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Modified Project Historic Report
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Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena

*Historic Resources Technical Report*

August 2015

HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP
PREPARED FOR

Latham & Watkins LLP
355 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena
Historic Resources Technical Report
August 2015

HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP
1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this technical report is to determine if historic resources as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are present on and nearby the Project Site and, if so, to identify potential impacts to historic resources caused by the proposed Project defined in Section 2.0 of this report. This report is intended to inform environmental review of the proposed Project.

Under CEQA the potential impacts of a project on historic resources must be considered. The purpose of CEQA is to evaluate whether a proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment and, if so, if that effect can be reduced or eliminated by pursuing an alternative course of action or through mitigation measures.

The impacts of a project on an historic resource may be considered an environmental impact. CEQA states that:

\[\text{A project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.}\]

Thus, an evaluation of project impacts under CEQA requires a two-part inquiry: (1) a determination of whether the project site contains or is adjacent to a historically significant resource or resources, and if so, (2) a determination of whether the proposed project will result in a “substantial adverse change” in the significance of the resource or resources. This report investigates the Project Site and immediately surrounding area to determine if historic resources are present and analyzes Project impacts to determine if any adverse change in the significance of such resources would occur.

In doing so, this report provides a comprehensive review of the historic resources that could be directly impacted by development activities within the proposed Project footprint, as well as a contextual assessment of the potential historic resources that are located outside the proposed Project footprint.

This report contains:

- A review of the existing buildings, structures, objects and landscape areas, located on adjacent to the Project Site.
- A review of previous evaluations of the site through historic survey, evaluation, or other official actions.
- Analysis and of potential impacts to historic resources under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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1 California PRC, Section 21084.1.
2 Ibid.
This report was prepared using primary and secondary sources related to the development of the Memorial Sports Arena, the Memorial Coliseum, and Exposition Park. The following documents were consulted:

- Historic permits for properties on the site
- Sanborn Fire Insurance maps
- Historic photographs, aerial photos and site plans
- Local histories
- Previous environmental evaluations of the site
- California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) for Los Angeles County

Research, field inspection, and analysis were performed by Laura Jansen, Senior Architectural Historian and Paul Travis, Principal. Both are qualified professionals who meet or exceed the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards.

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2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Location

The Project Site is an approximately 15-acre site located at 3939 South Figueroa Street in the southeastern portion of Exposition Park in the City of Los Angeles, and includes the existing Los Angeles Sports Arena (Sports Arena) and the immediately surrounding surface parking and landscape areas. The Project Site is bounded by Exposition Park Drive (Christmas Tree Lane) to the north, Figueroa Street to the east, Exposition Park Parking Lot 6 to the south, and South Coliseum Drive (Hoover Street) to the west.

2.2 Surrounding Uses

The Project Site is located in the southeastern potion of Exposition Park. At approximately 160 acres, Exposition Park is the largest park in the Central Los Angeles area. It is bounded by Exposition Boulevard to the north, Figueroa Street to the east, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the south, and Vermont Avenue to the west. Owned by the State of Californian and leased by various entities, Exposition Park houses the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (Coliseum); the Sports Arena (located on the Project Site); the California Science Center; the Dr. Theodore T. Alexander Jr. Science Center School; the California African American Museum; the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum; the Exposition Park Rose Garden; the Wallis Annenberg Building; and the Expo Center, which includes a swim stadium, recreation center, senior citizen center, amphitheater, and pre-school.

Land uses immediately adjacent to the Project Site include Christmas Tree Lane and adjacent landscaped areas to the north; the Coliseum and adjacent surface parking lots across South Coliseum Drive to the west and northwest; Parking Lot 6 to the south; and commercial/retail uses and surface parking lots fronting the east side of Figueroa Street to the east. Residential uses are also located in the vicinity of the Project Site, including single-family and multi-family residential uses fronting Flower Drive to the east, and multi-family residential uses on the south side of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the south. In addition, the USC main campus is located north of Exposition Boulevard.

2.3 Project Characteristics

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared for the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena Redevelopment Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2010041059), which was certified by the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission (Coliseum Commission) on February 2, 2011 (Certified EIR). The Certified EIR analyzed the demolition of the existing Sports Arena on the Project Site, and the

3 Description of existing conditions and the proposed project as provided by the Applicant.
development of two potential options on the Project Site: (1) a multiple-use space that would serve as a public venue for civic gatherings, celebratory and entertainment events (e.g., festivals, carnivals, rallies, and concerts), and other similar uses (Multi-Use Project); or (2) a Major League Soccer (MLS) Stadium with a permanent seating capacity of approximately 22,000 seats and associated amenities such as restrooms, concessions, press facilities, spectator viewing areas, luxury suites and club seating, and locker and dressing facilities (Original Stadium Project). After the Certified EIR was approved by the Coliseum Commission, the Coliseum Commission leased both the Coliseum and Sports Arena sites to the University of Southern California (USC), allowing development of those uses approved under the Certified EIR.

USC has now agreed with the Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC), which has acquired an MLS expansion franchise, to cooperate with LAFC’s efforts to seek approval of certain modifications to the Original Stadium Project in order to develop the LAFC Stadium on the Project Site (Modified Project). The Modified Project would consist of the Original Stadium Project (reconfigured on the Project Site) together with the addition of up to approximately 105,900 square feet of ancillary facility floor area (up to approximately 119,000 gross square feet), including the following uses and floor areas: up to approximately 30,250 square feet of office and conference facility space, including no more than 21,250 square feet of office space; an approximately 36,000-square-foot “World Football” museum; up to approximately 27,750 square feet of team store or other retail space; and up to approximately 11,900 square feet of restaurant uses. The Modified Project also includes signage and lighting programs to support stadium operations. The Modified Project would also develop the VIP parking lot west of the stadium as a reconfigured and improved parking area compared to the existing Sports Arena parking lot. In addition, the Modified Project includes a landscaping program that would include landscaped plazas and perimeter landscaping. As part of the landscaping program, the street trees bordering South Coliseum Drive would be enhanced to maintain the tree line along Christmas Tree Lane and maintain a park-like setting on the western edge of the Project Site across from the Coliseum.

Under the Modified Project, the proposed stadium would be oriented along a north-south axis and, like the Original Stadium Project, would be located within the eastern portion of the Project Site (within a portion of the footprint area currently occupied by the Sports Arena). The footprint of the stadium under the Modified Project

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would be somewhat larger than under the Original Stadium Project in order to provide for a more modern stadium that includes the amenities expected of a world-class professional sports stadium. Most of the seating areas within the open-air stadium would be covered by a cantilevered roof canopy extended inward from the stadium’s perimeter, with the field level placed approximately 20 feet below street level (as measured from the grade along Figueroa Street), roughly at the same elevation as the floor of the existing Sports Arena, and consistent with the Original Stadium Project.

The proposed height of the new structures would range from approximately 75 feet above grade (for the Ancillary Uses in the Northwest Plaza, closest to the Coliseum) to approximately 105 feet above grade (for the proposed stadium roof structure located within the southeast portion of the site). The roof canopy skin would consist of a translucent, ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE) material, which would moderate the perceived height of the stadium because it would be permeable to light and would not be perceived as solid. The roof canopy is pitched inward toward the stadium field, and would be setback approximately 50 feet from the stadium façade at ground level.

Based on the concept site plan, the stadium structure would be approximately 470 feet from the Coliseum peristyle when measured on the diagonal from the northwestern corner of the stadium. The westernmost façade of the Ancillary Uses building would be setback approximately 60 feet from South Coliseum Drive and approximately 270 feet from the Coliseum wall. The eastern façade of the stadium would be setback approximately 58 feet from Figueroa Street. The northern facade of the stadium structure would be setback 27 feet from the southern curb of South Coliseum Drive. The Applicants have also requested the flexibility to move or extend the stadium footprint up to 40 feet to the west from the location depicted on the concept site plan. Under this scenario, no building heights would increase, and the Ancillary Uses building would remain in the same location, though would be reconfigured in the area where it connects to the stadium. If adjusted in this manner, the stadium structure would be approximately 430 feet from the Coliseum peristyle. Under any buildout scenario, the Modified Project would retain the geometry of the existing sidewalk and curb line of South Coliseum Drive.

As with the Original Stadium Project, the Modified Project includes lighting and signage to support stadium operations. Lighting would include lighting of the stadium, including the field and associated amenities and ancillary uses (e.g., outdoor dining and
seating areas, plazas, and walkways). New signage would be provided as part of a signage program for the Modified Project to emphasize the event and entertainment-oriented aspect of the Project that would be implemented via a proposed Supplemental Use Sign District (SUD). Total signage allowed in the Signage Project Site as part of the SUD for the Modified Project, excluding aerial view signs, informational signage, temporary signs, and interior signs, would be approximately 44,500 square feet, including up to approximately 19,200 square feet of digital signage. Additional signage would be permitted in the SUD for the surrounding uses including the Coliseum. Signage types for the Modified Project could include identification signs, temporary event signs, electronic digital displays, changeable message LED boards, static signs, identification signs and retail/tenant identification signs with both on-site and off-site signage allowed.

This report is prepared for the Addendum to the EIR, which analyzes the Modified Project’s proposed modifications to the Original Stadium Project to determine whether implementation of the Modified Project would result in any new significant environmental impacts that were not identified in the Certified EIR, or whether the previously identified significant impacts would be substantially more severe under the Modified Project.
3.0 REGULATORY REVIEW

3.1 Historic Resources under CEQA

CEQA requires that environmental protection be given significant consideration in the decision making process. Historic resources are included under environmental protection. Thus, any project or action which constitutes a substantial adverse change on a historic resource also has a significant effect on the environment and shall comply with the State CEQA Guidelines.

When the California Register of Historical Resources was established in 1992, the Legislature amended CEQA to clarify which cultural resources are significant, as well as which project impacts are considered to be significantly adverse. A “substantial adverse change” means “demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of a historical resource would be impaired.”

CEQA defines a historic resource as a resource listed in, or determined eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources. All properties on the California Register are to be considered under CEQA. However, because a property does not appear on the California Register does not mean it is not significant and therefore exempt from CEQA consideration. All resources determined eligible for the California Register are also to be considered under CEQA.

The courts have interpreted CEQA to create three categories of historic resources:

- **Mandatory historical resources** are resources “listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources.”

- **Presumptive historical resources** are resources “included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1, or deemed significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (g) of Section 5024.1” of the Public Resources Code, unless the preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that the resource is not historically or culturally significant.

- **Discretionary historical resources** are those resources that are not listed but determined to be eligible under the criteria for the California Register of Historical Resources.4

To simplify the first three definitions provided in the CEQA statute, an historic resource is a resource that is:

- Listed in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register);

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• Determined eligible for the California Register by the State Historical Resources Commission; or

• Included in a local register of historic resources.

Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3) supplements the statute by providing two additional definitions of historical resources, which may be simplified in the following manner. An historic resource is a resource that is:

• Identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Public Resources Code 5024.1 (g);

• Determined by a Lead Agency to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California. Generally, this category includes resources that meet the criteria for listing on the California Register (Pub. Res. Code SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852).

The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined eligible for listing in, the California Register, not included in a local register of historic resources, or not deemed significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (g) of Section 5024.1, does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be an “historic resource” for purposes of CEQA.

Properties formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are automatically listed in the California Register. Properties designated by local municipalities can also be considered historic resources. A review of properties that are potentially affected by a project for historic eligibility is also required under CEQA.

3.2 Historic Designations

A property may be designated as historic by National, State, and local authorities. In order for a building to qualify for listing as a National Historic Landmark, or listing in the National Register or the California Register, it must meet one or more identified criteria of significance. The property must also retain sufficient architectural integrity to continue to evoke the sense of place and time with which it is historically associated.

National Historic Landmark

The purpose of the National Historic Landmarks program is to identify and designate National Historic Landmarks (NHL), and encourage the long range preservation of nationally significant properties that illustrate or commemorate the history and prehistory of the United States, and to focus attention on properties of exceptional value to the nation as a
whole rather than to a particular State or locality. The program recognizes and promotes the preservation efforts of Federal, State and local agencies, as well as of private organizations and individuals and encourages the owners of landmark properties to observe preservation precepts.

Properties designated as NHLs are listed in the National Register of Historic Places upon designation as National Historic Landmarks.

The NHL program uses six criteria to assess the national significance of properties nominated as NHLs. These criteria are codified in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The full listing of the criteria can be found in 36 CFR § 65.  

The criteria applied to evaluate properties for possible designation as NHLs or possible determination of eligibility for NHL designation are listed below. These criteria shall be used by the National Park Service (NPS) in the preparation, review and evaluation of NHL studies.

Specific Criteria of National Significance: The quality of national significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

1. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or

2. That are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or

3. That represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or

4. That embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

5. That are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional

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5 http://www.nps.gov/nhl/apply/eligibility.htm
historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or

(6) That have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is an authoritative guide to be used by Federal, State, and local governments, private groups and citizens to identify the Nation’s cultural resources and to indicate what properties should be considered for protection from destruction or impairment. The National Park Service administers the National Register program. Listing in the National Register assists in preservation of historic properties in several ways including: recognition that a property is of significance to the nation, the state, or the community; consideration in the planning for federal or federally assisted projects; eligibility for federal tax benefits; and qualification for Federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.

To be eligible for listing and/or listed in the National Register, a resource must possess significance in American history and culture, architecture, or archaeology. Listing in the National Register is primarily honorary and does not in and of itself provide protection of an historic resource. The primary effect of listing in the National Register on private owners of historic buildings is the availability of financial and tax incentives. In addition, for projects that receive Federal funding, a clearance process must be completed in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Furthermore, state and local regulations may apply to properties listed in the National Register.

The criteria for listing in the National Register follow established guidelines for determining the significance of properties. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects:

A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

6 36CFR60, Section 60.2.
C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.\(^7\)

In addition to meeting any or all of the criteria listed above, properties nominated must also possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register is an authoritative guide in California used by State and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the State’s historic resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change.\(^8\)

The criteria for eligibility for listing in the California Register are based upon National Register criteria. These criteria are:

1. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.

2. Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history.

3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values.

4. Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

The California Register consists of resources that are listed automatically and those that must be nominated through an application and public hearing process. The California Register includes the following:

- California properties formally determined eligible for (Category 2 in the State Inventory of Historical Resources), or listed in (Category 1 in the State Inventory), the National Register of Historic Places.

- State Historical Landmarks No. 770 and all consecutively

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\(^7\) 36CFR60, Section 60.3.

\(^8\) California PRC, Section 5023.1(a).
numbered state historical landmarks following No. 770. For state historical landmarks preceding No. 770, the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) shall review their eligibility for the California Register in accordance with procedures to be adopted by the State Historical Resources Commission (commission).

- Points of historical interest which have been reviewed by the OHP and recommended for listing by the commission for inclusion in the California Register in accordance with criteria adopted by the commission.  

Other resources which may be nominated for listing in the California Register include:

- Individual historic resources.
- Historic resources contributing to the significance of an historic district.
- Historic resources identified as significant in historic resources surveys, if the survey meets the criteria listed in subdivision (g).
- Historic resources and historic districts designated or listed as city or county landmarks or historic properties or districts pursuant to any city or county ordinance, if the criteria for designation or listing under the ordinance have been determined by the office to be consistent with California Register criteria.

- Local landmarks or historic properties designated under any municipal or county ordinance.

Local Designation Programs

The Los Angeles City Council designates Historic-Cultural Monuments on recommendation of the City’s Cultural Heritage Commission. Chapter 9, Section 22.171.7 of the City of Los Angeles Administrative Code defines an historical or cultural monument as:

“… a Historic-Cultural Monument (Monument) is any site (including significant trees or other plant life located on the site), building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, including historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified; or which is identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history; or which embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a

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9 California PRC, Section 5023.1(d).

10 California PRC, Section 5023.1(e).
period, style or method of construction; or a notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.”

Designation recognizes the unique architectural value of certain structures and helps to protect their distinctive qualities. Any interested individual or group may submit nominations for Historic-Cultural Monument status. Buildings may be eligible for historical cultural monument status if they retain their historic design and materials. Those that are intact examples of past architectural styles or that have historical associations may meet the criteria in the Cultural Heritage ordinance.

3.3 Historic Significance and Integrity

Significance

The definition of historic significance used by the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) in its administration of the California Register is based upon the definition used by the National Park Service for the National Register:

*Historic significance is defined as the importance of a property to the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture of a community, state, or the nation.*\(^{11}\) It is achieved in several ways:

- Association with important events, activities or patterns
- Association with important persons
- Distinctive physical characteristics of design, construction, or form
- Potential to yield important information

A property may be significant individually or as part of a grouping of properties.

Historic Integrity

*Historic integrity* is the ability of a property to convey its significance and is defined as the “authenticity of a property’s historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property’s historic period.”\(^{12}\)

The National Park Service defines seven aspects of integrity: *location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.* These qualities are defined as follows:

- *Design* is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
- *Setting* is the physical environment of a historic property.
- *Materials* are the physical elements that were combined or


\(^{12}\) Ibid, p. 3.
deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

- **Workmanship** is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.

- **Feeling** is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

- **Association** is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.  

### 3.4 Period of Significance

The National Park Service defines the period of significance as “the length of time when a property was associated with important events, activities or persons, or attained the characteristics which qualify it for... listing” in National, State or local registers. A period of significance can be “as brief as a single year... [or] span many years.” It is based on “specific events directly related to the significance of the property,” for example the date of construction, years of ownership, or length of operation as a particular entity.  

### 3.5 Historic Districts

Standard preservation practice evaluates collections of buildings from similar time periods and historic contexts as historic *districts*. The National Park Service defines a historic district as “a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.” A historic district derives its significance as a single unified entity.

According to the National Park Service, “a district can comprise both features that lack individual distinction and individually distinctive features that serve as focal points. It may even be considered eligible if all of the components lack individual distinction, provided that the grouping achieves significance as a whole within its historic context. In either case, the majority of the components that add to the district’s historic character, even if they are individually undistinguished, must possess integrity, as must the district as a whole.” Some examples of districts include business districts, college...
campuses, large estates, farms, industrial complexes, residential areas and rural villages.\textsuperscript{16}

Resources that have been found to contribute to the historic identity of a district are referred to as \textit{district contributors}. Properties located within the district boundaries that do not contribute to its significance are identified as \textit{non-contributors}.
4.0 SITE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

4.1 Site Development

The Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena is located within Exposition Park. The park includes several major museum/educational institutions, recreational open space, surface parking lots, and sports facilities of regional importance. Exposition Park is located in the City and County of Los Angeles, approximately two miles southwest of the city’s central business district.

Development of Exposition Park

Exposition Park is a 160-acre plot of land directly to the south of the University of Southern California (USC); it is bordered by Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the south, Figueroa Street to the east, Vermont Avenue to the west and Exposition Boulevard to the north. Dating back to 1872, it is one of the oldest parks in Los Angeles.

The land was originally purchased by the Southern District Agricultural Society in 1872 and named Agricultural Park. Between 1872 and 1879, the land was the home of an agricultural fairground. The project soon went bankrupt, however; and the land was taken over by opportunists who realized that the park sat just outside Los Angeles’s official city limits. Quickly, the land was filled with brothels, saloons, gambling halls and a large racetrack, complete with a four-story brick grandstand, which hosted everything from horses to greyhounds, camels, bicycles and cars.

Around the time that Agricultural Park began to slide into disarray, USC opened just blocks to the north, bringing in many prominent (and often times religious) Los Angeles citizens to the neighborhood. Social outcry over the less desirable activities in the Park was spearheaded by USC law professor William M. Bowen (who was almost singlehandedly responsible for the development of Exposition Park a decade later), in 1898, when he realized his students were skipping Sunday school to gamble and loiter at the park. Bowen’s actions forced the City of Los Angeles to annex Agricultural Park on June 12, 1899; this same annexation made USC part of Los Angeles as well. Now the city was empowered to crack down on gambling activities that existed in the park.

By 1908, after the California Supreme Court ruled that the land become public property, Bowen (alongside USC president George F. Bovard and other local elites) began to lay out the plans that would shape the park into a public educational, cultural, and recreational center.

In 1909, the property was purchased by California’s Sixth District Agricultural Association with agreements by the County and City of Los Angeles to jointly develop the land. Agricultural Park was renamed Exposition Park in
1910. The northern half of the park was laid out around a Beaux Arts style formal garden beginning in 1910, and ground was broken the same year for two of the three buildings that would make up the cultural focus of the park. The County Museum of History, Science and Art and the State Exposition Building were completed in time for the formal dedication in 1913.

On November 6, 1913, the day after William Mulholland opened the Owens River aqueduct, Exposition Park was formally dedicated. The State Armory Building was completed a year later in 1914 which was the third civic building to be constructed around a sunken garden.

Bowen next resolved to secure a major athletic stadium for the region, and a consortium of Los Angeles newspaper publishers worked to guarantee a loan for the facility. Architect John Parkinson, who designed many of the buildings on the USC campus during the 1920s, offered his firm’s services at cost. In June 1923, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum was completed.

When Los Angeles was awarded the 10th Olympic Games in 1923 plans were made to upgrade Exposition Park in preparation for the world-wide multi-athletic event. Planting of the rose garden and other formal landscaping was begun, in addition sidewalks and roadways were planned throughout the park beginning in the mid-1920s.

In 1925, not long after the completion of the Coliseum, a greensward with rows of deodar trees flanked by sidewalks and roadways was laid out just east of the Coliseum as a vehicular and pedestrian approach to the stadium. In the mid-1930s it would become known as Christmas Tree Lane when the trees were decorated with lights each holiday season.

The sunken garden that was the focal point of the three original civic buildings was transformed into a display Rose Garden in 1928. It proved to be a popular tourist attraction and was a product of the prevailing City Beautiful movement in landscape architecture. It became one of the last important contributions to the movement of this era in Los Angeles.

Beginning in 1930, the Coliseum was enlarged in preparation for the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in June 1932. The torch was added to the peristyle, and for a time it was known as Olympic Stadium. By then, the park’s landscaping was also in full flower, its formal rose garden planted with nearly 16,000 donated rose bushes. A Memorial Gateway, consisting of large concrete monoliths with bas-reliefs was installed at the north side of the Rose Garden. It was designed to celebrate the Olympic Games and was completed by artist Bartolomeo Mako in 1932.

Many of the game’s events were held in Exposition Park. In addition to hosting
the opening and closing ceremonies, the Coliseum held track and field events, equestrian events, field hockey and gymnastics. Fencing was held at the State Armory Building, while the art competitions were held at the County Museum. An Olympic Swimming Stadium was constructed in 1931 to hold swimming, water polo, and diving events.

In 1934, for the first time the Sixth District Agricultural Association decorated the double row of deodar cedar trees that lined the grassy median from Figueroa Street to the Coliseum peristyle to be known as Christmas Tree Lane. The trees were decorated with ornaments and lights purchased by private subscriptions, and the Los Angeles Gas and Electric Company supplied free power for the lights during the fourteen-day lighting during the holiday season. This became an annual tradition in Exposition Park.

Exposition Park remained mostly unchanged through the 1940s and 1950s until the addition of the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena in 1959. The Aerospace Museum designed by Frank Gehry was built next to the Armory in 1983-84, and the African-American Museum just to the south in 1984.

Exposition Park played host to the Olympics Games again in 1984. The

Exposition Park continues to provide a place for cultural and recreational activities for the City and County of Los Angeles. The Museum of Science and Industry was remodeled into the California Science Center in 1998, and the Swimming Stadium was renovated in 2003, the Aerospace Museum was renovated and became the Air and Space Gallery in 2002, a new IMAX Theatre, Exposition Park EXPO Center, and the Science Center/Ted Alexander Elementary School were constructed. Additionally, parking facilities and park infrastructure continue to be upgraded.

*17 Los Angeles Times, December 18, 1934.*

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<tr>
<td>1870s</td>
<td>Agricultural Park, owned by State of California and used for exhibits and fairs that promoted Southern California. Mismanagement of the park caused it to be lost in a mortgage foreclosure and acquired by private interests and turned into a gambling center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>William M. Bowen, president of Los Angeles City Council and municipal judge, began his campaign to shut down gambling operations in Agricultural Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>California Supreme Court ruled that the land become public property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>Property purchased by California’s Sixth District Agricultural Association with agreements with County and City of Los Angeles to develop a cultural/recreational center; County to develop the Art and History Museum, State to develop the Armory and Exposition Building, City to maintain the grounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Agricultural Park renamed Exposition Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Ground broken for Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art and State Exposition Building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Wilbur D. Cooke, Jr., landscape architect, laid out the grounds for the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>State Exposition Building completed; designed by William D. Coates, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art completed, designed by Hudson &amp; Munsell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Exposition Park dedicated; Ceremony held at Exposition Building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>State Armory completed, designed by J.W. Wollett.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Sunken garden completed (later Rose Garden); circular lily pond built in 1921.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>California Fiesta Association (group of prominent citizens) agreed a sports stadium was a civic necessity and chose Exposition Park as the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Exposition Club House opened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum completed, designed by John and Donald B. Parkinson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>American Historical Revue and Motion Picture Industrial Exposition held at Exposition Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Greensward with rows of deodar trees flanked by sidewalks and roadways is laid out east of the Coliseum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Exposition Park Rose Garden completed; under direction from George C. Robinson and Fred H. Howard, and designed by City’s Parks Department landscape architects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Coliseum enlarged, Swimming Stadium and Memorial Gateway (at north side of Rose Garden).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exposition Park Development Chronology</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden) completed for 1932 Olympics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Memorial Gateway installed at north side of the Rose Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>10th Olympic Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>First lighting of double row of deodar cedars in Exposition Park to create Christmas Tree Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena completed, designed by Welton Becket &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Aerospace Museum designed by Frank Gehry begins construction next to the Armory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>African-American Museum constructed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>23rd Olympic Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Museum of Science renovated and renamed the California Science Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Aerospace Museum renovated and renamed the Air and Space Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>IMAX Theater, EXPO Center and the Science Center / Ted Alexander School constructed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Swimming Stadium renovated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Development

The Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena opened on July 4, 1959. Designed by architect Welton Becket and Associates it was the first modern indoor sports arena built in Los Angeles. Prior to the opening of the Sports Arena, the primary indoor sports arenas in Los Angeles were the Grand Olympic Auditorium (1925) and the Pan Pacific Auditorium (1935). By the mid-1950s, neither was large enough to accommodate large indoor team sports, such as basketball and ice hockey.

Although the third largest city in the country in 1955, Los Angeles still lacked the facilities to host a national convention or a great indoor sporting event. Local boosters, including Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and Bill Nicholas of the Coliseum Commission, wanted to build a stadium to rival Madison Square Garden in New York City. The citizens of Los Angeles three times voted against propositions intended to pay for the arena. Ultimately, a State Assembly bill was passed and signed by Governor Goodwin Knight on April 29, 1955, authorizing commissioners to issue revenue bonds to finance the construction. The construction cost


19 Development history adapted from “Historical Assessment for the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena,” prepared by ICF Jones & Stokes, July 2010.

20 The Sports Arena is operated under the authority of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission, which was formed in 1945.
would total $7.4 million when the arena was completed.

One of the reasons that civic leaders were anxious to have the Sports Arena constructed was a belief that Los Angeles was lacking the facilities that would attract professional basketball and ice hockey teams to the area. Semi-professional ice hockey, football and baseball were being played in Los Angeles at a variety of venues when the concept of the Sports Arena was beginning to be discussed. By the late 1950s Los Angeles had enticed the NFL Cleveland Rams and the MLB Brooklyn Dodgers to relocate to Southern California; a new state-of-the-art indoor sports arena would help to attract additional professional teams.

The Sports Arena is located in the southern half of Exposition Park, east of the Coliseum, at the northwest corner of Figueroa Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Although it was not the original choice for the location of a new sports venue, finding enough land on which to build such a structure near established population centers was not an easy task for the boosters. The Coliseum Commission sponsored their own study to establish the viability of placing a structure in Exposition Park as early as the mid-1940s, but other sites still competed with it as the proposed sports facility was put to the local voters.

In June 1957, the Coliseum Commission approved plans submitted by Welton Becket & Associates, whose firm won the competitive bidding process. The Sports Arena opened on July 5, 1959. On hand to deliver the celebratory address was Vice-President Richard M. Nixon. A few days later, on July 8, bantamweight Jose Becerra defeated Alphonse Halimi in the Sports Arena before a near sell-out crowd of 13,675 people.

Since its opening day, the Sports Arena has hosted many notable civic and sporting events including the 1960 Democratic National Convention when John F. Kennedy was nominated as the Democratic Party’s candidate for president, and the 1961 Freedom Rally when Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at a civil rights rally sponsored by the Western Christian Leadership Conference. Notable sporting events included the 1963 NBA All-Star Game, the 1968 and 1972 NCAA Men’s Basketball Final Four, the 1992 NCAA Women’s Basketball Final Four, and the boxing competitions during the 1984 Summer Olympics.

The Sports Arena became a companion facility to the adjacent Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and home court to the Los Angeles Lakers of the NBA from October 1960 to December 1967, and the Los Angeles Kings of the NHL from October to December 1967 during their inaugural 1967-68 season. The Los Angeles Clippers also of the
NBA played there from 1984-1999. It was the home for college basketball for the USC Trojans from 1959-2006 and the UCLA Bruins from 1959-1965 (during the Golden Age of John Wooden and until Pauley Pavilion – also designed by Welton Becket – opened on the UCLA campus in 1966) and again as a temporary home in 2011-2012.

Many other sporting events took place at the Sports Arena. Some of these included rodeos, roller derbies, track meets, tennis tournaments, and numerous semi-pro and minor league sporting events.

Other notable events that contributed to the continued use of the Sports Arena included religious services, ice shows, conventions, circuses, concerts and home and auto shows. Additionally, the Sports Arena has been featured in numerous movies and television shows.

The Sports Arena was the first NBA arena to feature a rotating billboard at courtside which also acted as the scorer’s table. Rotating billboards eventually became standard at all NBA arena until the mid-2000s, when LED billboard/scorer’s tables were introduced.

For a time, the Sports Arena enjoyed popularity and success and was touted as the most modern sports facility in California. But after a defection by Jack Kent Cooke, owner of the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team and the new ice hockey franchise team, to build the Forum in Inglewood in late 1967, it lost an important regular client and two major sports teams.

*Welton Becket and Associates*

Welton Davis Becket, FAIA (1902-1969) was one of the most influential architects in the development of Los Angeles, and founded a practice that became one of the nation’s largest architectural firms. Becket was born in Seattle, Washington, and studied architecture at the University of Washington. He completed a year of graduate study at the École des Beaux Arts in Fontainebleau, France, and arrived in Los Angeles in 1931. In 1933 he formed a partnership with his classmate, Walter Wurdeman, and an established Los Angeles architect, Charles F. Plummer. They specialized in small commercial buildings and residences. In 1935 the partners won a design competition for the Pan Pacific Auditorium in Los Angeles; the distinctive Streamline Modern landmark was constructed north of the Miracle Mile district for the 1935 National Housing Exposition. After Plummer’s death in 1939, the firm incorporated as Wurdeman and Becket.

Wurdeman and Becket embraced a philosophy of “Total Design,” a concept that became integral to their work and would guide the firm for years to come. This philosophy embraced the integration of all requirements for the
solution of an architectural problem: preliminary research, site selection, economic analysis, traffic surveys, and the actual design, engineering, and interior design of the building or group of buildings, for which Becket employed his own team of architects, engineers, landscape architects, and interior designers.

Wurdeman and Becket’s design for Bullock’s Pasadena, completed in 1947, established the prototype for the postwar suburban department store. In addition to its sophisticated late Moderne architecture, crafted to evoke a fine home or country club, the store was the first to be designed and oriented toward the automobile, with its main entrance accessed from a large surface parking lot. This was followed by their innovative designs for two major office buildings: the General Petroleum Building in downtown Los Angeles, with a modular plan and moveable partitions providing maximum flexibility in the workplace; and the Prudential Insurance Company on Wilshire Boulevard, with distinctive horizontal brise-soleils on each floor to improve the comfort of occupants and reduce air conditioning loads. When Wurdeman died unexpectedly in 1949 Becket bought out his partner’s heirs and assumed sole leadership of the firm, changing its name to Welton Becket and Associates.

Becket’s success is attributable to both his design sense and his business mentality. He was able to estimate projects accurately, which brought him repeat clients. His philosophy of “Total Design” allowed him to offer a broader range of services than other architects and tailor his designs to each client’s specific needs. Headquartered in Los Angeles, Welton Becket and Associates grew to be one of the largest architectural firms in the world with more than 400 employees and offices in San Francisco, New York, Houston, and Chicago.

The firm’s work included a wide range of commercial, civic, institutional, and retail projects. In addition to Bullock’s Pasadena, Welton Becket’s retail projects included some two dozen other Bullock’s stores including locations in Palm Springs, Westwood, Sherman Oaks, Lakewood, La Habra, and Northridge; Buffum’s Department Store in Santa Ana; Seibu of Los Angeles; and malls such as Fashion Island in Newport Beach. Master planning projects included the Los Angeles International Airport (in collaboration with Paul R. Williams and William Pereira); Century City; and the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), for which the firm designed much of the UCLA Medical Center, several dormitory and classroom buildings, and Pauley Pavilion. Overseas work included the U.S. embassy in Warsaw, and Hilton Hotels in Havana, Cairo, and Manila.
Among this vast body of works are a significant number of regionally and nationally significant buildings and landmarks, including the circular Capitol Records tower in Hollywood, one of the most important buildings associated with the recording industry in Los Angeles; the Cinerama Dome, one of the few auditoriums nationwide built expressly for the exhibition of films shot in the Cinerama process; the Music Center in downtown Los Angeles, comprised of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Mark Taper Forum, and the Ahmanson Theater; the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium; and the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills.

Welton Becket died in 1969 at the age of 66. In 1987 Welton Becket and Associates was acquired by Minnesota-based Ellerbe Associates, creating the firm of Ellerbe Becket Inc. Becket’s contributions to Los Angeles have since become recognized for their primary role in defining the character and fabric of the region during the Modern period. His firm was employed as UCLA’s master planner and designed the Los Angeles Police Department’s downtown Parker Center in 1955.

Alterations
The Sports Arena has undergone several alterations but still maintains a high degree of integrity. The most significant change occurred in the 1970s when the main entrance, originally located on the east side of the building facing South Figueroa Street, was relocated on the south side of the site facing the parking lot. A new ticket office was also added to the south façade at this time.

Changes to the interiors came in the early 1980s when the Clippers moved into the building, which required several upgrades, including the locker rooms and the creation of the Clipper Club.

The building was also damaged in the 1994 Northridge Earthquake and required seismic retrofitting, which was completed in 2002. In order to reinforce the existing, a series of steel braced frames were connected to the existing concrete structural system at both the arena and loge levels of the building. To provide a solid footing for these steel frames, portions of the arena floor had to be excavated, then reinforced to provide extra strength. Additional upgrades included replacement of the original mosaic roof tiles, which were beginning to deteriorate and had been damaged, with an Exterior Insulating Finishing System (EIFS) consisting of large vertical panels with standing seams. Concessions and restrooms were upgraded, and the terrazzo flooring was replaced as part of the retrofit program.

Conclusions
As discussed above, the Sports Arena was found eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion 1 for its association with
events that have made a significant contribution to Los Angeles history according to the 2010 Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena Redevelopment Project Draft Environment Impact Report. The Arena was not re-evaluated for this investigation.

5.2 Adjacent Resources

The proposed project has the potential to impact several significant adjacent resources in Exposition Park; the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and those features associated with it including the North and South Coliseum Drives with Christmas Tree Lane. The development and significance of these features are discussed below.

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum

The Coliseum is located in the southern portion of Exposition Park, east of Bill Robertson Lane (formerly Menlo Avenue), west of North and South Coliseum Drives with Christmas Tree Lane, north of the Swim Stadium and northwest of the Sports Arena.

Previous Evaluations

The Coliseum was designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL), as State Historical Landmark #960 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

The period of significance for the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum is 1932-1984. It is significant for its association with architects John Parkinson and Donald B. Parkinson, and as the site of two Olympic Games (1932 and 1984) and numerous other sporting and civic events.

Development

The original Coliseum structure, designed by architects John Parkinson and Donald B. Parkinson, was begun in December 1921 and completed in June 1923. It was enlarged for the 1932 Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles. The Parkinsons returned to design the renovation, and construction began in February 1930 and was completed in May 1931. A series of additions and repairs were undertaken beginning in 1946 through the mid-1950s by the architectural firm of Bennett & Bennett of Pasadena. The additions were designed in a compatible Moderne style.

The Coliseum is significant as a major architectural work by distinguished Los Angeles architects John and Donald B. Parkinson, two leading figures in the physical transformation of the city during the early 20th century. John Parkinson’s early work included numerous buildings along the city’s financial corridor of Spring Street (now a Historic District listed in the National Register) with then partner G. Edwin Bergstrom. Parkinson was a key figure in the City Beautiful movement in Southern California and influenced civic reform and community planning as a charter member of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Commission, which imposed a building height limit in 1905.
Sustained until 1957, it played a significant role in shaping and maintaining the low scale of the city. His son, Donald, joined him in practice in 1921 and the two designed many notable buildings including City Hall, Bullock’s Wilshire, Union Station and many buildings on the USC campus.

The Coliseum is located in the southern half of Exposition Park. In 1919, it was decided a stadium was a civic necessity, and the Coliseum was developed in Exposition Park, as a memorial to those who had given their lives in World War I. The stadium was used for USC football games and other sporting events on a regular basis after it opened in 1923. Non-sporting events included concerts, religious services, conventions and pageants.

When Los Angeles was awarded the 1932 Olympic Games, the Coliseum was enlarged from 76,000 to over 100,000 seats. The stadium has seen additional changes over the years to accommodate updated uses and seismic strengthening, however the basic design configuration, including its “elliptical” shape and dramatic curved peristyle, and structure have remained the same since 1932.

Events held at the Coliseum during the 1932 Olympics included track and field, gymnastics, field hockey, demonstration lacrosse and football, equestrian jumping, the beginning and end of the marathon and the opening and closing ceremonies. These games also included a number of firsts including the use of a victory podium with flags displayed and playing of anthems of the winners during the awards ceremonies, first use of photo-finish cameras, first stadium press box used to transmit results to wire services, and first full participation of women athletes in track and field events.

After the 1932 Olympic Games, the Coliseum continued to be used by USC football in addition to many other sporting events. UCLA played their football games there from 1943-1982. The Cleveland Rams relocated to Los Angeles in 1946 and gave the City and the Coliseum its first NFL football team – they played in the Coliseum until 1979. The major league baseball Brooklyn Dodgers relocated to Los Angeles in 1958 and played in the Coliseum until 1962 while their new stadium was being constructed. The Coliseum hosted the World Series in 1959. Two NFL Super Bowls were played at the Coliseum – in 1967 and 1973. The NFL Oakland Raiders moved to Los Angeles and played in the Coliseum from 1982-1994. Political events included two appearances by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s, rallies by Wendell Wilkie, Thomas Dewey and Dwight D. Eisenhower in the 1950s, and John F. Kennedy’s acceptance of the Democratic Party’s nomination for President in 1960. Less notable events
– but no less important because they contributed to the continued use of the Coliseum – included religious services, war rallies, conventions, automobile races, rodeos, circuses, concerts and fireworks shows.

Los Angeles hosted the 1984 Summer Olympic Games, and the Coliseum became the first stadium to host the Olympics twice; again serving as the primary track and field venue and site of the opening and closing ceremonies. The 1984 Games were funded entirely by the private sector through corporate sponsorships, television rights and ticket sales. In addition, Los Angeles strictly controlled expenses by using existing facilities which made these games the most financially successful in history.

The Coliseum underwent a renovation in 1993 – the field was lowered, the track removed, fourteen new rows of seats were added to the lower tier and the field wall was rebuilt – and was seismically repaired after the Northridge Earthquake in 1994. However, it still retains a high degree of integrity.

Character-Defining Features
Significant features and spaces of the Coliseum include, but are not limited to:

- Open “elliptical” bowl configuration with seating and playing field
- Earthen berm under concrete superstructure and visible from exterior of bowl
- Lower concourse; open circulation space at perimeter of berm
- Tunnels from lower concourse into stadium with retaining headwalls
- Board-formed concrete super structure and seating tray
- Upper concourse with vomitoria
- Peristyle; board-formed concrete curved open arcade with large central arch at eastern end of stadium, concrete “torch” with bronze bowl added for 1932 Olympic Games

North and South Coliseum Drives with Christmas Tree Lane
North and South Coliseum Drives with Christmas Tree Lane is located in the southern portion of Exposition Park, west of Figueroa Street, east of the Coliseum and north of the Sports Arena.

Previous Evaluations
North and South Coliseum Drives with Christmas Tree Lane was found eligible for the National Register according to

21 North and South Coliseum Drives are currently known as Exposition Park Drive, according to Google Maps.
the 2001 Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) prepared for the Section 106 review conducted for a proposed parking structure in Exposition Park.\textsuperscript{22}

Located east of the Coliseum plaza, the east portion of North and South Coliseum Drives with Christmas Tree Lane appears to be eligible for the National Register \{criteria (c), period of significance 1932, at the local level of significance\}, not as an individual resource, but because it contributes to the setting of, and provides a view corridor to, the Coliseum and is a good example of Beaux Arts landscape and roadway planning. The east portion of North and South Coliseum Drives with Christmas Tree Lane is outside but adjacent to the National Register and NHL property boundary of the Coliseum. The National Register eligibility of the east portion of North and South Coliseum Drives with Christmas Tree Lane is dependent on the continued integrity of those characteristics that qualified the Coliseum for listing in the National Register. If the Coliseum is demolished or its primary (east) facade is substantially altered in the future, the National Register eligibility of the east portion of North and South Coliseum Drives with Christmas Tree Lane should be re-evaluated.\textsuperscript{23}

Contributing elements include the roadways, sidewalks, and low walls that date to 1925, or are consistent with the 1925 plan; the greensward between North and South Coliseum Drive, the two rows of mature Deodar Cedars that comprise Christmas Tree Lane or a similar species planted to be consistent with the 1925 landscape plan; the London Plane Trees or a similar species that comprise allées along both sides of the sidewalks; the three Art Moderne streetlights along North Coliseum Drive; and the mature palm tree moved here in 1914, and its associated marker, which are located approximately 150 feet west of Figueroa Street.\textsuperscript{24}

The Historic Architectural Survey Report (HASR) prepared in conjunction with the HPSR identified significant historic and/or architectural resources in Exposition Park. The findings were as follows: “On August 9, 2000, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) made the finding, with the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) concurrence that the east portion of North and South Coliseum Drives with Christmas Tree Lane is significant as part of the setting of the Coliseum and contributes to its National Register/National Historic Landmark


\textsuperscript{23} Ibid., p. 18.

\textsuperscript{24} Ibid., p. 18.
designation, under National Register Criterion C.

The consensus among OHP, FHWA, and Caltrans, was that the property’s integrity of location, setting, feeling and association was significant enough to override the property’s lack of integrity of materials, workmanship, and design.

What was found to be most significant, is the view corridor to the Coliseum across the greensward, with a formal, landscaped allée that accentuates the view toward the Coliseum peristyle." \(^{25}\)

Recent inspection of North and South Coliseum Drives with Christmas Tree Lane finds that the existing condition generally matches the condition of the earlier evaluation. Although some individual trees and plantings have been replaced. \(^{26}\)

5.3 Resources in the Vicinity

Exposition Park Historic District

The Exposition Park Historic District was found eligible for the National Register by the Office of Historic Preservation on June 15, 1993. \(^{27}\)

However, the District may no longer meet National Register Criteria.

The boundaries of the Exposition Park Historic District are the boundaries of Exposition Park; it is bordered by Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the south, Figueroa Street to the east, Vermont Avenue to the west and Exposition Boulevard to the north.

The District, as described in the inventory form dated May 14, 1993, described seven key resources, which were all constructed between 1910 and 1932. \(^{28}\) The seven resources were oriented in two basic groups, the 1910-1917 Beaux Arts civic group at the north end of the park (Natural History Museum, Exposition Building, State Armory, Rose Garden) and the 1921-1932 recreation group to the south of the civic group (Coliseum, Swimming Stadium, Exposition Clubhouse). \(^{29}\)

The remaining portion of the civic group includes: the original (eastern) portion of the Natural History Museum, the remnant north facade of the Exposition Building, the Rose Garden, and the State Armory. The remaining portion of the recreation group includes the Coliseum, the Swimming Stadium, prepared by Myra L. Frank & Associates, Inc., March 2001.


\(^{26}\) Site visit by Historic Resources Group on April 7, 2015.

\(^{27}\) The South Central Coastal Information Center was unable to locate the OHP memo or DPR 523 form from 1993 stating the District’s eligibility; however, it was documented in the ‘Historic Property Survey Report for the California Science Center/California African American Museum Parking Structure’ prepared by Myra L. Frank & Associates, Inc., March 2001.

\(^{28}\) Constructed in 1959, the Sports Arena was not identified as a contributing resource to the Historic District.

and the Exposition Clubhouse. The Sports Arena was not included in the district because it had not met the 50 year criterion at the time.

The District may no longer meet National Register Criteria according to the 2001 Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) prepared for the Section 106 review conducted for a proposed parking structure in Exposition Park.30

The HPSR report states:

Between 1932 and 1992, alterations occurred to various portions of the original landscape features, walkways, roadways, and sidewalks within Exposition Park. Also during this period, the original formal garden, bandstand, roque court, three bowling greens, and Bowler’s Club were demolished. Because these alterations and demolitions were not evaluated in 1993, the integrity of the District appeared better in 1993 than is currently being reported.

Major demolition (most of the Exposition Building), alterations (the Coliseum and Coliseum sidewalks during 1993 renovation), and new construction (the California Science Center) have occurred within the District boundary between 1993 and 2000, further diminishing the integrity of the District.31

This new information reported in the HPSR does not preclude the possibility that one or more districts may still retain integrity within Exposition Park, and may be eligible for the National Register in some other configuration than was reported in 1993.

No formal finding of National Register eligibility or ineligibility was made for the Exposition Park Historic District at a meeting among the review agencies on August 9, 2000.32

Resources located in Exposition Park

From its beginning, Exposition Park has been a mix of buildings, sports facilities, recreational open spaces, and surface parking lots. The museum buildings and rose garden make up the northern half of the park; the recreational facilities, including a sports stadium, indoor arena and swim stadium make up the southern half of the park. This division has not changed dramatically throughout the park’s history even though some of the buildings have changed uses and new amenities have been added.

The cultural institutions have remained central to the northern half of the park


31 Ibid., p. 19. Additionally, since the publication of this report, the Swimming Stadium was altered in a 2003 renovation and may no longer eligible for the National Register, as previously evaluated.

32 Ibid., p. 19.
and include the three original civic buildings surrounding a sunken garden that open onto Exposition Boulevard. These features were present in the park when it was dedicated in 1913, or soon thereafter.

The **State Exposition Building** (1912, William D. Coates, Jr.) is located in the northern portion of the park, south of the Rose Garden, southeast of the Natural History Museum and southwest of the State Armory Building.

The building originally displayed agriculturally-based natural resources and industrial products from across the state. After World War II, technology-based businesses began to grow so the Exposition Building was remodeled to show visitors the role of science and technology in everyday life. The building was remodeled and renamed the California Museum of Science and Industry in 1951. As exhibits expanded and changed additions were made to the museum. The courtyard was infilled in 1957, two wings were added to the east, respectively in 1961 and 1968, and a new addition to the south in 1985. The museum closed in 1996 and most of the original Exposition Building was torn down to make way for the California Science Center, which opened in 1998. The new museum incorporated the north facade of the original Exposition Building into the new design.

The Exposition Building is not eligible for historic designation because it has been irreparably altered. It is not considered a historic resource under CEQA.

The **Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art** (1913, Hudson & Munsell) is located in the northern portion of the park, west of the Rose Garden and State Armory Building, and northwest of the Exposition Building.

The museum initially consisted of a large rotunda, which faced east towards the sunken garden, surrounded by three wings for exhibits. The museum was such a success that a new wing was added to the southwest in 1925. A second addition opened in 1930 doubling the size of the museum and moving the main entrance from the rotunda (east) to the south lawn. A west wing was added in 1960 and north wing added in 1974. In 1961, the art collection was moved out of the museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art was established as a separate, art-focused institution, opening a new facility on Wilshire Boulevard in 1965. The Exposition Park building was renamed the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

The Natural History Museum is listed in the National Register (1975) and is considered a historic resource under CEQA.
The **State Armory** (1914, J.W. Wollett) is located east of the Rose Garden and Natural History Museum, and northeast of the Exposition Building.

The armory was the last of the three original civic buildings to be completed. It served as the armory for the 7th Infantry Regiment (later to become the 160th Infantry Regiment) between World War I and World War II. Initially it consisted of two separate buildings (administrative and living quarters) separated by a large drill floor for military exercises. In the late 1920s this area was enclosed. The building has had many uses through the years (military and non-military), but has essentially remained unchanged from the exterior. The Museum of Science and Industry took over the building, and in 1983 commissioned architect Frank Gehry to design a new Aerospace Museum addition at the south end. The large open space of the Armory building, once used to hold military exercises, was used to display aircraft at this time. The buildings is currently operated as an annex to the California Science Center and named the Wallis Annenberg Building for Science Learning and Innovation.

The State Armory is listed in the California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) with a status code of 7N, which means it needs to be reevaluated.

The **Exposition Park Rose Garden** (1913, Wilber David Cooke, Jr.; George C. Robinson and Fred H. Howard, 1928) forms a seven acre quadrangle located in the north-central portion of the park. It is flanked by the Natural History Museum on the west, the State Armory on the east, the State Exposition Building on the south, and open to Exposition Boulevard on the north side.

What would become the rose garden began simply in 1913 as a sunken garden surrounded by a low decorative brick wall; wildflowers were planted and a circular lily pond was added in 1921. The sunken flower garden was transformed into a display rose garden beginning in 1927, and was completed in 1928. The garden is divided into four quadrants, each having a wooden gazebo. In the center of the garden is a circular water fountain. Over 19,000 rose bushes are planted in the original 166 concrete lined rose beds. It is considered the earliest municipally operated public display rose garden in California. Planned and executed in the heyday of the City Beautiful movement in Los Angeles, it was both a well-planned public park and a functional display garden offering visitors the opportunity to study the growth of various roses for suitability in private gardens. In this capacity, the rose garden symbolized the image of Southern California as a horticultural paradise where anything could grow. In
1932, large concrete monoliths with benches were installed at the north side of the rose garden flanking the walkaway to Exposition Boulevard. The walls have bas-reliefs of Olympics-related figures. Known as the Memorial Gateway, it was designed to celebrate the Olympic Games and was completed by artist Bartolomeo Mako.

The Exposition Park Rose Garden is listed in the National Register (1991) and is considered a historic resource under CEQA.

The southern portion of the park consists of sports facilities including the Memorial Coliseum (discussed earlier), Exposition Clubhouse, Swimming Stadium, and Sports Arena (discussed earlier).

The **Exposition Clubhouse** (1922-26) is located in the southern portion of the park at 3990 Bill Robertson Lane (formerly Menlo Avenue) on the northeast corner at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and south of the Swimming Stadium.

This Spanish Colonial revival clubhouse was constructed by the city’s Playground Commission in the mid-1920s as part of a plan to provide community centers for the additional recreational areas planned in the park including baseball diamonds, tennis, and horseshoe pitching courts.³³

Built as a clubhouse for Exposition Park, it is now part of the EXPO Center run by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and houses the Ahmanson Senior Citizens Center.

The Exposition Clubhouse was found eligible for the National Register in 1994 during Section 106 review after the Northridge Earthquake. It is also designated Historic-Cultural Monument #127 (1974) in the City of Los Angeles. For these reasons it is considered a historic resource under CEQA.

The **Los Angeles Swimming Stadium** (1931) is located in the southern portion of the park at 3900 Bill Robertson Lane (formerly Menlo Avenue) on the northeast corner of Bill Robertson Lane and South Park Drive, and adjacent (southwest) to the Coliseum.

The Swimming Stadium is significant for its association with the 1932 Olympic Games. It was used for swimming, water polo and diving events during the games. It was constructed in 1931 by the City of Los Angeles Playground and recreation department for use in the games and for community and recreational use afterwards. It was a state-of-the-art competition facility when it was built, and was the largest pool in Los Angeles, and the largest city-operated swimming facility. Moderne in style, the stadium was recently renovated in 2003 and was renamed the LA84 Foundation/John C.

³³ Los Angeles Times, June 20, 1924.
Argue Swim Stadium and part of the EXPO Center run by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

The Swimming Stadium is listed in the California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) with a status code of 2S2, which means it is an “Individual property determined eligible for the National Register by a consensus through Section 106 process. Listed in the California Register.” For this reason, it is considered a historic resource under CEQA.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESOURCE</th>
<th>DATE BUILT</th>
<th>STATUS / NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum</td>
<td>1921; 1932</td>
<td>National Historic Landmark, State Historic Landmark #960, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. North and South Coliseum Drives and the Christmas Tree Lane median were specifically called out as character-defining features of the Coliseum setting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposition Park Historic District</td>
<td>1910-1932</td>
<td>Identified as eligible for the National Register by the Office of Historic Preservation on June 15, 1993. The Historic District as described included seven contributing resources: the 1910-1917 Beaux Arts civic group at the north end of the park (Natural History Museum, Exposition Building, State Armory, Rose Garden) and the 1921-1932 recreation group to the south of the civic group (Coliseum, Swimming Stadium, Exposition Clubhouse) 2001 Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) prepared for a Section 106 review identified significant alteration and reduced integrity of the Historic District since 1993.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural History Museum (Los Angeles County Museum of History Science and Art)</td>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallis Annenberg Building (State Armory)</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Listed in the California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) with a status code of 7N. Needs to be reevaluated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Swimming Stadium</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Listed in the California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) with a status code of 2S2, or &quot;Individual property determined eligible for the National Register by a consensus through Section 106 process. Listed in the California Register.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map of Historic Resources
6.0 IMPACTS ANALYSIS

6.1 Significance Threshold

A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.

According to California CEQA Guidelines, a project has the potential to impact a historic resource when the project involves a “substantial adverse change” in the significance of an historical resource. Substantial adverse change is defined as “physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired.”

The significance of an historical resource is materially impaired when a project:

a) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources; or

b) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or its identification in an historical resources survey meeting the requirements of section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence that the resource is not historically or culturally significant; or

c) Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.34

Generally, a project that involves the physical alteration of a historic resource and follows the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings or the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1995), Weeks and Grimmer, shall be considered as mitigated to a level of less than a significant impact on the historical resource.

The City of Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide (2006, p. D.3-2) states that a project would normally

34 CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5
have a significant impact on historic resources if it would result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource. A substantial adverse change in significance occurs if the project involves:

- Demolition of a significant resource;
- Relocation that does not maintain the integrity and (historical/architectural) significance of a significant resource;
- Conversion, rehabilitation, or alteration of a significant resource which does not conform to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings; or
- Construction that reduces the integrity or significance of important resources on the site or in the vicinity.

In addition to this guidance provided by the City of Los Angeles, the State Legislature, in enacting the California Register, also amended CEQA to clarify which properties are significant, as well as which project impacts are considered to be significantly adverse.

Under the CEQA guidelines, project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. A substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource means demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource would be materially impaired.

The Guidelines go on to state that “[t]he significance of an historic resource is materially impaired when a project...[d]emolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources...local register of historic resources...or its identification in a historic resources survey.”

### 6.2 Discussion of Potential Impacts

The Project will construct a new stadium structure, an attached ancillary services building, and an open plaza on the site of the existing Memorial Sports Arena. The Project has the potential to adversely affect historic resources through demolition, alteration and new construction. Potential impacts to the historic resources identified in Section 6 of this report are discussed below.

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35 CEQA Guidelines, section 15064.5(b).
36 CEQA Guidelines, section 15064.5(b) (1).
37 CEQA Guidelines, section 15064.5(b)(2).
Potential Impacts: Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena

As noted in Section 5 of this report, the 2010 Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena Redevelopment Project Certified Environment Impact Report concluded that the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena appears eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 1 for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to Los Angeles history. The proposed Project will demolish the Sports Arena and its surrounding landscape features, resulting in a significant impact to a historic resource.

In February 2011, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission certified the Final EIR for the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena Redevelopment Project, which analyzed the demolition of the Sports Arena and development of a 22,000 seat soccer stadium on the Sports Arena site. The Certified EIR concluded that demolition of the Sports Arena would result in a significant and unavoidable impact to a historic resource following the implementation of mitigation, which included documenting the historical features of the Sports Arena. Accordingly, the Coliseum Commission has already evaluated the demolition of the Sports Arena in connection with the stadium component of the proposed Project, and concluded that the impact of demolition of the Sports Arena cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level.

Potential Impacts: Memorial Coliseum

The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum is located immediately west of the Project Site. The Memorial Coliseum is a designated National Historic Landmark, a designated State Historical Landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Project is contained within the Project site and will not physically alter the Memorial Coliseum structure. The Project does have the potential, however, to adversely affect aspects of the historic integrity of Memorial Coliseum. As discussed in Section 4 of this report, historic integrity is defined as the “authenticity of a property’s historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property’s historic period.” Aspects of integrity potentially affected by the Project include integrity of setting, defined as “the physical environment of a historic property;” and integrity of feeling, defined as “a property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.”

Historically, Memorial Coliseum has existed in a park setting characterized by landscape areas, access roads, sidewalks and plazas. These elements were formally arranged to showcase Memorial Coliseum as a classically proportioned stadium situated in a park-
like environment. Construction of the existing Sports Arena in the 1950s altered the bucolic park setting of the Coliseum by placing a new building on previously unbuilt land immediately to the southeast of the Coliseum. The Sports Arena also introduced an associated landscape and hardscape plan specifically oriented to the Arena’s programmatic needs and design aesthetic. Despite these intrusions, the Memorial Coliseum continued to convey its historic significance after construction of the Sports Arena and was designated as an NHL, as a State Historical Landmark, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

The existing Sports Arena included several design features that subordinate the Arena to the Coliseum and reduced adverse effects to the Coliseum and its setting. These features include the following:

- The Sports Arena structure is substantially smaller in height and mass than the Coliseum structure.
- Architectural design for the Sports Arena features a simple, restrained design vocabulary of basic geometric forms, plain surfaces and horizontal massing that does not compete with Memorial Coliseum.
- The more articulated areas of the Sports Arena, including its primary entrance façade and landscaped entry plaza are oriented east toward Figueroa and away from the Coliseum, ensuring that they do not detract or compete with the Coliseum.
- The existing Sports Arena is set back approximately 50 feet from South Coliseum Drive and Christmas Tree Lane, and approximately 100 feet from South Hoover Street as it curves southward around the Coliseum, providing a spatial buffer between the Coliseum and the Arena.
- Landscape and mature trees occupy the interstitial areas between the Sports Arena and South Coliseum Drive and the Arena and South Hoover Street, visually reducing the mass of the Sports Arena when viewed from the Coliseum, and from Christmas Tree Lane.

In contrast, the proposed Project will construct a new stadium building and attached ancillary services wing that will occupy a footprint substantially larger than the footprint of the existing Sports Arena. The proposed new construction will also be over twice the height of the existing Sports Arena. Setbacks from South Exposition Park Drive and South Hoover Drive are also less than half of the current setbacks for the existing Sports Arena.

Because the Project will add increased mass and height in the near vicinity of the Coliseum, the setting of the Coliseum will be altered. In order for
this alteration to be considered a substantial adverse change, however, it must be shown that the integrity and/or significance of the Coliseum would be materially impaired by the proposed alteration.

The new stadium and ancillary services building are designed in an expressive contemporary style in contrast to the more restrained design of Memorial Coliseum. The new stadium will have a relatively large footprint, occupying the majority of the Project Site. The stadium structure proper will be approximately 470 feet from the Coliseum peristyle when measured on diagonal from the northwestern corner of the arena structure. The Applicants have also requested the flexibility to move or extend the stadium footprint up to 40 feet to the west from the location depicted on the concept site plan. If adjusted in this manner, the stadium structure would be approximately 430 feet from the Coliseum peristyle. An attached ancillary services building, irregular in plan, stretches further west towards the Coliseum. The ancillary building will be constructed on what is currently a landscaped area. Its westernmost façade will be setback approximately 60 feet from South Hoover Street and approximately 270 feet from the Coliseum structure.

The new stadium will include signage to support stadium operations. The proposed signage plan included in the Addendum is designed to be consistent with the character of a sports and entertainment venue.

As noted above, the new stadium structure will be substantially taller than the existing Memorial Arena although the proposed design modulates the height and height is reduced at those areas of the building closest to the Coliseum. The maximum height of the ancillary building, which is closest in distance to the Coliseum, will be approximately 75 feet. This is almost equal to the 75-foot height of the Coliseum bowl. The roof structure of the new stadium will rise to a height of 105 feet at the southwest corner. The cumulative effect is that the new stadium will generally be as tall as or taller than the top of the Coliseum bowl. The perception of the new arena’s height, however, will be moderated by the transparent EFTE material used for the arena’s roof which will be permeable to light and not be perceived as solid.

The combination of increased mass and height and an expressive and highly articulated design vocabulary, will alter the park-like setting of the Coliseum. Despite the changes in setting, construction of the stadium and ancillary building will not alter the setting of the Coliseum such that the

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38 Technically, the Olympic Torch spire atop the central arch of the peristyle will remain the tallest structure at 124 feet.
Coliseum will no longer convey its historic significance. Additionally, the signage plan proposed as part of the Project will not adversely impact the historic significance of the Coliseum. Ultimately, the Coliseum will continue to convey its historic significance after Project construction and will not be materially impaired. All of the important character-defining features of the Memorial Coliseum will remain intact and understandable to the public after implementation of the Project. The general configuration and orientation of the Coliseum will remain discernible after construction and the primary east-facing facade will remain intact and unobstructed. Trees and landscaping along the Project’s north and northwestern edges, will partially screen views of the new stadium when viewed from the Coliseum looking east and southeast, reducing the perception of height and mass. The changes in setting proposed by the Project, will not result in a significant impact to the historic significance of Memorial Coliseum.

Potential Impacts: North and South Coliseum Drives and Christmas Tree Lane

North and South Coliseum Drives and Christmas Tree Lane have been found eligible for the National Register for their contribution to the setting of Memorial Coliseum, as an important view corridor to the Coliseum, and as an example of Beaux Arts landscape and roadway planning. The street pattern, sidewalks, rows of trees and central green space are critical elements in the formal park-like setting for the Coliseum.

The northern façade of the Project is setback 20 feet from the southern curb of South Coliseum Drive. The Project will retain the geometry of the existing sidewalk and curb line and reestablish the street trees bordering Coliseum Drive. The trees lining the northern edge of South Coliseum Drive will also be important in maintaining the park-like setting for Memorial Coliseum by visually reducing the mass of the proposed Project when viewed from Christmas Tree Lane and from the east end of the Coliseum.

After implementation of the Project, the street pattern, sidewalks, rows of trees and central green space of North and South Coliseum Drives and Christmas Tree Lane will remain intact. Important pedestrian and vehicular views looking west from Figueroa Street to the Coliseum will remain intact will not be adversely altered. Because the street edge along Coliseum Drive will retain and enhance the historic configuration of street trees and sidewalk, the Project will avoid impacts to the Coliseum Drives and Christmas Tree Lane landscape and by extension avoid impacts to the setting of the Memorial Coliseum. The enhanced street trees will help screen the new construction from South Coliseum Drive and ensure that the pedestrian experience along
South Coliseum Drive will not be adversely altered.

Potential Impacts to Other Identified Historic Resources in the Vicinity

The Project will not physically alter any other identified historic resources that are located within Exposition Park. Beyond the existing Sports Arena, Memorial Coliseum, and the Coliseum Drives and Christmas Tree Lane landscape, all of the other buildings, structures, and sites identified as historic for the purposes of CEQA are located approximately 700 feet or more from the Project Site and have little or no relation to the Project Site. New construction associated with the Project will not alter important spatial relationships between or among these resources and will not interrupt or impede important views either to or from these resources or between these resources. The Project will not result in impacts to any of the identified historic resources in the vicinity of the Project Site.

6.3 CEQA Thresholds

The following discussion reiterates the findings of the historical impacts analysis using the thresholds provided in the CEQA Thresholds Guide.

1. Would the Project involve the demolition of a significant resource?

Yes. The Project would demolish the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena and its associated landscape features which appear eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 1 for its association with important events in history. The Sports Arena will be completely demolished to allow for new construction on the site. Demolition of the Memorial Sports Arena will result in a significant impact to a historic resource. This impact cannot be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. As noted previously, the Final EIR certified by the Coliseum Commission for the development of a 22,000 seat soccer stadium concluded that demolition of the Sports Arena would result in a significant and unavoidable impact.

The Project does not propose the demolition of any other contributing or individually significant buildings or structures.

2. Would the Project involve relocation that does not maintain the integrity of a significant resource?

No. The Project does not include the relocation of any significant historic resource located on the Project Site, immediately adjacent to the Project Site, or in the near vicinity of the Project Site.
3. Would the Project involve conversion, rehabilitation or alteration of a significant resource which does not conform to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings?

No. The Project does not involve conversion, rehabilitation or alteration of a significant resource. Therefore, no portion of the Project has the potential to for conversion, rehabilitation or alteration of a significant historic resource which does not meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards.

4. Would the Project involve construction that reduces the integrity or significance of important resources on the site or in the vicinity?

No. The Project will not involve new construction that reduces the integrity or significance of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The Project will not physically demolish or alter any aspect of the Memorial Coliseum. All of the Memorial Coliseum’s character-defining features will remain intact after construction of the Coliseum.

The Project will involve new construction that is significantly larger in scale than what currently exists on the site today, and include signage consistent with an event venue. Project buildings will also be designed in an expressive contemporary style that contrasts with the Coliseum. Despite these changes to the Coliseum setting, the Coliseum will continue to convey its historic significance after Project construction and will not be materially impaired. The general configuration and orientation of the Coliseum will remain discernible after construction and the primary east-facing facade will remain intact and unobstructed. The changes in setting proposed by the Project, will not result in a significant impact to the Memorial Coliseum.

6.4 Summary of Potential Impacts to Historic Resources

Analysis using the CEQA thresholds discussed above has revealed the following impacts:

1) Demolition of the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena
   Significant and unavoidable impact to a historic resource. Impact cannot be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. Consistent with the determination in the Final EIR certified by the Coliseum Commission in February 2011.

2) New Construction on the Project Site
   New construction associated with the Project, including the Project’s proposed signage, will alter the historic setting of Memorial Coliseum. Alteration of the Coliseum setting caused by the Project, however, will not threaten the historic significance or eligibility of the Coliseum, and will, therefore,
not result in a significant impact.
7.0 RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES

7.1 Impact: Demolition of Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena

This impact cannot be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. Prior to the demolition of the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena, the building shall be documented in accordance with the Historical American Building Survey (HABS) standards. Documentation shall include the following:

- Large-format, archival photographs documenting all exterior facades and select landscape and interior spaces and features.
- 35 mm photographs additional spaces and features not documented in large-format.
- Historic photographs
- Existing drawings including plans, elevations, and sections as available.
- Narrative section to include site history, historic context, significance statement and character-defining features.
2014 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statute and Guidelines; California Association of Environmental Professionals, www.califaep.org

California Public Resources Code, (Sections 21000-21177).

California Code of Regulations, (Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000-15387).

Code of Federal Regulations, (Title 36, Part 60).


Los Angeles Public Library. Photo Collection. http://www.lapl.org/collections-resources


USC Digital Library. http://digitallibrary.usc.edu/
Aerial view of Exposition Park, 1964. (Historic Aerials.com)

Aerial view of Exposition Park, 1980. (Historic Aerials.com)
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HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP
Aerial view of excavation for Sports Arena with Coliseum in background, 1957. (USC Digital Library)

Aerial view of Sports Arena under construction with Coliseum in background, 1959. (USC Digital Library)
Aerial view of Sports Arena with Coliseum in background and Christmas Tree Lane to the right, 1960. (Los Angeles Public Library)

View of Sports Arena from Figueroa Street with Coliseum in background, 1971. (Los Angeles Public Library)
View of Christmas Tree Lane west towards Coliseum, 1934. (USC Digital Library)

View of Christmas Tree Lane west towards Coliseum, 1936 (USC Digital Library)
View of Coliseum peristyle from east, Christmas Tree Lane on right, 1958
(USC Digital Library)
APPENDIX C: EXISTING CONDITION PHOTOGRAPHS

View of Christmas Tree Lane west towards the Coliseum, 2015.
(Historic Resources Group)

View of south sidewalk of Christmas Tree Lane west towards the Coliseum, 2015.
(Historic Resources Group)
Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena

*Historic Resources Technical Report*

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