th and 10th Streets at the end of Capitol Mall.

I am writing to ask that this fountain be restored instead of removed. The restoration of the Capitol Fountain was part of the EIR for the work being done on the Unruh building, but was apparently rejected.

I sincerely request that the restoration of the Capitol Fountain be placed back into the plan.

This historic landmark is a valuable historic resource, providing enjoyment and regeneration to the souls of those who bask in its beauty, and who have done so for almost a hundred years.

Response I18-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I19 **Eric Levinson**

August 24, 2019

Comment I19-1

Since its construction in 1925 our family has enjoyed the Capitol Fountain Plaza for 4 generations. It is a wonderful setting and sets off the Capitol dramatically.

Please reconsider your decision to eliminate the fountain. It would be a tragedy to lose this beautiful historic landmark.

Response I19-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I20 **Cathy Palmer**

August 24, 2019

Comment I20-1

PLEASE, PLEASE leave the fountain on Capitol Mall alone. It is a big part of the history of our “City of Trees”.... There is nothing that I can think of that could replace this monument!

I am a retired State employee. Many of my family members have worked for State Government. On of my Aunts worked in the Unruh Building. We dropped her off every morning at that circle. The seasonal flowers were a thing of beauty.....everyone looked forward to the ever changing beauty of the flowers! And what a way to start your work day!! We have lost several treasures in Sacramento because of short sited decisions!!!!

PLEASE LEAVE IT ALONE!!!!

Response I20-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I21 **Kathe Potter**

August 24, 2019

Comment I21-1

Hello, please retain and restore the fountain at the Capitol. It has beauty and historical value.

Response I21-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I22 **Shannon Ross**

August 24, 2019

Comment I22-1

Please do not move forward with demolition of the capitol fountain and implement Alternative 2 instead.

Our history is a vital part of the City of Sacramento and our state as well. Destroying historical features to “upgrade” the surroundings destroys the character of the location.

It is a shame that the fountain has been neglected for so long. It would be wonderful to see it working again. Look how beautiful it used to be:

Postcard photograph of a water fountain with the California State Capitol building in the background

Fountains feature prominently in many state capitols-and of course, our nation’s capitol.

Please preserve it-and restore it.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon\_State\_Capitol#/media/File:Oregon\_State\_Capitol\_360.jpg

https://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/fountains-complete-original-plan-for-state-capitol-asnebraska-

wraps/article\_4eec40a0-9fe7-11e7-b94f-9f5ad943ecea.html

Response I22-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I23 **Luree Stetson**

August 24, 2019

Comment I23-1

I don’t understand why the State Dept of General Services plans to remove and destroy a contributing historic element by removing the historic fountain on Capitol Mall. As a retired State employee and current City resident, I have enjoyed that fountain for over 50 years- and want to enjoy it in the future! Demolishing and removing the fountain based upon maintenance costs is not a good reason to destroy a unique visual element on Capitol Mall. It has already been “mothballed” but it continues to add to the landscape by providing an historical physical element between the State Library and Courts Bldg and Office Building 1. It also provides a major physical presence when looking east to the State Capitol and also from the Capitol looking west down the Mall. This fountain has been in place since the 1929 and should be retained.

I urge DGS to implement Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration of the fountain, which would include restoration. At least do NOT demolish the fountain and keep it in place for future restoration.

Response I23-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I24 **Linn Tyer**

August 24, 2019

Comment I24-1

I encourage the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the fountain, or, at least, do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever.

Response I24-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I25 **Jason Yuen**

August 24, 2019

Comment I25-1

Please keep the historic Capitol Fountain. It’s 90 years old; let it grow older. Somethings can’t be replaced or won’t be replaced.

My family has been in Sacramento for many generations. Demolishing a swath of Sacramento’s Chinatown to put in the freeway destroyed a part of my history. The Cultural Revolution in China destroyed more....

The fountain in the middle court yard at C.K. McClatchy high school hadn’t worked for decades until it was time to repair it. Please visit the 1937 fountain to get sense of a fountain’s worth. Go to Cal middle School and try to find the fountain where it once stood. Only locals can point you to the spot in the dirt.

The fountain is unique to the grounds and is irreplaceable.  
Save the fountain.

Response I25-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I26 **Tracy Anderson**

August 25, 2019

Comment I26-1

Please save the fountain. It may need work, and it may need water, but I’d love to see it working again.

Response I26-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I27 **Cynthia Mac Leay**

August 25, 2019

Comment I27-1

I urge restoration of the Capitol Fountain as per Alternative 2 in the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report: Full Historic Restoration Alternative.

Historical features are what make Sacramento unique, especially when related to the State Capitol of California. Restoring the 1929 fountain will continue to add to the Capitol ground’s value.

Even without water, this piece of art is worthwhile for its historic significance.

Carefully weigh options because the Capitol Fountain is irreplaceable.

Response I27-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I28 **Glenn Miles**

August 25, 2019

Comment I28-1

I understand that as part of the project to restore the Jesse M. Unruh Building there is a plan to remove the Capitol Fountain. I want to express that I support keeping and restoring the fountain and oppose any plan to remove it. I urge you to adopt an alternative in the EIR that retains the fountain. The fountain is a beautiful historic attraction to the Capitol Mall that has brought great joy to many people over the years. I include the attached photo of me and my younger brother as but one example of the meaning this fountain has to residents of Sacramento and all California.

I work in the Legislative Office Building and often talk walks around the Capitol and Unruh Building. To this day, the fountain, even in its current state, brings me great joy and happiness. I would love to see the fountain restored and operational with water again now that the drought is over. That would certainly be my first choice. But even if we cannot restore the use of water, I believe there could be a creative restoration substituting a light or laser presentation to make it appear as if water were emerging from the fountain. Removal of the fountain removes a public amenity. Restoring the fountain would bring a source of peace and tranquility and reflection during a troubled time of civic divisiveness. Please keep the fountain. It is very special. Do not remove it. It is neither necessary nor desirable and represents yet another removal of a historical landmark that occurs with too much frequency in Sacramento. If left in place, over time, it’s significance to the community will continue to grow as generations of Californians share time with their loved ones at this special place.

Response I28-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I29 **Michael Myers**

August 25, 2019

Comment I29-1

Please forward my opinion: do not remove the Capitol Fountain. In fact, please restore it to its original beauty and functionality. I believe historical treasures such as this need our attention, not our neglect. It does not appear to be in the way of any part of the restoration of the Unruh Building.

Response I29-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I30 **Rich Borgquist**

August 26, 2019

Comment I30-1

Rumor says that Fountain is scheduled to be removed. I’m sure the State of California has more class than to remove it I recommend the Fountain remain in that it appeals to our sense of History, Pride, Culture, Architecture and visual beauty.

I also hear on KFBK that the circle is being renamed for Willie Brown. Is this correct?

Response I30-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above. DGS’s project team does not have knowledge of renaming the roundabout plaza.

Letter I31 **CJ Chaffee**

August 26, 2019

Comment I31-1

I urge restoration of the Capitol Fountain as per Alternative 2 in the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report: Full Historic Restoration Alternative. Historical features are what make Sacramento unique, especially when related to the State Capitol of California. Restoring the 1929 fountain will continue to add to the Capitol ground’s value. Even without water, this piece of art is worthwhile for its historic significance. Also, my wife and I travel extensively. Areas in this world with such historical fountains -with water or not – are a real plus for that area. Don’t make Sacramento all modern, hip, “DO-CO”. Carefully weigh options because the Capitol Fountain is irreplaceable.

Response I31-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I32 **Marilyn Champa**

August 26, 2019

Comment I32-1

Please save the fountain located in the circle.

I worked at OB#1 in the 70’s and loved the historical fountain.

Response I32-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I33 **Mary Kay Edson**

August 26, 2019

Comment I33-1

You all just put effort into restoring the beautiful Capital Fountain to celebrate Gov. Brown’s April declaration of the end of the drought by turning said fountain back on. which had been off since I think 2010. The fountain recycles its water and uses about one toilet flush per day. Beyond tactical and financial considerations, both which are minimal to a city like Sacramento, the fountain is part of our history, culture, attractions and beauty. Do not demolish the fountain, please retain it!

I encourage DGS to select Alternative 2; full historic restoration Alternative, including restoration of the fountain. At a minimum, I request the fountain NOT be demolished and if restoration cannot be obtained, running as is, which involves no great expense. Once this bit of history is destroyed, it is gone forever.

Response I33-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I34 **Janet Kurnick**

August 26, 2019

Comment I34-1

I am writing in regards to the historic Capitol Fountain, built in 1929 in the rotunda in front of the Capitol. Please restore the fountain rather than remove it. We are losing so many of the historic items in our downtown area, and this one is lovely and should be restored. There is no reason to remove it and while I understand the need to restore the Jesse M. Unruh Building (I actually worked at Treasurers for my first state job and fondly remember delivering paychecks to Mr Unruh when I worked there.) A certain amount of restoration is needed to maintain these old buildings but please don’t remove the fountain. It is lovely. Restore it instead.

Response I34-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I35 **Kathy Les**

August 26, 2019

Comment I35-1

Please include restoration of the Capitol Fountain as part of the restoration of the Jesse M. Unruh Bldg. As a citizen of Sacramento and of the State of California I expect my tax payer dollars to respect and to be used to preserve our historic buildings and artifacts.

Response I35-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I36 **Frank Lindsen**

August 26, 2019

Comment I36-1

I’m writing to you regarding the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report and urge you to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the fountain.

We should be proud of our state capitol and this fountain is a beautiful part of it. Please vote to keep it.

Response I36-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I37 **John H. Nicolaus**

August 26, 2019

Comment I37-1

As a fifth generation Sacramentan, and a landscape architect and urban designer, I urge the State NOT to demolish the historic fountain at the subject project site. Per the Draft EIR, the fountain is contributing resource, and furthermore, it is the only fountain within the Capital Complex. Other fountains in Capital Park (in the rose garden) and the East End (public art) have also been left fallow, mostly because no one wants to take care of them. This fountain appears to have met the same fate due to deferred maintenance and a clear disregard for its historic integrity.

To cite the Draft EIR, Page 2-12, Adequacy of Water Resources, states that there is enough water to support the proposed project in its entirety. So, water supply is not an issue. Further, 7.4.2 Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which would include the restoration of the fountain, is the option I would strongly urge the State to embrace. At the very least, do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever.

Alternatives state that if the fountain is removed it can be replaced with a landscape that is essentially equivalent to the fountain, but not a fountain and will complement the project area. This is poppycock. DGS landscape staff do not care for the Capital Complex as it should be cared for. My guess, having worked with facilities staff at DGS many times over the past 30 years, is that someone will say ‘pave it’ and it will happen with no questions asked. This is the sheer lunacy of this situation. An environmental document can be authored to say nearly anything a proponent would like it to, with conditions and exceptions. This EIR does just that.

Further, when I designed the International World Peace Rose Garden in Capital Park, I was placed under what could be fairly described as an inquisition by the Historic Capital Commission, who, rightfully so, wanted to make sure that absolutely every detail of the garden was in keeping with the spirit and intent of the park and the Building. It was designed as such. Why isn’t the same scrutiny being applied to this project? Why does it appear that staff have such undue sway over this aspect of the project? Inconsistencies in approach abound.

I respectfully request that the Capital fountain be preserved. Once lost, it cannot be replaced.

Response I37-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I38 **Shinteya**

August 26, 2019

Comment I38-1

I usually do not write to give my opinion or concern about such matters however historical pieces like this must be saved. Whenever I see fountains I automatically feel a sense of peace in that place and with the political climate as it is I think we need all the peace we can get. Please do not destroy the Capital fountain.

Response I38-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I39 **Gretchen Steinberg**

August 26, 2019

Comment I39-1

PLEASE DO NOT DEMOLISH THE CAPITOL FOUNTAIN!

The DEIR for the Jesse M. Unruh Building Project includes a proposal to remove the Capitol Fountain. As you can see in the vintage postcard below, the historic fountain, when in working condition (operative water and lighting features), is an impressive and magnificent sight.

Of note, the fountain is a contributing historic resource. The architects of record for the proposed project (both buildings and the fountain) are Charles Peter Weeks and William P. Day. Weeks is known for significant works such as World’s Fair on Treasure Island and the Hotel Mark Hopkins. The proposal for the Capitol Fountain’s removal represents an irreplaceable and unjustified loss of this historic resource.

The DEIR from DGS lacks adequate discussion and rationale for not choosing Alternative 2, the “Full Historic Restoration Alternative.” At the very least, the public deserves a better opportunity to discuss the proposed demolition of one of the most photographed places in the City of Sacramento and State of California Capitol area. It should be fully restored as part of the proposed project in the DEIR — or remain intact until proper restoration can be done.

When the proposed demolition of the Capitol Fountain was brought to my attention, I recalled a well-researched article by Rob Turner in the February/March 2014 issue of Sactown Magazine: http://www.sactownmag.com/February-March-2014/Troubled-Waters.

Am including Mr. Turner’s entire article with my comment, so it may become a part of the official DEIR record.

Response I39-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I40 **Randee Tavarez**

August 26, 2019

Comment I40-1

PLEASE LEAVE THAT FOUNTAIN JUST AS IT IS!  
These fountains are an historic landscaping feature that need to be saved, as these things are just not constructed much anymore.  
It is part of the whole and removing it would diminish the Capitol gardens!  
Don’t make that mistake!!

Response I40-1

Letter I41 **Sheila Van Noy**

August 26, 2019

Comment I41-1

Please restore and keep the fountain in place as it is part of Sacramento’s history. It should NOT be demolished.

Response I41-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I42 **Donna Springer**

August 26, 2019

Comment I42-1

I urge you to retain the capitol fountain as part of thee Unruh Building renovation project. It doesn’t have to be restored right now — just not destroyed! It’s not costing anything. It’s part of Sacramento’s history! And it looks beautiful as the focal point of the circle drive, right in front of the capitol. I see no advantage to removing it — only negatives.

Response I42-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I43 Joanne Crosta

August 26, 2019

Comment I43-1

I agree with many others that the Capitol Fountain should be restored as per Alternative 2 in the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report: Full Historic Restoration Alternative. Below is a copy of a letter written by another concerned Sacramentan that was sent earlier to you. I could not improve on it so here it is again: “Historical features are what make Sacramento unique, especially when related to the State Capitol of California. Restoring the 1929 fountain will continue to add to the Capitol ground’s value. Even without water, this piece of art is worthwhile for its historic significance. Carefully weigh options because the Capitol Fountain is irreplaceable.”

Response I43-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I44 **LaRue Carnes**

August 27, 2019

Comment I44-1

I am writing to ask you to please choose Alternative 2—Full Historic Restoration of the Capitol Fountain associated with this project. I am one of the small group of people who saved The Crest Movie Theater in Sacramento in the 1980s. I am so proud of that restoration for the current population and all who visit this city in the future. That this fountain has been mothballed since 2010 is probably a blip in most people’s radars. I remember visiting the park when I first moved here decades ago. It was beautiful. It’s a green historic treasure. Keep it that way. Don’t remove this fountain and put in a hardscape that may be easier to maintain but will add to the heat factor in that area and certainly diminish our beautiful grounds.

There’s money, there are donors, please network and find them.

Response I44-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I45 **Joe Wolfenden**

August 27, 2019

Comment I45-1

Please keep the Capitol fountain as part of the upcoming Capitol and unroh building restoration.

It should be restored and put into use. In my trips to Los Angeles and Orange counties I see Thor fountains going and fair lawns lush green and watered. Even during the height of the drought.

It is a foolish thing for us in Sacramento to turn off one of our few fountains and remove it just as a political gift to the southern neighbors.

The water comes from here. Yes we should share it but we should also get some of the pleasures that they are receiving.

Response I45-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I46 **Jan Summers**

August 27, 2019

Comment I46-1

This iconic fountain is a defining part of Historic Sacramento, proudly placed at the nearby entrance to the State Capitol. It deserves to remain, receive maintenance, and continue the history of our State Capitol and the Capitol Gardens.

There is No Justification to remove this Fountain.

It is also NOT In The Way of the Unruth Bldg renovation.

Instead of demolishing our City’s history, consider preserving it, providing maintenance that will allow history to be part of our urban life.

Let history remain proud and contribute, especially at our State Capitol.

Response I46-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I47 **Sandy Khan**

August 27, 2019

Comment I47-1

Please take steps to save and restore the fountain on Capitol Avenue in Sacramento. I can’t imagine that space without it.

Response I47-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I48 **Will Rose**

August 28, 2019

Comment I48-1

I urge you to please save the fountain! Option 2 of the Jesse Unruh restoration project details is the right way to keep our historical beauty and also the architectural character of our city intact.

I have fond memories of having lunch with my late wife on the fountain over 40 years ago. She got her first job at the treasurers office when were High-school grads. Please restore the fountain for the state,the city,the people and me.

Response I48-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I49 **Patricia Gayman**

August 28, 2019

Comment I49-1

Please reconsider doing away with the Capitol Fountain between 9th and 10th Streets. It adds so much to the area. And it’s been there so long.

Response I49-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I50 **Jennifer Stanley**

August 28, 2019

Comment I50-1

**The State of California’s Department of General Services, as part of a project intended to restore the Jesse M. Unruh Building, has proposed removing the historic Capitol Fountain, built in 1929, a listed contributor to the Capitol Annex National Register Historic District.**

While the restoration of the Unruh Building is a worthwhile project, intended to follow the recent restoration of the adjacent Library & Courts Building, there is *no need* to remove the Fountain, and its removal from the end of Capitol Mall in the rotunda between 9th and 10th Street represents an irreplaceable and unjustified loss of a historic resource.

**An alternative that restores the Fountain, is included in the Environmental Impact Report for the Unruh building and fountain.** Why was this alternative rejected? Without any justification provided and why does the fountain have to be removed now, as part of this project? Removing the fountain *would Involve* expense, for demolition and replacement with hardscape.

Please consider **Full Historic Restoration Alternative**, which will include restoration of the fountain, or, at least, *do not demolish the fountain at this time*. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Response I50-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I51 **Linda McFarland**

August 28, 2019

Comment I51-1

keep the fountain. keep our heritage

Response I51-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I52 **Whitney Johnson**

August 28, 2019

Comment I52-1

Do not demolish the Capitol Fountain.

Response I52-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I53 Alexa Roberts

August 28, 2019

Comment I53-1

If money is an issue, we can either wait on the restoration, or people would absolutely donate money to take care of it! We love our city’s history and the iconic image of the capitol fountain does matter! Why the rush to get rid of it? Our history should be a priority. I want to be able to point the fountain out to visitors and tell them it’s been there since the 1920s. Not tell them what used to be there and that I wish they could see it. Let’s restore the fountain, even if it takes longer than tearing it down.

Response I53-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I54 **Dennis Blegen**

August 28, 2019

Comment I54-1

I am a native Sacramentan and have lived here all my life. I have always loved the State Capitol and the grounds and buildings surrounding it; and I can remember just a few years ago when the fountain between the State Library and Courts Building worked and added to the beauty and charm of that setting.

I would regret the destruction of the fountain for both historic and aesthetic reasons. The fountain is both simple and tasteful, and I would add its very presence a reminder of the importance of water in the history and politics of our state. To repair the fountain would add to the luster as well as the meaning of this historic location.

Response I54-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I55 **Phyllis Ehlert**

August 28, 2019

Comment I55-1

Please use your influence against removal of the Capitol Fountain between the Library and Courts Buildings as part of our historic complex since 1929. It is a decorative landscaping feature that anchors the capitol grounds and has been enjoyed by the public during both day and nights. When visitors come to Sacramento, this is one of the attractive public areas my family displays. Water is a “living” element, creating interest, symbolic of our agricultural heritage and present economy.

Would you get rid of the Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool in Washington, D.C.?

As far as drought goes, I have read that lawn has more evaporation than an equal surface of water. Also this use is definitely worthwhile. Please do not destroy this beautiful fountain.

Response I55-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I56 **Laurie Steffen**

August 28, 2019

Comment I56-1

I am writing this email in response to saving the Capitol Fountain & history. I am asking the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restorative Alternative, which will include restoration of the fountain, or, at least, do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever.

Response I56-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I57 **Clayton Whitehead**

August 28, 2019

Comment I57-1

As a downtown resident, a student of architectural history (MHP, University of Georgia) and a lover of all things historic, I ask you to give careful consideration to the future of the fountain located on Capitol Mall. Constructed in 1929, the 90-year-old fountain contributes greatly to the sense of place of the entire district. Even if making it fully operational is deemed too difficult or costly for your renovation project, selecting Alternative #2 – Full Historic Restoration Alternative - assures the infrastructure will remain intact for future generations to address.

Response I57-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I58 Sean de Courcy

August 28, 2019

Comment I58-1

I’m writing to encourage the Department of General Services (DGS) to restore the iconic fountain between the Jessie Unruh and Stanley Mosk buildings. I worked as the project historian on the Library and Courts building restoration, acting as a liaison between DGS and the contractors, Arntz Builders, Inc., so I am extremely familiar with the landscape of the Capitol Extension Historic District and the difficulty DGS has maintaining historic properties. I am also a professional historian who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Standards professional qualification standards for history and architectural history.

The landscape of the Capitol Extension Historic District is an extremely significant element that contributes to the the Baux Arts-period classical landscape design of the district. The features of this landscape, such as the fountain, contribute to the district’s design as much as the buildings themselves. I encourage DGS to take this opportunity to preserve and restore the fountain until a complete landscape treatment plan can be developed for this district. At a minimum the foundation should be mothballed until a landscape treatment plan can be developed. Removing the fountain to avoid relatively minor restoration and maintenance costs is shortsighted and will hurt the people of California and the residents of Sacramento.

Response I58-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I59 Mark Harrington

August 28, 2019

Comment I59-1

Please consider the full historic restoration plan (alternative 2) in the Unruh Restoration Project Draft EIR.

We tend to get caught up in the now, but it is important to remember the past and honor the thought, effort, artistry, and purpose that went into projects like the Capitol Fountain.

I grew up near the White House fountain which provides a sea of calm with its beauty and its negative ions in an environment that is otherwise filled with chaos. Sacramento’s Capitol Fountain has done the same. It will be needed in the future as much as it was in 1929.

Please preserve the past for the future.

Response I59-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I60 **Dan Allison**

August 29, 2019

Comment I60-1

The Capitol Fountain should be retained and restored. Removing it would be an irrevocable loss of both an historical resource and a community asset.

Response I60-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I61 **Michael Barton**

August 29, 2019

Comment I61-1

I have heard that the city is considering demolition of the Capitol Fountain, to go along with the restoration of the Jesse Unruh Building. I’ve lived downtown for almost fifty years, and the Fountain has always been a very special place, directly in the sight line of the front of the Capitol Building. I wish to urge the city to save this little landmark, and to fully restore it, also, instead of another unnecessary demolition approved by the city.

Response I61-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I62 **Gary Binkerd**

August 29, 2019

Comment I62-1

With regards to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, I ask the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the historic Capitol Fountain, built in 1929. At the very least, please do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever. No justification has been provided for why the fountain has to be removed now. Removing the fountain would involve expenses for demolition and hardscape replacement. Save the historic Capitol Fountain!

Response I62-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I63 **Carole Cory and Jan Stevens**

August 29, 2019

Comment I63-1

We oppose the proposed plan for removal of the fountain in addition to the removal of the parkway down the center of Capitol Avenue. Putting the street down the center with a green belt on each side ruins the current view and entrance to the city. Why not look at La Rombla in Barcelona and see how popular and well used it is. There was a mistake made with the destruction of the Alhambra theater. Don’t continue to compound it! Thank you for consideration of the publics view.

Response I63-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I64 **Michael Munson**

August 29, 2019

Comment I64-1

Please DO NOT destroy/remove this treasure we still have!... we’ve lost too many!

Response I64-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I65 **Barbara Steinberg**

August 29, 2019

Comment I65-1

What is there to say? Please! How many historic landmarks must we lose? Most of the world embraces their history. Cherishes their past. Things that mark a place and time. A listed contributor to the Capitol Annex National Register Historic District there is no reason for the fountain’s removal if only about the minor cost of maintenance. The restoration of the Unruh Building is a worthwhile project, intended to follow the recent restoration of the adjacent Library & Courts Building, there is no need to remove the Fountain, and its removal from the end of Capitol Mall in the rotunda between 9th and 10th Street represents an irreplaceable and unjustified loss of a historic resource.

Each time I read Preservation Magazine, I am saddened to see how many structures are threatened or lost. More times than not here in California. When I think of all that we have demolished, removed, torn down in the name of progress -- it’s heartbreaking. I grew-up in our Nation’s Capital. We treasured every monument. Every fountain. Please restore our Capitol Fountain!

Response I65-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I66 **Gregory VanAcker**

August 29, 2019

Comment I66-1

Please keep it and restore the Capitol fountain. Reference Alternative 2 in the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report.

It should be brought back to life. It’s beautiful when running.

Response I66-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I67 **Emily Wright**

August 29, 2019

Comment I67-1

I’m writing to ask you to keep the historic fountain in front of the Capitol. I’ve loved it for years, it brings a round sense of completion to the front view of the Capitol, and when it’s full of water, it is a calming, musical addition to what is usually a high-powered conflict-ridden place.

Response I67-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I68 **Ellen Binkerd**

August 29, 2019

Comment I68-1

With regards to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, I ask the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the historic Capitol Fountain, built in 1929. At the very least, please do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever. No justification has been provided for why the fountain has to be removed now. Removing the fountain would involve expenses for demolition and hardscape replacement. Save the historic Capitol Fountain!

Response I68-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I69 **Jason Braga**

August 29, 2019

Comment I69-1

I understand you are looking at demolishing the Capitol Mall Fountain that hasn’t worked in years. This iconic fountain needs to be preserved. Progress is not always teardown and rebuilding. We need to preserve our past. Please consider restoring this iconic creature, if founds are not available now, which I don’t understand why they wouldn’t be with the state running in a positive cash flow year. If funs cannot be found now, lets just wait until funds can be found. It costs nothing to wait.

Response I69-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I70 **Vivian Gerlach**

August 29, 2019

Comment I70-1

Do not remove the historic Capitol Fountain as part of the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project.

Pages 72-73 of the EIR include a statement that removing the fountain would be done in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. This statement is disingenuous at best and false because the Secretary of the Interior Standards always discourage unnecessary removal or demolition of historic features. Clearly the Fountain is a historic feature and totally unrelated to any activity needed to restore the Unruh Building.

* Why the fountain was included in this project is a mystery. The Library and Courts Building shares the same courtyard with the Unruh Building and its restoration several years ago did not include the fountain. Why is it in this document and project at all? Nowhere is this explained.

Restoration of the Unruh Building is worthwhile. The restoration of the nearby Library and Courts Building several years back was well done and there is no doubt the Unruh Building will be handled with the same care and be spectacular when

complete.

Please select Alternative 2 Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which includes restoration of the fountain, or, at least, do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever.

There is absolutely no need to connect any actions related to restoration of the Unruh building with the fountain. The Fountain should be left in place now and considered for restoration in the future. The fountain, when functioning used recirculated water and consumed very little with only a little bit lost to evaporation. There is no rational justification for removing the foundation and none was provided in the EIR document, therefore it should not even be part of this project and not be considered for removal.

As a current Sacramento resident and life-long Californian (born and raised), I urge you to not remove this beautiful piece of our State and City’s history.

Response I70-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Comment I70-2

Can you reply to this email to insure it was received by the Aug 30, 5 PM deadline and will be entered into the public record?

Response I70-2

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

DGS provided direct response to the commenter regarding receipt of the comment, incorporation into the record, and the ongoing CEQA process.

Letter I71 **Debbie Towne**

August 29, 2019

Comment I71-1

Please keep the fountain, and turn it back on, near the State Capitol.

Response I71-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I72 **Malissa Enea**

August 29, 2019

Comment I72-1

I am writing to you to request to save the historic fountain that is part of the “Capitol Extension Group” at 10th and M street here in Sacramento.

Image that reads:
Accommodating a Growing State Government
Throughout its history, the California State Capitol building has experienced endless growing pains associated with the continual expansion of a prosperous state.
1928  Library and Courts Building
[picture of the Library and Courts Building]
By the early 1920s, California's State Capitol building was nearly out of room and expansion was desperately needed. in response, and impressive structure was designed and built so the California State Library and Courts could be moved off-site. The exquisite building was completed and occupied in 1926 and part of the Capitol Extension Group located adjacent to the Capitol. This group also includes the architecturally similar State Office Building No. 1 and the fountain that sits between the two buildings.
The building's pediment and Neo-classical design complimented the Classical Revival style of the Capitol. the Library and Courts' new home was designed by the San Francisco architectural firm of Weeks & Day. At the time of construction, the building was widely regarded as the most beautiful in state government. Even today, the grandeur of the entrance lobby, its majestic murals, and a variety of attractive decorative features make this building exceptional.

[California State Capitol History Part Three](http://capitolmuseum.ca.gov/architecture-and-history/california-state-capitol-history-part-three) (URL: http://capitolmuseum.ca.gov/architecture-and-history/california-state-capitol-history-part-three)

Being a Sacramento native, we must do all we can to preserve our local State History. We have already lost many gorgeous buildings and theaters due to urban sprawl and some of us natives have never forgotten this travesty. Please don’t let our fountain become one of those things we wish we had saved. Look at the image below, this image could easily be reproduced into reality right now and become a beautiful enhancement focal point to this area of historic Sacramento, enhancing some of the oldest and most beautiful buildings in our entire real estate portfolio.

Image is a portion of a postcard photograph of a water fountain with the California State Capitol building in the background

Please, do what you can, to save this fountain. The fountain is the best choice for the application when you compare to what was specified at the DOCO…horrible and devoid of anything connecting it to our city or historic.

Photograph of downtown arena

There is a fountain that is all that remains of the historic Alhambra theater, and the plaque (see image below) on the wall that seem apropos to the fountain at the Capitol.

Photograph of a portion of a plaque that partially reads:
Yesterday This Day's Madness did prepare;
To Morrow's Silence, Triumph, or Despair
Drink! for you know not whence you came, no...
Drink! for you know not why you go, nor where.
-Omar Khayyam 74th Verse, Rubai...


I ask that you please, do what you can, to save this fountain. The fountain is the best choice for the application when you compare to what was specified at the DOCO…horrible and devoid of anything connecting it to our city or historic.

Photograph of downtown arena

Please save our fountain! Re-plaster it. Fix the pump. Fill it and let it flow. Please save our fountain.

Response I72-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I73 **Catherine Turrill Lupi**

August 29, 2019

Comment I73-1

I am an historian and a member of Preservation Sacramento. I would like to express my concern about the potential removal of the old circular fountain at the center of the plaza between the Library and Court Building and the State Office Building, on axis with the State Capitol.

As an original feature in this historically-significant architectural ensemble, a pivotal point in the center of the plaza (“visually tying the Capitol and the Extension group together as one unit”), and an integral part of the sight-line to the Capitol, this fountain is worthy of both preservation and restoration. It has occupied the center of the plaza since the late 1920s and was singled out for mention in the National Register of Historic Places Nomination for this site (the above quotation about the fountain’s importance comes from the NRHP nomination). I hope that the Department of General Services will select Alternative 2 (“Full Historic Restoration Alternative”) when it makes a decision about how to restore the Jesse M. Unruh building.

Response I73-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I74 **Catherine Metz**

August 29, 2019

Comment I74-1

I understand that the Department of General Services is recommending the removal of this historic fountain. I am not certain of the reason for this. But, without overwhelming justification, this is really a travesty. Please don’t do it.

Response I74-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I75 **Brett Cole**

August 29, 2019

Comment I75-1

Please do not demolish the Capitol Fountain.

Response I75-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I76 **Mary Swisher**

August 29, 2019

Comment I76-1

This is a landmark where generations have had their photos taken in front of the capitol….save it please.

Response I76-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I77 **Dennis Davis**

August 29, 2019

Comment I77-1

With regards to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, I ask the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the historic Capitol Fountain, built in 1929. At the very least, please do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever. No justification has been provided for why the fountain has to be removed now. Removing the fountain would involve expenses for demolition and hardscape replacement. Save the historic Capitol Fountain!

Response I77-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I78 **Karen Davis**

August 29, 2019

Comment I78-1

With regards to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, I ask the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the historic Capitol Fountain, built in 1929. At the very least, please do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever. No justification has been provided for why the fountain has to be removed now. Removing the fountain would involve expenses for demolition and hardscape replacement. Save the historic Capitol Fountain!

Response I78-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I79 **Nancy Wagner-Edgar**

August 29, 2019

Comment I79-1

With regards to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, I ask the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the historic Capitol Fountain, built in 1929. At the very least, please do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever. No justification has been provided for why the fountain has to be removed now. Removing the fountain would involve expenses for demolition and hardscape replacement. Save the historic Capitol Fountain!

Response I79-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I80 **Mary Ann Low**

August 29, 2019

Comment I80-1

With regards to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, I ask the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the historic Capitol Fountain, built in 1929. At the very least, please do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever. No justification has been provided for why the fountain has to be removed now. Removing the fountain would involve expenses for demolition and hardscape replacement. Save the historic Capitol Fountain!

Response I80-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I81 **Gaylin Rezek**

August 29, 2019

Comment I81-1

With regards to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, I ask the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the historic Capitol Fountain, built in 1929.

At the very least, please do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever. No justification has been provided for why the fountain has to be removed now. Removing the fountain would involve expenses for demolition and hardscape replacement.

Save the historic Capitol Fountain!

Response I81-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I82 **Kathleen Green**

August 29, 2019

Comment I82-1

I urge the DGS to leave the fountain in the landscaping between the Courts and Treasurers Buildings at the end of the Mall. This is, no doubt, a Historical landscape feature when these buildings were built in 1927. The community is aware it is there even though it is not functioning.

Please leave it in place.

Response I82-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I83 **Pat Paul**

August 29, 2019

Comment I83-1

Re: The Unruh Renovation Project: Please select Alternative 2 for the Full Historic Restoration which includes the fountain. In other words, please DO NOT DEMOLISH the fountain. I realize its been mothballed over concern of water, but I love seeing it there on the Mall and is a wonderful marker of its times. Many use it as a starting point/gathering point all the while enjoying the beauty of another moment in time.

Response I83-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I84 **Eleanor Andrade**

August 29, 2019

Comment I84-1

We have demolished so many landmarks in Sacramento. Let’s leave the fountain alone.  
Maybe a fundraiser to get the money for repairs could be organized. Please do not demolish the fountain!

Response I84-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I85 **Joyce Childs**

August 30, 2019

Comment I85-1

I saw the story on the news that the Capital mall fountain was to be removed. I find this very unacceptable. Keep the fountain untill funds can be raised are made available to restore it to a functional condition.

Response I85-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I86 **Colleen Fescenmeyer**

August 30, 2019

Comment I86-1

Please keep the capital fountain. It was once a beautiful addition to downtown and it can be again. We are so often a disposable society. Fountains like these just aren’t made anymore. There may not be any budget funding but if a nonprofit is willing to take on the fundraising challenge why not try that avenue. They can serve two purposes. Beautifying and restoring the city while bring attention to their cause.

Response I86-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I87 **Debbie Gorman**

August 30, 2019

Comment I87-1

Save the historic fountain! Take funds from illegal immigrant programs!

Response I87-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I88 **Michael Seaman**

August 30, 2019

Comment I88-1

DGS should NOT destroy the fountain between OB1 and the State Library. It is part of the historic fabric of our state’s capital. It should be maintained and operated using reclaimed water. Getting rid of it is a very bad idea.

Response I88-1

Letter I89 **Christine Thorntona**

August 30, 2019

Comment I89-1

I have heard that there is a possibility that we may lose the beautiful fountain that faces the Capitol.

I hope this is not true, because we have so little of the historical beauty left in Sacramento, and the Fountain, whether it’s operating or not, compliments, and is an extension of the Capitol.

Please reconsider because nothing that replaces it can have any meaningful significance to our Capital city than the beautiful pond. Let’s just maintain it.

I am a life long Sacramentan and love our City and State.

Response I89-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I90 **Cassie Webb**

August 30, 2019

Comment I90-1

It’s time to restore the Capital Fountain. The state seems to have enough water to help make billionaires out of land speculators in So Cal (Wonderful Pistachios). How about a proper fountain in the capital city for us common folks to be proud of?

Response I90-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I91 **Brad Clark**

August 30, 2019

Comment I91-1

I was shocked to learn of the proposal to demolish the Capitol Mall Fountain. This is an iconic structure that must be saved. It adds beauty to the mall and deserves restoration, not demolition.

Response I91-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I92 **Terry Coulombe**

August 30, 2019

Comment I92-1

Please do not destroy this historical landmark

Response I92-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I93 **Deb Harms**

August 30, 2019

Comment I93-1

I saw the article regarding the fountain. I think it should be preserved. This is an iconic historic feature for our city. Please keep it and make repairs as we can. It can be done in phases if necessary. But to remove it would be irresponsible to our history.

Response I93-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I94 **Garrett McCord**

August 30, 2019

Comment I94-1

The fountain is a part of the Capitol’s iconic appeal and should be repaired.

Response I94-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I95 **Cynthia Mitchell Speakman**

August 30, 2019

Comment I95-1

Please do not let them destroy the fountain. I moved here from Texas in 1993 and became infatuated with Sacramento’s history. I have done historical tours on segway and foot and love the history of this city. I have noticed as more people come here from the Bay area the more development happens. Change is great but the beauty of this city relies on our historical landmarks. Please keep the fountain where it is and intact as a fountain.

Response I95-1

Letter I96 **Beverly Meeker Tobey**

August 30, 2019

Comment I96-1

I do not understand why demolishing the Capitol fountain is being seriously considered. It is a beautiful fountain and an historic one. I always enjoyed seeing it when I went to the law library. I certainly hope that this proposition is taken out of consideration.

Response I96-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I97 **Rob Turner**

August 30, 2019

Comment I97-1

I understand that today is the final day that DGS is accepting public comments regarding the fate of the historic Capitol Fountain, so I’m writing to say that I was deeply dismayed to hear that the State is seriously considering removal of this extraordinary local asset that has been neglected for nearly a decade now. In fact, I may be wrong, but it appears from the language in the EIR report the DGS is actually recommending removal of the fountain (please correct me if I’m wrong on this point). I’ve also just been informed that a final decision on this matter may be made on this issue in the next six weeks (by mid-October).

As you may or may not know, over the decades, many of the Capitol’s attributes have been slowly stripped away. Until World War II, the dome was open to the public for generations until it was permanently closed for security concerns. Then the beautiful columns were stripped away around the periphery of the park. Then many of the statues along the Capitol’s roofline were removed. Then a few years ago, the front door of the Capitol was permanently closed due to dubious “security concerns.” Then black bollards were placed around the entire Capitol.

And now the State wants to remove the historic fountain? And for what reason? Because we can’t fix a fountain? It appears that’s the case. Yet, somehow every other city in California—from San Francisco to L.A. to San Diego and beyond— has figured out how to keep their historic fountains working. How can the State of California be the epicenter of technology, entertainment and innovation and not figure out how to get the water flowing in an historic fountain that has enhanced Capitol Mall since 1928? (see postcard below)

I know this is something we can do. I badly want my hometown to be known as a can-do city, not a we-tried-but-it’s-just-a-little-too-hard-for-us city.

Has the State made a good faith effort to engage The City of Sacramento on this issue? Or the Downtown Sacramento Partnership? Or the private sector?

As you may know, the City is hoping to enhance Capitol Mall, not strip away those things that make it unique. If the State would rather not make the effort, then please consider turning over ownership of the fountain to the City as you did with Capitol Mall a few years back. It’s a natural extension of the mall.

While I believe that fixing the fountain and bringing it back to life is the State’s responsibility, if private dollars are required, I will be the first to commit $1,000 to repairing the historic fountain. I’m sure there will be others.

Please don’t make this decision about a key visual and historic component in downtown Sacramento behind closed doors.

This isn’t just a piece of State property. This is our city. This is our history. We can do better. I have to believe that we can.

Response I97-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I98 **Barada**

August 30, 2019

Comment I98-1

Please keep and repair this piece of California history. So much history keeps getting destroyed here in the Sacramento area.

Response I98-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I99 **Sharon Grafton**

August 30, 2019

Comment I99-1

By all means this fountain should be saved. Take the money that would be used to remove it and place it in a fund for repairs. I agree with William Burg, these historical landmarks make Sacramento what it is

today. Remove these items and we become like every other city in the US. There is a lot of history here with Old Town Sacramento and the near by Gold Rush towns, lets keep the history alive with things like this fountain and preserve what we have left for future generations. Next thing you know the state will want to remove the rose garden around the Capitol because it uses too much water. Where does it stop.

Response I99-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I100 **Dennis Perez**

August 30, 2019

Comment I100-1

With the growing bust of new business developments, residential and Sacramento’s festivals this would be a land mark everyone near and far would enjoy. Sacramento should look a budget analysis of new construction versus demolition cost to way the options on how to allocate funds for this project. We are spending black after block in drought tolerant plants and low maintenance curb appeal to benefit the or help preservation of water. Yes, will this be using water?..sure . Lets look at a system that recycle the water and put is back into the irrigation system to the adjacent water lines. The water fountain has sat un touched for a decade or so, lets not react impulsively but better plan on what an iconic treasure this is. Lets keep it and put a better plan of action together.

Response I100-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I101 **Mj Guajardo**

August 30, 2019

Comment I101-1

Save save save!!!

Save the capital fountain!! It’s part of our states history and should not be removed!

Response I101-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I102 **Richard Simas**

August 30, 2019

Comment I102-1

Please do not tear down this fountain. Someday, just as we regret losing the Alhambra, we will look back on all we have lost in Sacramento in the name of progress. What we should be doing is looking for a way to restore this landmark. The least we can do is preserve it for other (more imaginative) generations to do so.

Response I102-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I103 **Sherry Collins**

August 30, 2019

Comment I103-1

Please do not destroy another piece of California’s rich history.

Response I103-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I104 **Glenn Miltenberger**

August 30, 2019

Comment I104-1

Please do not destroy the Capitol Mall fountain. Our “old” things need to be saved. I can’t believe DGS is even suggesting removing this fountain. We need to preserve these “old” things in situ, not dismantle and warehouse. The fountain doesn’t even need water to be of beauty and historic value. LEAVE IT ALONE, leave it in place and DGS find something else that needs attention like washing the Tower Bridge yearly.

Response I104-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I105 **Cathy Palmer**

August 30, 2019

Comment I105-1

PLEASE, PLEASE do NOT remove or demolish the fountain on Capitol Mall in front of the State Library and State Building 1....

It is almost a historical monument for our beautiful City of Trees.

This City has already lost so many beautiful structures.

Please leave it for our children and grand children to enjoy as so many of us have over the years!

Response I105-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I106 **Gerald Filice**

August 30, 2019

Comment I106-1

Please take all steps needed to save the Capitol Fountain in the roundabout between 9th and 10th on Capitol Mall. As a resident of Sacramento, I have come to appreciate the beauty and charm of our historic places, and the fountain is one of those. Not only should it be saved, but it should be restored to its full, operating glory as soon as possible.

Response I106-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I107 **Jackie Whitelam**

August 30, 2019

Comment I107-1

Good Day. I am submitting a comment on the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft EIR. I support the Department of General Service’s plans to renovate the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation, but I oppose the Department of General Service’s plans to remove the historic Capitol Fountain as a part of this project.

While I am submitting this comment as an individual, I am the Chair of the City of Sacramento Preservation Commission, a member of the AIA Central Valley Chapter Civic Engagement Team and a Program Committee Track Leader for the California Preservation Forum 2020 Annual Conference being held in Sacramento next Spring. In these capacities I am requesting approval of a letter be agendized for the September 12th meeting of the AIA Central Valley Chapter Board and the September 18th City Preservation Commission supporting the Department of General Services’ plans to renovate the Jesse M. Unruh Building, but opposing DGS’ plans to remove the Capitol Fountain as a part of this project. I am also requesting that the topic of the potential removal of the Capitol Fountain and other actions the State has taken(or plans to take) to preserve or remove historic buildings in the Capitol Area be included as a program session at the Capitol Preservation Forum 2020 Annual Conference.

Prior to my retirement from the Capitol Area Development Authority, I attended several meetings of the Capitol Area Committee at which the DGS project manager reported on the Library and Courts Renovation Project. The professionalism with which DGS cared for this civic asset was inspiring. It is my hope that the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project will continue this legacy of stewardship and that DGS will select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include the restoration of the fountain or, at the very least, will not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed it is gone forever. Demolishing the fountain at this time would be both tragic and short-sighted since the Capitol Fountain is a contributing resource, together with the Jesse M. Unruh Building and the Library and Courts Building, to the Capitol Extension Group National Register Historic District, particularly given the funds the State expended on the Library and Courts Building.

Together, these three structures form the termination point of Capitol Mall. As one of the City’s, if not the State’s, most impressive of urban vistas, the preservation and renovation of all three, including the restoration of the Capitol Fountain and making its water spray (which is a character-defining feature) operational again are critical.

Response I107-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I108 **John Hodgson**

August 30, 2019

Comment I108-1

I understand that today is the final day that DGS is accepting public comments regarding the fate of the historic Capitol Fountain, so I’m writing to say that I was deeply dismayed to hear that the State is seriously considering removal of this extraordinary local asset that has been neglected for nearly a decade now. In fact, I may be wrong, but it appears from the language in the EIR report the DGS is actually recommending removal of the fountain (please correct me if I’m wrong on this point). I’ve also just been informed that a final decision on this matter may be made on this issue in the next six weeks (by mid-October).

As you may or may not know, over the decades, many of the Capitol’s attributes have been slowly stripped away. Until World War II, the dome was open to the public for generations until it was permanently closed for security concerns. Then the beautiful columns were stripped away around the periphery of the park. Then many of the statues along the Capitol’s roofline were removed. Then a few years ago, the front door of the Capitol was permanently closed due to dubious “security concerns.” Then black bollards were placed around the entire Capitol.

And now the State wants to remove the historic fountain? And for what reason? Because we can’t fix a fountain? It appears that’s the case. Yet, somehow every other city in California—from San Francisco to L.A. to San Diego and beyond— has figured out how to keep their historic fountains working. How can the State of California be the epicenter of technology, entertainment and innovation and not figure out how to get the water flowing in an historic fountain that has enhanced Capitol Mall since 1928? (see postcard below)

I know this is something we can do. I badly want my hometown to be known as a can-do city, not a we-tried-but-it’s-just-a-little-too-hard-for-us city.

Has the State made a good faith effort to engage The City of Sacramento on this issue? Or the Downtown Sacramento Partnership? Or the private sector?

As you may know, the City is hoping to enhance Capitol Mall, not strip away those things that make it unique. If the State would rather not make the effort, then please consider turning over ownership of the fountain to the City as you did with Capitol Mall a few years back. It’s a natural extension of the mall.

While I believe that fixing the fountain and bringing it back to life is the State’s responsibility, if private dollars are required, I will be the first to commit $1,000 to repairing the historic fountain. I’m sure there will be others.

Please don’t make this decision about a key visual and historic component in downtown Sacramento behind closed doors.

This isn’t just a piece of State property. This is our city. This is our history. We can do better. I have to believe that we can.

Response I108-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I109 **Roxanne Miller**

August 30, 2019

Comment I109-1

I’m writing to urge DGS to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, including full restoration of the historic fountain. This fountain, built around 1928, is an essential element to the Capitol Annex National Register Historic District.

In addition, the fountain Identifies and physically links the historic State Capitol, Library and Courts Building, and the Treasurer’s Building. The fountain ties the State’s Constitutional Offices together and shows the importance of their functions. In addition, n, it links the Capitol Mall to the State Capitol and provides a key historic element and visual corridor to the West.

The Draft EIR incorrectly states that it meets the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. This is false and misleading because the Secretary of Interior’s Standards always discourages unnecessary demolition and removal of historic features. Removing and demolishing the fountain is totally against the SOI’s Standards. The justification in the EIR for removal and demolition of this historic fountain is inadequate and would not meet the SOI’s standards for removal.

DGS has ignored its responsibility for maintaining the operation of the historic fountain. Restoring it with the renovation project would go a long way to rectify this oversight.

The circular island is a primary location connecting the Capitol Mall and the State Capitol, Library & Courts Building, and Treasurer’s Office together.

This historic location must retain the fountain so that it the public can continue to celebrate its historic location and active fountain, which links the State Capitol to the Capitol Mall, and the Library & Courts and Treasurer’s Building, since 1928.

Response I109-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I110 **Erika Bradley**

August 30, 2019

Comment I110-1

I am emailing to voice my concern in a public comment on the historic Sacramento Capitol Fountain. I believe that the 1928 Capitol Fountain is a key feature to the city of Sacramento and to the Capitol building, in which many visitors from all over tour. Not only should the historic fountain remain standing, it should also be repaired and refurbished for use.

As the City of Sacramento continues to grow and develop with new restaurants, night life, stadiums and event centers, it is important to keep historic structures that remind the public of local history and historic architecture.

Response I110-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I111 **Javier Torres**

August 30, 2019

Comment I111-1

As a native of Sacramento since 1959 I would love for the city to keep the fountain is so much of the city’s past.  
Please keep

Response I111-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I112 **Yeshe Dorje**

August 30, 2019

Comment I112-1

Please preserve the fountain at the State Capital.

Response I112-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I113 **Cecily Hastings**

August 30, 2019

Comment I113-1

I understand that today is the final day that DGS is accepting public comments regarding the fate of the historic Capitol Fountain, so I’m writing to say that I was deeply dismayed to hear that the State is seriously considering removal of this extraordinary local asset that has been neglected for nearly a decade now. In fact, I may be wrong, but it appears from the language in the EIR report the DGS is actually recommending removal of the fountain (please correct me if I’m wrong on this point). I’ve also just been informed that a final decision on this matter may be made on this issue in the next six weeks (by mid-October).

As you may or may not know, over the decades, many of the Capitol’s attributes have been slowly stripped away. Until World War II, the dome was open to the public for generations until it was permanently closed for security concerns. Then the beautiful columns were stripped away around the periphery of the park. Then many of the statues along the Capitol’s roofline were removed. Then a few years ago, the front door of the Capitol was permanently closed due to dubious “security concerns.” Then black bollards were placed around the entire Capitol.

And now the State wants to remove the historic fountain? And for what reason? Because we can’t fix a fountain? It appears that’s the case. Yet, somehow every other city in California—from San Francisco to L.A. to San Diego and beyond— has figured out how to keep their historic fountains working. How can the State of California be the epicenter of technology, entertainment and innovation and not figure out how to get the water flowing in an historic fountain that has enhanced Capitol Mall since 1928? (see postcard below)

I know this is something we can do. I badly want my hometown to be known as a can-do city, not a we-tried-but-it’s-just-a-little-too-hard-for-us city.

Has the State made a good faith effort to engage The City of Sacramento on this issue? Or the Downtown Sacramento Partnership? Or the private sector?

As you may know, the City is hoping to enhance Capitol Mall, not strip away those things that make it unique. If the State would rather not make the effort, then please consider turning over ownership of the fountain to the City as you did with Capitol Mall a few years back. It’s a natural extension of the mall.

While I believe that fixing the fountain and bringing it back to life is the State’s responsibility, if private dollars are required, I will be the first to commit $1,000 to repairing the historic fountain. I’m sure there will be others.

Please don’t make this decision about a key visual and historic component in downtown Sacramento behind closed doors.

This isn’t just a piece of State property. This is our city. This is our history. We can do better. I have to believe that we can.

Response I113-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I114 **Bryan Nuxoll**

August 30, 2019

Comment I114-1

Please choose Alternative 2 to save the Capitol Mall fountain and fix it during the restoration of the Jesse Unruh building in Downtown Sacramento. The fountain helps make our State Capitol stand out in the city. This is the Capitol of the fifth largest economy in the world and it would be stupid to make our Capitol look worse.

Response I114-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I115 **George Nordstrom**

August 30, 2019

Comment I115-1

Please do not remove the Capitol Fountain! Instead, RESTORE the fountain for the enjoyment of the people of Sacramento, of California, and all visitors to our state capitol. It is already built - just get it up and running again.

Response I115-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I116 **Chuck Robuck**

August 30, 2019

Comment I116-1

With all the revenue the State brings in each year it’s hard to understand how a single fountain could not be funded.

Response I116-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I117 **Michaelle Longhofer**

August 30, 2019

Comment I117-1

With regards to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, I ask the Department of General Services to select Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, which will include restoration of the historic Capitol Fountain, built in 1929. At the very least, please do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever. No justification has been provided for why the fountain has to be removed now. Removing the fountain would involve expenses for demolition and hardscape replacement. Save the historic Capitol Fountain!

Response I117-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I118 **Marina Texeira**

August 30, 2019

Comment I118-1

I urge you as a Sacramento native to please keep the historic fountain. As a long time friend of Jesse Unruh, I know he would urge you to maintain it.

Response I118-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I119 **Martha Paterson-Cohen**

August 30, 2019

Comment I119-1

I am writing to ask you to save and activate the capital mall fountain that is under consideration for demolition. It is a wonderful part of the capitol mall, a part of capitol history, and a refreshing thing to have in our hot city. In fact, we need MORE fountains throughout this city.

I was quite shocked to learn that the State is considering its’ removal.

Response I119-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I120 **Vito Parisi**

August 30, 2019

Comment I120-1

SAVE THE FOUNTAIN!!!

Response I120-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I121 **Melba Hinojosa**

August 30, 2019

Comment I121-1

Who else can I contact to promote keeping this fountain?

Response I121-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I122 **Melanie Balfour**

August 30, 2019

Comment I122-1

Please save and restore the fountain, or, at least, do not demolish the fountain at this time. Deferring fountain restoration involves no great expense, but once the fountain is destroyed, it is gone forever.

Sacramento politicians have already cost Sacramento dearly with the destruction of the city with the West End project demolition and cutting up neighborhoods to put in a freeway when other less disruptive options were available for both of these projects. Sacramento lost the Alhambra Theater and since I was not born and raised here I have no idea how many other iconic buildings our short-sighted politicians have voted to destroy.

Please let us learn a lesson from the past, we will not become a world class city by tearing down our past. We will not become a world class city by having a landscape of nothing but new architecture. People love history, tourist love history, please leave this town with some historical architecture and art

Response I122-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I123 **Amelita Manes**

August 30, 2019

Comment I123-1

SAVE the fountain!

Response I123-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I124 **Fiona Renton**

August 30, 2019

Comment I124-1

Please do not demolish the old fountain on Capitol Mall. It would be great to see it restored as part of the Unruh building restoration and up and running during non drought years. It is a part of Sacramento history.

Response I124-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I125 **Dani Butler**

August 30, 2019

Comment I125-1

Please do not demolish. It’s a stunning statement. Refurbish, possibly solar or wind power even.

Response I125-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I126 **Carole Harris**

August 30, 2019

Comment I126-1

You’re considering demolishing this fountain!? Without getting an estimate to repair it? Why must everything be torn down/replaced? This structure has been in place since 1925 and is an icon on the Sacramento Mall. Please give more thought to restoring this lovely historic fountain rather than demolishing it. I prefer to see this fountain flowing again.

Response I126-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I127 **Helene Meyer**

August 30, 2019

Comment I127-1

Please save it! It would cost to remove it anyway…why not fix it. It’s a beautiful feature, please don’t destroy it.

Also, there’s no big rush to do anything, fix it at your leisure…as long as it’s not too long.

Response I127-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I128 **Richard Casias, RCC Group**

August 30, 2019

Comment I128-1

My firm is an environmental management practice here in Davis. Our #1 Recommendation for DGS is to:

#1) Prepare an RFP to ask CA Small Businesses for the Design, Fabrication and Installation of a World Class

Lighted Water Fountain Sculpture, which uses NO WATER, uses LED lighting, which can be electronically controlled with regard to light colors and intensity.

CA already owns the land and electrical infrastructure just needs to be Replaced to an efficient design.

CA needs to show the world how to blend artistry, technology and environmental awareness into 1 package. It would be world renoun, and shows what we Californians can do,,,

I recommend you ask one of our Clients, Bang!Creative out of San Diego - a highly regarded Contractor - Designer with terrific CA Parks experience...

My $0.02

Response I128-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I129 **Jack and Gayle**

August 31, 2019

Comment I129-1

Please don’t tear down the Capitol Fountain. Just like the Alhambra theater, it’s part of the great architecture here in Sacramento.

Repair it and show it off to all California residents as well as all the visitors to our great capitol.

Response I129-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I130 **Deborah Marvin**

August 31, 2019

Comment I130-1

As a 3rd generation Sacramentian, I would encourage you to save as much of Sacramento’s history as possible. I recognize the need for modernization, but would ask that you include restoration. The capital corridor should reflect the history of Sacramento, not have all the historic artifacts removed in order to build the infrastructure the state government requires.

Please save the fountain.

Response I130-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I131 **Andrea Noah**

August 31, 2019

Comment I131-1

This area is beautifully iconic for locals and visitors alike. This is a location that adds so much for enjoyment and for great photos taken for weddings, proms and visitors in general. I’m sure that historic pictures were captured in 1982 for the Capitol Restoration Celebration that may have included the fountain. Softscaping is a critical added value for our city!

Response I131-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I132 **Debra Castaneda**

August 31, 2019

Comment I132-1

Please fix the fountain. Seems like it doesn’t use much water!

Response I132-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I133 **aj**

August 31, 2019

Comment I133-1

For goodness sakes RESTORE……..Circulating pumps and light show at night.  
It should never be eliminated. 3 votes from here SAVE.

Get back to us if you need help.

Response I133-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I134 **Dianna Hansen**

August 31, 2019

Comment I134-1

Keep it

Response I134-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I135 **Diane Hollingshead**

August 31, 2019

Comment I135-1

Please keep and restore the fountain.

Response I135-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I136 **James Ashcraft**

August 31, 2019

Comment I136-1

Save the fountain.

Surely a city with two Rivers can continue to operate this fountain. The capital needs the calming sound of water.

Response I136-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I137 **Jean Wright**

August 31, 2019

Comment I137-1

Please bring back the Fountain in front of the State Capitol!! It’s an eyesore now and could be beautiful as it was meant to be!!!

Response I137-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I138 **Sally Peterson**

August 31, 2019

Comment I138-1

This structure is such a great addition and attraction before crossing over to our state capitol. It would be a shame to have it remove and in fact - shame on the city if this project happens.

Registered voter for 40 years and long time Sacramento resident and visitor to our state capitol on a regular basis.

Response I138-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I139 **Angela Vine**

August 31, 2019

Comment I139-1

Please save the Capitol Fountain!

Response I139-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I140 **Kathleen Kelly**

August 31, 2019

Comment I140-1

The Capitol fountain has been a Sacramento landmark since 1928. Even without water, it deserves restoration. Honor the fountain’s history and preserve it.

Response I140-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I141 **Gayle Dax-Conroy**

August 31, 2019

Comment I141-1

Please restore it

Response I141-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I142 **Matt Millspaugh**

August 31, 2019

Comment I142-1

Restore AND maintain the fountain. Make it a celebrated feature if an otherwise drab capitol mall.

Response I142-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I143 **Cynthia Young**

August 31, 2019

Comment I143-1

Please don’t destroy our historic fountain!

Response I143-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I144 **Allison Post Harris**

August 31, 2019

Comment I144-1

Please save this historic fountain.

Response I144-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I145 **Catherine O’Brien**

August 31, 2019

Comment I145-1

I’m happy to finally have an email address to send my request/ inquiry about repairing and restarting the Capitol’s fountain. Please let me know the status of the repairs and when we can expect to enjoy it again.

Response I145-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I146 **Todd Clobes**

September 1, 2019

Comment I146-1

Please restore the Sacramento Capital fountain. The capital mall is largely an eyesore and this empty fountain is one of the few great civic projects along the entire stretch. It would be a shame to destroy one of the few pieces of history in this city. Please keep and repair this treasure.

Response I146-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I147 **Claire Yazigi**

September 1, 2019

Comment I147-1

I am a native Sacramentan. The 1928 Capitol Fountain is a symbol of our city and our state’s capitol. Please do NOT remove. Turn it back on!!!

Response I147-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I148 **Michele Chouinard**

September 1, 2019

Comment I148-1

With so much demolition of our history it would be a bonus to maintain the beauty and the historical connection of the Capitol Fountain.

Please maintain our link to past California residents.

Response I148-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I149 **Diana Mollart**

September 1, 2019

Comment I149-1

Please keep the fountain!

Response I149-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I150 **Betsy Vallejo**

September 1, 2019

Comment I150-1

Do not demolish the fountain in front of the State Capitol building in Sacramento, CA. It is a historic icon and does not need to be demolished in order to restore the Jesse Unruh Building.

I am a long-time (40+ years) Sacramento resident. Incorporate plans to RESTORE the fountain to it’s former beauty. Do not DESTROY it.

Response I150-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I151 **Doug Wright**

September 1, 2019

Comment I151-1

Please bring back the Fountain in front of the State Capitol!! It’s an eyesore now and could be beautiful as it was meant to be!!!

Response I151-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I152 **Julie Newlin**

September 1, 2019

Comment I152-1

I urge restoration of the Capitol Fountain as per Alternative 2 in the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project Draft Environmental Impact Report: Full Historic Restoration Alternative.

Historical features are what make Sacramento unique, especially when related to the State Capitol of California.

Restoring the 1929 fountain will continue to add to the Capitol ground’s value.

Even without water, this piece of art is worthwhile for its historic significance.

Carefully weigh options because the Capitol Fountain is irreplaceable.

I have been a Sacramento resident for 43 years and take visitors to visit the Capitol.

Response I152-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I153 **Marisa Warnock**

September 3, 2019

Comment I153-1

Please restore the fountain

Response I153-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I154 **Dan Dillon**

September 8, 2019

Comment I154-1

Water appreciation and drought concerns can be highlighted and brought to public attention much more effectively by saving a public fountain than by shutting it off.

Save the fountain but make it a dual purpose fountain. Beauty of course. But just like we appreciate the beauty of our State in general we are given the responsibility of conserving and preserving her resources.

Give the fountain a mission and a name.

The mission to bring water appreciation to the attention of all our people.

Give the fountain its own facebook page where people especially students could post ways they helped conserve water. For example “I turned the water off while I brushed my teeth and saved 2 gallons of water, if everyone in the State did the same we could save 300 million gallons of water.”

The name? There again is an opportunity for public awareness. Have a contest (get the Schools involved) with all the students in the State to submit names. Each School District could submit a name after they have smaller contests in their school Districts. Distill the names down to 10 and have them voted on in the facebook page. This could be a major awareness tool. where we save billions more gallons of water then we use.

What a great opportunity to show our youth how two apparently opposing points of view can form a collaborative consensus where both are satisfied.

Response I154-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I155 **Marian Moe**

September 10, 2019

Comment I155-1

Please ask the Director to choose Alternative 2: Full Historic Restoration Alternative, and include full restoration of the fountain. There is no need to remove the historic fountain, an historic and iconic feature of this wonderful set of buildings. The fountain is central to the very spirit of the architectural significance of this building. Its loss is not justified under the Secretary’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, as it is not necessary for the purpose of the project.

Please retain the fountain. This is in a location that I have spent much time traversing and also working in the buildings, always aware that I am experiencing the gestalt created its visionary architects. It just would not be the same without the original fountain.

Response I155-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

Letter I156 **Judith Alsop**

September 10, 2019

Comment I156-1

I want to add my support to restore the fountain at the Capitol. The Capitol building is so beautiful and the restored fountain would add to the beauty.

Response I156-1

Please see Master Response: Capitol Fountain, above.

# Revisions to the Draft EIR

This chapter presents revisions to the Draft EIR text made in response to comments, or to amplify, clarify or make minor modifications or corrections to information in the Draft EIR. Changes in the text are signified by ~~strikeouts~~ where text is removed and by underline where text is added. The information contained within this chapter clarifies and expands on information in the Draft EIR and does not constitute “significant new information” requiring recirculation. (See Public Resources Code Section 21092.1; CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5.)

## Project Modifications

There have been no modifications to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project, as described in Draft EIR Chapter 3, “Project Description,” since publication of the Draft EIR on July 16, 2019.

## Revisions to the Draft EIR

This section presents specific text changes made to the Draft EIR since its publication and public review. The changes are presented in the order in which they appear in the original Draft EIR and are identified by the Draft EIR page number.

Revisions to Chapter 1, Introduction

Based on input from the California Historic State Capitol Commission, it is noted that the text of the last paragraph on page 1-1 of the Draft EIR incorrectly stated that “The project would also involve renovation or modification of the Capitol fountain.” The Commission also expressed concern regarding the use of the term “restoration.” In response, the text on page 1-1 of the Draft EIR is hereby revised as follows:

The project would involve a comprehensive renovation to extend the useful lifespan of the building by approximately 50 years and improve tenant safety and comfort. The renovation would incorporate upgrades to fire and life-safety and accessibility; repairs to historic elements that are deteriorating or causing deterioration; hazardous materials removal; replacement of the plumbing, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); replacement of the electrical, telecommunications, and security systems; landscaping; and renovation of the elevators. The project would ~~include restoration of historic elements as feasible and~~ provide a new office layout for existing tenants. The project would also involve ~~renovation or modification~~ the decommissioning and removal of the Capitol fountain. The project ~~goal is~~ seeks to be designed in such a way as to achieve Zero Net Energy and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) v4 Silver certification.

Revisions to Chapter 2, Executive Summary

In response to the California Historic State Capitol Commission regarding clarity of language relating the project proposal, the text in Section 2.2.4, “Characteristics of the Project,” in Chapter 2, “Executive Summary,” is hereby revised as follows:

The project includes ~~modification~~ decommissioning and removal of the Capitol fountain, which is located in the middle of the roundabout directly in front of the State Capitol, south of the Jesse M. Unruh Building and north of the Library and Courts Building. There are currently issues with electrical shortages in the fountain lighting, failure of mechanical equipment, leaks in the fountain bowl and associated valves, and a possible drain line collapse.

Revisions to Chapter 3, Project Description

In response to the California Historic State Capitol Commission regarding clarity of language relating the project proposal, the text in the last paragraph of Section 3.1, “Project Background and Need,” on page 3-1 of the Draft EIR is hereby revised has follows:

The project includes ~~modification~~ decommissioning and removal of the Capitol fountain, which is located in the middle of the roundabout directly in front of the State Capitol, south of the Jesse M. Unruh Building and north of the Library and Courts Building. The Capitol fountain was constructed in the 1920s, has been non-operational since 2010, and is deteriorating. There are issues with electrical shortages in the fountain lighting, failure of mechanical equipment, leaks in the fountain bowl and associated valves, and a possible drain line collapse.

Revisions to Chapter 4, Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

No revisions.

Revisions to Section 4.3, Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources

There is no federal involvement in the project. However, the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility are included in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The reference to Section 106 is hereby deleted from Draft EIR page 4.3-1, as follows

**~~Section 106 of the~~ National Historic Preservation Act**

Federal protection of resources is legislated by (a) the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended by 16 U.S. Code 470, (b) the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979, and (c) the Advisory Council on Historical Preservation. These laws and organizations maintain processes for determination of the effects on historic properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

~~Section 106 of t~~The NHPA and accompanying regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 800) constitute the main federal regulatory framework guiding cultural resources investigations and require consideration of effects on properties that are listed in, or may be eligible for listing in the NRHP. The NRHP is the nation’s master inventory of known historic properties. It is administered by the National Park Service and includes listings of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess

Based on DGS’ coordination with Native American tribes, the language of Mitigation Measure 4.3-2 is hereby revised as follows:

Mitigation 4.3-2:

**Monitoring and Response Measures for Potential Unknown Prehistoric Archaeological Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources**

This mitigation measure expands on the actions included in Mitigation Measure 4.3-1 to also address encountering unknown prehistoric archaeological and tribal cultural resources.

A representative or representatives from culturally affiliated Native American Tribe(s) will be invited to participate in the development and delivery of the cultural resources awareness training program included in Mitigation Measure 4.3-1. The program will include relevant information regarding sensitive tribal cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations. The program will also underscore the requirement for confidentiality and culturally-appropriate treatment of any find of significance to Native Americans and behaviors, consistent with Native American Tribal values.

DGS will ensure that excavation and trenching activities are performed with a flat bucket to reduce potential for damage to archaeological resources. Where ground disturbing activities occur in native soils, or there is no evidence of extensive past ground disturbances, or evidence suggests that imported soils have a high probability of containing artifacts and materials of importance to tribal entities, a qualified archaeologist will monitor ground- disturbing activities. Native American representative(s) will be invited to observe any excavation~~s~~ and trenching activities. Interested Native American Tribes will be provided at least seven days’ notice prior to the initiation of ground disturbing activities. If any previously undisturbed native soil is imported to the project site for fill or other purposes, the archaeologist and Native American representative(s) will also monitor handling and placement of this material to determine if archaeological material may be imported with the native soil. The determination for initiating or ending monitoring disturbance of imported soils will be made based on coordination between the qualified archeologist and Native American monitor, with a final determination made by DGS.

If evidence of any prehistoric subsurface archaeological features or deposits are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities (e.g., lithic scatters, midden soils), all ground-disturbing activity in the vicinity of the discovery shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist and Native American representative can assess the significance of the find. If after evaluation, a resource is considered significant, or is considered a tribal cultural resource, all preservation options shall be considered as required by CEQA, including possible data recovery, mapping, capping, or avoidance of the resource. If artifacts are recovered from significant prehistoric archaeological resources, they shall be transferred to an appropriate tribal representative, or housed at a qualified curation facility. If artifacts or other materials must be removed, preference shall be given to transferring materials to an appropriate tribal representative and re-interring the material at a location on the project site. The results of the identification, evaluation, and/or data recovery program for any unanticipated discoveries shall be presented in a professional-quality report that details all methods and findings, evaluates the nature and significance of the resources, analyzes and interprets the results, and distributes this information to the public.

The title of Impact 4.3-4 on page 4.3-21 is hereby revised as follows:

Impact 4.3-4: Potential for Impacts on Historic ~~Architectural~~ Resources

The language in Mitigation 4.3-4a: Adherence to the Jesse M. Unruh Building Historic Structure Report, the SOI Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, the California State [sic] Historical Building Code, and/or relevant NPS Preservation Briefs is hereby revised as follows:

…and include mitigation measures in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (SOIS) ~~or~~ and the California Historical Building Code (CHBC).

Revisions to Section 4.5, Utilities and Infrastructure

The text on page 4.5-14 of the Draft EIR is hereby revised as follows:

The Jesse M. Unruh Building Renovation Project would include water conservation measures that exceed 2019 Title 24 water efficiency requirements and meet LEED v4 Silver standards. All plumbing fixtures in the building would be low-flow/high‐efficiency fixtures. Where it would not affect potential historic landscape features of the project site, ~~Landscaping would use~~ drought tolerant native planting would be used as another water-saving design measure of the project.

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# References

Chapter 1 Introduction

California Department of General Services. 1997 (July). *1997 Capitol Area Plan, an Update of the 1977 Capitol Area Plan. Managed by Office of Project Development and Management and Office of Real Estate and Design Services*. Prepared by Dyett & Bhatia, Urban and Regional Planners, with assistance from ROMA Design Group, Van Meter Williams Pollack, and The Hoyt Company.

DGS. *See* California Department of General Services.

Chapter 2, Responses to Comments

No references were used in this chapter.

Chapter 3, Revisions to the Draft EIR

No references were used in this chapter.

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