

Dear Planning Commissioners:

There should be a pause to rethink the project.

The natural ventilation for the new city hall building counts on a cooler microclimate created by nearby trees in the summer. Removing more trees is not a good idea. Is reliance on the redwood grove sufficient? What if the redwood trees die of disease? We need a forest of trees of different varieties to provide greater resilience. The extensive underground parking interferes with growing more trees.

Shelter-in-place necessitated by Covid-19 has shown that telecommuting and virtual meetings on a grand scale works, and a majority of workers surveyed would like to telecommute for part of the week even when “normalcy” returns.[Footnotes 1-3]

Traffic congestion will likely become even worse than pre-Covid-19 days, as many previous transit users will prefer driving. Requiring more telecommuting in the new normalcy will solve multiple problems [Footnote 4]. Perfecting online services *and public meetings* will also be much appreciated by residents. Surely traffic reduction ought to be far greater than the 11% that is planned.

Even the 10% building expansion should be re-examined. Why not have more outdoor work space and meeting space for staff, under the shade of trees? We all know that aerosols created by breathing and talking can disperse better outdoors than indoors.

I have found it ironical, that diesel generators are planned, and not batteries or fuel cells.

This is the time to ask: Is the plan outdated?

Sincerely,

Mei-Ling Stefan

Footnotes:

1. <https://globalworkplaceanalytics.com/tag/telecommute>
2. <https://globalworkplaceanalytics.com/work-at-home-after-covid-19-our-forecast>
3. <https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/insights/why-working-home-future-looking-technology>
4. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/28/health/cdc-coronavirus-offices.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20200529&instance_id=18910&nl=the-morning®i_id=131160233&segment_id=29522&te=1&user_id=7653555aa701d5d5375b5be2825e4e6d

From: [Mary Brunkhorst](#)
To: [PlanningCommission AP](#)
Subject: Addendum to Civic Center EIR
Date: Sunday, June 21, 2020 8:21:21 PM

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I am concerned about the Addendum to the Civic Center Environmental Impact Report. There does not seem to have been much public review of the plans to increase the size of the Civic Center Modernization Project and remove more protected trees. I encourage the Planning Commission to put a stop to any changes until the community is able to meet and discuss this important issue.

Thank you,
Mary Brunkhorst