

**Notice of Availability of the Draft Revised Environmental Impact Report for the  
California Department of General Services Capitol Annex Project**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO REVIEW AND COMMENT**

The California Department of General Services (DGS) is releasing the Draft Revised Environmental Impact Report (Draft REIR) for the Capitol Annex Project for public review and comment from April 7, 2023 to May 22, 2023. The Capitol Annex Project would involve three primary components: (1) construction of a new Annex, (2) construction of a new underground parking garage serving the new Annex, and (3) construction of a new underground visitor/welcome center.

**Background:** A Draft EIR evaluating the environmental effects of the Capitol Annex Project was originally circulated for public review and comment for a period of 45 days from September 9, 2019 to October 24, 2019. Additionally, an informational workshop was held on September 17, 2019, and a public hearing was held on October 15, 2019. During the review period, written and oral comments were received on the Draft EIR. DGS reviewed those comments to identify specific environmental concerns and began preparation of responses to those comments. However, after the end of the Draft EIR public review period, design of the new visitor/welcome center continued to progress and an approach to entry to the visitor/welcome center was adopted that was different from what was analyzed in the Draft EIR. The refined visitor/welcome center design proposed using ramps rather than stairs and elevators to enter the facility.

DGS considered the refinement to the visitor/welcome center design a sufficient modification of the project to warrant preparation of a Recirculated Draft EIR. The Recirculated Draft EIR re-evaluated environmental effects for issue areas potentially affected by modification of the visitor/welcome center design; Utilities and Service Systems; Archaeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources; and Aesthetics, Light, and Glare. A Recirculated Draft EIR was distributed for public review and comment for a period of 45 days that began on January 17, 2020 and ended on March 2, 2020. An informational workshop was held on January 22, 2020, and a public hearing was held on February 26, 2020. During the review period, written and oral comments were received on the Recirculated Draft EIR.

DGS reviewed the combined comments on the Draft EIR and Recirculated Draft EIR to identify specific environmental concerns and determine whether any additional environmental analysis would be required to respond to issues raised in the comments. Responses to all comments received on the Draft EIR and Recirculated Draft EIR were prepared and included in the Final EIR. The Final EIR was certified, and the project was approved by the DGS on July 20, 2021.

Between distribution of the Recirculated Draft EIR and completion of the Final EIR, modifications to the design of the Annex and parking structure were made and more detailed designs were developed for these facilities. These modifications were evaluated in the Final EIR. The primary new information related to project facilities was the selection of a "Double-T" building configuration for the new Annex and exterior surfacing of mostly glass, the relocation of the underground parking garage from the south side of the new Annex and Historic Capitol to an area immediately east of the new Annex underneath the 12th Street walkway alignment, and the inclusion of entry/exit ramps for the garage on both L Street and N Street.

In the final EIR, DGS determined these project modifications would not result in any new significant impacts or substantially more severe significant impacts than those addressed in the Draft EIR and the Recirculated Draft EIR, and they would not require any new or different mitigation measures. DGS also concluded that none of the modifications constituted "significant new information" requiring recirculation of the EIR; thereby allowing a decision to be made on EIR certification and project approval.

**Purpose of the Revised EIR:** After the EIR was certified and the project was approved by DGS in July 2021, a lawsuit challenging the adequacy of the EIR was filed, challenging DGS's approval, including DGS's certification of the EIR, and asserting that the EIR analysis was inadequate for several reasons. The Sacramento County Superior Court rejected all of Plaintiffs' arguments and upheld the adequacy of the EIR. Plaintiffs appealed the decision. On January 18, 2023, the Third District Court of Appeal partially reversed the trial court's decision. The ruling directed the trial court to enter a new judgement issuing a preemptory writ of mandate and directing DGS to vacate partially its certification of the EIR and to revise and recirculate the deficient portions of the EIR consistent with the Court of Appeal's ruling.

DGS has prepared this Draft REIR to address the CEQA adequacy issues in accordance with the direction provided by the Court, which is limited to the project description, the project's potential impacts on historical resources and aesthetics, and the evaluation of project alternatives.

**Significant Environmental Effects:** The Draft REIR identifies potentially significant project impacts with respect to historical resources. The project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact related to historical resources.

**Public Meetings:** An informational workshop to inform the public of key analyses and conclusions of the Draft REIR will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 PM on April 18, 2023 at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, located at 828 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814, in the East Room. A public hearing to receive comments on the Draft REIR will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 PM on May 16, 2023 at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, located at 828 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814, in the East Room.

Written comments on the Draft REIR will be accepted by DGS through 5:00 PM on May 22, 2023. Comments must be delivered or mailed to:

Stephanie Coleman, Senior Environmental Planner  
Department of General Services, Environmental Services Section  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 989052, West Sacramento, CA 95798  
Street Address: 707 3rd Street, MS-509, West Sacramento, CA 95605  
Email: [environmental@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:environmental@dgs.ca.gov)

The Draft REIR is available for review at the following locations:

- Department of General Services, Environmental Services Section between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM
- Sacramento Central Library at 828 I Street during library hours
- Request a copy by email at: [environmental@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:environmental@dgs.ca.gov)
- Download from the website: <http://bit.ly/DGSCEQA>