

# South Robertson (SORO) Neighborhoods Council

SORO Neighborhoods Council  
P.O. Box 35836  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90035  
TELEPHONE: 310-295-9920  
Fax: 310-295-9906  
www.soronc.org



A Certified Neighborhood Council

**Vikki Karan**  
President  
**Jon Liberman**  
Vice President  
**Ann Hamond**  
Secretary  
**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

PROPOSAL BY: Education Committee (presenter Barry Levine)  
DATE: April 9, 2008  
TITLE: Fresh Fruit on Fridays

SUMMARY: Provide funding of up to \$6,720.00 for Fresh fruit on Fridays to expand to Shenandoah Elementary school and continue serving the four current locations, Robertson Recreation Center, Canfield Avenue Elementary School. LACES and Crescent Height Elementary School.

FULL PROPOSAL:.. Fresh Fruit on Friday's is a weekly farm to school nutrition program that introduces children to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetable grown and harvested by small Southern California farmer and provided by the La Cienega Farmers' Market. The Supervisor of the La Cienega Farmers' Market makes arrangements with it's participating farmers to purchase a variety of seasonal fruits and vegetables and distributes the produce weekly to the students of Shenandoah Elementary School throughout the school year. The produce is brought by the farmer to the La Cienega Market on Thursday and is picked up by the program supervisor who then distributes it to each student.

The program supervisor also provides each grade level instructor with a brief description of the featured produce for that week as well as information about the farm, farmer, and the produces' background and nutrition information. This information is read in-class or in homeroom before the students are introduced to the fruit or vegetable.

Teachers may also appoint students from grades three, four, and five to assist with the preparation and distribution of the produce, Each grade level is assigned a designated area for the students to enjoy their fruit or vegetable for that week.

See attached seven pdf files for complete proposal as provided by Model Neighborhood Program, sponsor of fresh fruit on Friday.

<b>Pro</b> Children will take nutritional message home and share with families	<b>Con</b> Other worthwhile programs will go unfunded
Children will understand importance of a healthy diet and how it can affect their lives	Free food will not be valued
Children will make a conscious choice of eating a healthy snack when outside the home.	Nothing will be learned from program

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. South Robertson Neighborhoods Council will fund up \$6720.00 for Fresh Fruit on Fridays program to provide fruit and information about the fruit to Shenandoah Elementary School ED3112008

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PROPOSAL BY: Education Committee presenter Barry E. Levine  
DATE: April 9, 2008  
TITLE: Local School Councils Attendance at South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Board meeting

SUMMARY: To promote education, we believe an invitation should be sent to all local schools inviting their leadership councils to attend one or more of our South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Board meetings

FULL PROPOSAL: To promote education, invite all local schools leadership councils to attend one or more SORN Board meetings.

<b>Pro:</b> educate our local students in participatory local government	<b>Con</b> we have to feed more mouths
Educate ourselves in the workings of school leadership programs	May extend the length of our meeting
Outreach and training for future leaders of our community	May not be successful in attracting students

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Board shall invite all local school leadership groups to one or more Board meetings. ED31120082

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Secretary  
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Treasurer

**PROPOSAL BY:** Brian Bergman  
**DATE:** April 09, 2008  
**TITLE:** Proposal to approve Cashio/Robertson Mixed Use Development

**SUMMARY:** Proposal that SORO NC support the applicant's plan to develop 1502 S. Robertson Blvd. into a mixed-use development with one story of commercial and three stories of residential.

**FULL PROPOSAL:** Proposal that SORO NC support the applicant's plan to develop 1502 S. Robertson Blvd. (Cashio/Robertson) into a mixed-use development with one story of commercial and three stories of residential. The applicant previously appeared before the Land Use committee and proposed a six story development. Based on the committee's comments the applicant came back to the committee with a revised proposal for a four story building. The parcel is currently a gas station and is adjacent to a four story building of unknown use. The committee did not consider any requests for variances or conditional use permits.

<b>Pros:</b>	<b>Cons:</b>
The applicant changed his proposal based on Land Use committee feedback.	
The proposed four story development is adjacent to an existing four story development	
The applicant is an existing stakeholder (he runs the existing gas station)	

**MOTION for the Board's consideration:**

1. That SORO NC support the applicant's plan to develop 1502 S. Robertson Blvd. into a mixed-use development with one story of commercial and three stories of residential. (This Motion does not relate to any subsequent requests for variances, conditional use permits, etc.)

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A Certified Neighborhood Council

**Jon Liberman**  
President  
(vacant)  
Vice President  
**Sandra Willard**  
Secretary  
**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**PROPOSAL BY:** Land Use Committee (Presenter: Daniel Fink)  
**DATE:** April 1, 2008  
**TITLE:** Request for Rejection of Museum of Tolerance Expansion or Approval of Limited Project Only

**SUMMARY:** The Museum of Tolerance (“MOT”) is seeking to expand its operations and facilities. Almost all nearby residential neighbors oppose the MOT’s proposed expansion. This motion requests that the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning (DCP) reject the proposed project and, if it is approved, approve only a small addition limited to bona fide museum uses, with current restricted operating hours. The DCP should require the project applicant to adhere to all current zoning regulations applicable to its R-1 zoned property, not to rezone its property, and to refrain from construction that is not in full compliance with the West Los Angeles Community Plan and with the current height, parking, and noise requirements of the Los Angeles Municipal Code for this land. This will reduce the project’s impact on its neighbors related to its massive size, parking, traffic, and noise. A vote by SORO NC to request this would be reflected in the attached letter to be sent to the Department of City Planning, the City Planning Commission, the City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee, and other related entities.

**FULL PROPOSAL:**

The MOT seeks to expand its operations and facilities. The expansion includes:

- Rezoning land zoned R-1 to C4-2-0 and expanding the museum south by approximately 80 ft. on land currently zoned R-1. This expansion would include a “cultural center” with a roof top garden, either 45 or 60 feet high. A variance is sought from the Transitional Height Ordinance.
- MOT will take over portions of the second and third floor of the school that currently exists next door to the museum. These areas would be used for museum related activities, mainly for meetings.
- Expanded museum operational hours from 7 hours per day to 17 hours a day, from 0700 until midnight 6 days a week.
- Expanded use of the Museum as a commercial banquet or catering facility available for rental (i.e. Bar Mitzvahs, weddings, receptions, etc.)
- Use of the “Public Benefit” clause of LAMC 14.00.
- 

Residents have expressed concerns that the MOT’s proposed expansion will cause significant Noise, Traffic, and Parking Impacts to the surrounding neighborhood. A summary of the potential impacts of the project is as follows:

Traffic	The proposed project will increase bus and especially evening vehicle trips to the
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	<p>museum. The museum is currently looking at ways to mitigate the problems caused by the MOT's visitor traffic.</p>
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The museum is well below Code requirements for parking. The museum does not have enough underground parking spaces to support events for possibly 1300 attendees. The proposed project currently does not contain restrictions on events to be held at the MOT.</li> </ul>
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The currently proposed rooftop garden would create too much noise if open to the air, and too tall a building if enclosed. An open air rooftop garden would likely cause a significant disturbance to the surrounding community because the sound cannot be mitigated adequately.</li> <li>The MOT has promised to undertake a noise study.</li> </ul>
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MOT currently is a well respected museum known for its efforts to teach children about the holocaust and tolerance. The repurposing of the MOT as a commercial banquet and catering facility is inappropriate and not consistent with its mission.</li> </ul>

Unfortunately, the MOT's proposed expansion is of such large magnitude that its impacts on the MOT's neighbors cannot be adequately mitigated.

The MOT's proposed expansion violates numerous provisions of the West Los Angeles Community Plan relating to preservation of residential zones and transitions between commercial and residential zones, and specific requirements of the Los Angeles Municipal Code relating to land use, height limits, parking requirements, noise control, and other provisions. There is little or no public benefit in adding another banquet and catering facility to the community. The MOT is attempting to circumvent the protections of residential neighborhoods and its neighbors homes by asking for land re-zoning and variances from height, noise, and parking requirements of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. In making these requests, the MOT is attempting to circumvent and/or override the protections that the law affords to its nearby neighbors.

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

- To authorize that the attached letter be sent to the Los Angeles Department of City Planning and other related entities requesting that the City reject the proposed project. If any expansion is approved, it should be as small as possible with usage restricted to bona fide museum purposes. A commercial banquet and catering hall available for rental to the public should not be allowed. If anything is built, the DCP should require the MOT (applicant) to adhere to all current zoning regulations applicable to its R-1 property (the single family lots at 1414, 1420, and 1424 South Roxbury Drive), not to request any variances from Code specifically relating to height, parking, noise, and land use for these lots, nor to allow rezoning of this property.

April 9, 2008

Diana Kitching  
Department of City Planning  
Environmental Review Section  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 750  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: EAF NO: ENV-2007-2476-EIR  
Museum of Tolerance Project

Dear Ms. Kitching:

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council opposes the proposed expansion of the Museum of Tolerance (sometimes referred to herein as the "Museum") in its current configuration. We urge that the City exercise its authority to reject the project identified in the Notice of Preparation dated March 20, 2008 (the "Project") at this time. However, if the Project is allowed to proceed, the Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") should thoroughly address all of the items listed below.

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council represents over 35,000 stakeholders living and working on both sides of Robertson Boulevard to parts of La Cienega Boulevard, south to Venice Boulevard and north to Pico Boulevard and parts of Olympic Boulevard. The Museum of Tolerance is located at the northwest corner of the South Robertson Neighborhoods territory.

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Board first wishes to emphasize that it supports the Museum of Tolerance and its stated mission of educating about the Holocaust and teaching tolerance. It is not opposed to the Museum or to its educational activities. However, the Project raises extremely serious concerns about appropriate land use within the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council territory and within the City of Los Angeles, and this is the focus of our comments and of our opposition to the inappropriate expansion currently proposed.

We recognize that this is only the comment period for the Notice of Preparation regarding the Initial Study prepared in connection with the Project. However, the consequences of the Project's deviations from the West Los Angeles Community Plan (the "Community Plan"), and the multiple variances requested from the Los Angeles Municipal Code ("LAMC"), including the Transitional Height Ordinance, are such that they cannot be adequately mitigated by any possible means. We further note that the City has the authority to deny the Project outright at any time, including prior to the preparation of the EIR. Such a Project denial would preclude the need for a resource-intensive review. We do not need to see the full EIR. We have seen enough. We think that the current proposal should be removed from consideration and that the Museum should go "back to the drawing board" and develop a modest, museum-related expansion that respects its surroundings, if indeed it still desires to expand following denial of the current proposal.

Notwithstanding our request for rejection of the Project, we will proceed to comment on several items which should be addressed in the EIR if this review is allowed to proceed.

The Project violates several important provisions of the Community Plan, especially those relating to preserving residential neighborhoods and providing appropriate transitions from commercial to residential zones. Other Community Plan provisions violated include those relating to a building height limit of 45 feet, open space preservation, and traffic through residential neighborhoods. In addition, the Project would require significant variances from important sections of the LAMC, specifically those relating to parking, noise, height limits (including the Transitional Height Ordinance), and land use in general. These Code provisions exist to protect citizens, their homes, and their neighborhoods from inappropriate overdevelopment. Finally, a request for consideration of the Project as a "public benefit project" under Section 14.00 of the LAMC represents a misapplication of this Code section, since the definition of a "public benefit project" does not include a "cultural center" or banquet facility, and there is little or no public benefit to building yet another banquet facility, when there are sufficient such facilities within an easy drive (actually, within a short walk) of the Museum. In this regard, we note that the Museum's proposal identifies only 465 square feet of the 13,500 sq. ft. expansion as being actual exhibition space for *bona fide* museum purposes.

In Jewish tradition, the youngest child asks four questions at the Passover Seder, which are then answered. In a similar vein, we ask: "Why is this museum different from all other museums in Los Angeles?" And we answer: "Other museums may have similar activities to those the Museum of Tolerance proposes (*i.e.*, "weddings, bar mitzvahs, parties, and receptions") at late hours in their facilities, but only the Museum of Tolerance is located in part on, and immediately adjacent to, land zoned R1-1, immediately adjacent to a quiet neighborhood of single family homes."

Major areas of concern include: the massive size of the Project; the fact that it would be built on land currently zoned R1-1 which is requested to be re-zoned to C4-2-0; the request not only to re-zone this land to C4-2-0, Neighborhood Commercial, but also to operate a commercial banquet facility rather than engage in "Low Density" activities; the request for a variance from the Transitional Height Ordinance, so as to allow construction of a 60 foot high commercial building immediately adjacent to a single-family residence; the excessive proposed hours of operation, far exceeding those of any other museum in Los Angeles; the inadequate amount of parking for the Project; and, perhaps most importantly, the re-purposing of the Museum from a museum to a "cultural center," in truth a banquet and/or catering facility available for public rental, which is an inappropriate activity for a structure situated on land currently zoned R1, surrounded by single family homes on land also zoned R1. These concerns are further detailed below:

1. The Project would have a height of 60 feet (assuming that the roof top garden is enclosed) or 48 feet (if the roof top garden remains open to the sky). In either case, the building would dominate the sky of the adjoining and neighboring homes, the nearest of which would be only 20 feet away from the proposed structure. The maximum height set forth in the Community Plan for a "Neighborhood District" is 45 feet (see page V-2 of the Community Plan, the stated purpose being "to ensure that a project is designed in harmony with the surrounding neighborhood and creates a stable environment with a pleasant and desirable character"), and the current maximum height for the R1-1 property where the Museum seeks to expand is only 33 feet. In addition, the total area of the proposed structure, including the 7,800 sq. ft. of

“airspace” proposed to be annexed from the adjacent Yeshiva of Los Angeles, is over 102,000 square feet, and is much too large for the site. The excessive height and square footage of the Project should be addressed in the EIR.

2. The land on which the expansion would be built currently contains three lots (1414, 1420, and 1424 South Roxbury) zoned R1-1. It is essential to maintain residential land for residential use, as set forth in the policies, goals, and objectives of the Community Plan. These lots should be maintained with the current R1-1 zoning designation. Any zoning change should be justified in the EIR.
3. The request for the residential lots to be zoned C4-2-0, and re-designated from “Low Density” to “Neighborhood Commercial,” is inappropriate. Furthermore, the proposed museum and banquet facility uses would appear not to be “Neighborhood Commercial” uses within the intent and meaning of the LAMC. The proposed change, and why it merits a “Neighborhood Commercial” designation, should be justified in the EIR.
4. The Transitional Height Ordinance exists to protect residential neighborhoods and single family homes from being dominated by inappropriately large commercial structures built immediately next to them. There is no justification for abrogating this important neighborhood protection. A structure towering 60 feet high, situated on land zoned C4 is entirely too high for this neighborhood. The LAMC specifies that such a structure should be only 25 feet high for the first 49 feet from the R1 property, and then 33 feet high for land 50 to 99 feet from the R1 property. Again, the proposed height violates the height limit specified in Section 12.21.1 of the LAMC and in Section V of the Community Plan. The justification for having such a high structure immediately adjacent to a single family residence should be explained in the EIR.
5. The proposed hours of operation, from 7 a.m. until midnight, 17 hours per day for six days a week, are entirely too long. No other museum or any other activities in Los Angeles (excluding hospitals, hotels, police and fire stations, and a few restaurants, coffee houses, and 24-hour gyms) have such prolonged hours of operation. These hours of operation are entirely inappropriate right next to single family homes in an entirely residential neighborhood. The EIR should differentiate between hours of operation for the Museum itself, and for the proposed banquet hall and catering facility, and should include a justification for such excessive hours of operation.
6. The Project would be built on the existing Memorial Garden, which is specifically designated in the Museum’s 1986 Conditional Use Permit to serve as a buffer zone between the Museum and its residential neighbors. To replace the existing garden, the Museum proposes to build a rooftop garden atop the cultural center. This garden could inject a major new source of noise into the surrounding neighborhood. To protect its neighbors from noise, the current limits on outdoor garden use (i.e., a maximum of 4 events per year, to be held during daylight hours only, no sound amplification, and no food or beverage service - - with the garden being reserved as a site for quiet contemplation at all other times) should be maintained on the proposed rooftop garden if it is built. Noise control should be addressed in the EIR.
7. The Museum’s current on-site parking does not meet the requirements of LAMC 12.24. This variance from LAMC requirements was granted in 1986 because most of the Museum’s

visitors are school children and others who arrive by bus. The on-site parking, which is approximately 200 spaces, cannot be expanded. There certainly is inadequate on-site parking to accommodate 500 visitors for a sit-down dinner in the cultural center, 300 in the existing auditorium, and another 500 in the proposed rooftop garden. Parking requirements must be addressed in the EIR.

8. SORO NC would be less opposed to the proposed Museum expansion if it were truly for *bona fide* museum purposes. But only 435 square feet of the proposed expansion is for museum exhibit space. The overwhelming majority of the proposed expansion is for cafe and kitchen space, "waiting and preparation" space, "multi-purpose" space, and conference space. The main purpose of the proposed expansion, which the Museum appears to be concealing, is for a commercial banquet and catering facility available for rental to the public. These are inappropriate activities for R1-1 land, immediately adjacent to single family homes, and especially with the proposed prolonged hours of operation. The exact nature of the activities planned to take place in the proposed "Cultural Resource Center" must be described in detail in the EIR.
9. The cumulative impacts of the proposed Museum expansion and the proposed (almost simultaneous) expansion of the Yeshiva University Boys High School on the adjoining property (at 9760 W. Pico Blvd.) (with both the Museum and Yeshiva properties being owned by entities which appear to have several officers [including the CEO] and trustees in common) must be considered together, as a whole. No land use or zoning decision should be made by the Planning Department without a full understanding of these cumulative impacts. The current Initial Study should not be considered until it is paired with an EIR Initial Study for the adjoining Yeshiva, and both projects should be considered jointly in a single EIR.

We understand that some have suggested that the City might impose new and/or modified conditions in a Conditional Use Permit ("CUP"), in order to allow the Museum to expand while purportedly protecting its residential neighbors. However, the imposition of conditions in a CUP will not provide adequate protection for the Museum's neighbors, as has already been proven. Ever since it opened in 1993, the Museum of Tolerance and its parent organization, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, have been in willful and flagrant violation of several key conditions imposed by the Museum's 1986 Conditional Use Permit (CPC-86-015-CU), specifically those relating to food service, outdoor activities, and hours of operation. Since the City has not enforced the provisions of the Museum's current CUP, the Museum's neighbors cannot rely on the ability of any additional or modified conditions of a new CUP to protect them from the Museum's existing or any new activities.

In conclusion, for all these reasons, we urge you to reject the Project at this time, before preparation and consideration of the full EIR. If the Project is allowed to proceed, the EIR should carefully and thoroughly study all of the issues noted above. Also as noted above, if any expansion is allowed, the Project applicant should be required to follow all current zoning requirements and height and size restrictions, without any variances being granted. Potential impacts of any contemplated expansion must be carefully and thoroughly studied, especially those related to noise, land use planning, traffic and parking. Museum operations should be limited to normal museum hours, not the excessive 17 hours a day requested for the banquet facility. And Museum uses should be limited to *bona fide* museum exhibit purposes. A commercial banquet and catering facility, available for rental to the general public, is entirely

Ms. Diana Kitching  
April 9, 2008  
Re: Museum of Tolerance Project  
Page 5 of 5

inappropriate on land zoned for single family homes, immediately adjacent to single family homes.

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council respectfully requests your close attention to and careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Victoria Karan  
President  
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

cc: Jane Usher, City Planning Commission  
Councilmember Ed Reyes  
Councilmember Jose Huizar  
Councilmember Jack Weiss  
Sarah Rigamat, Dept. of City Planning  
SORO NC Board

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF  
CITY PLANNING  
200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 525  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-4801  
AND  
6262 VAN NUYS BLVD., SUITE 351  
VAN NUYS, CA 91401

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

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GABRIELE WILLIAMS  
COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
(213) 978-1300



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

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[www.planning.lacity.org](http://www.planning.lacity.org)

**March 20, 2008**  
**NOTICE OF PREPARATION**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**EAF NO.: ENV-2007-2476-EIR**

**PROJECT NAME:** Museum of Tolerance Project

**PROJECT LOCATION/ADDRESS:** 9760 and 9786 West Pico Boulevard; and  
1399, 1414, 1420, 1424 Roxbury Drive

**COMMUNITY PLANNING AREA:** West Los Angeles

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 5

**DUE DATE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** April 19, 2008

The City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, will be the Lead Agency and will require the preparation of an environmental impact report ("EIR") for the project identified herein (the "Project"). The Department of City Planning requests your comments as to the scope and content of the EIR.

The Project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are set forth below. The environmental file is available for review at the Department of City Planning, 200 North Spring Street, Room 750, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project, as proposed, would consist of roughly an additional 13,500 square feet of floor area to the existing Museum (9786 West Pico Boulevard), including the following uses: approximately 5,800 square feet of additional space for the Cultural Resource Center; approximately 435 square feet of exhibit space; an approximately 2,340-square-foot café; approximately 1,645 square feet of additional kitchen space; approximately 1,585 square feet of multi-purpose space; approximately 865 square feet of additional bookstore space; and an approximately 830-square-foot waiting/preparation area. A 4,000-square-foot sculpture garden is also proposed, which may be enclosed or open to the sky. The proposed project would also include approximately 1,570 square feet of space for outdoor seating areas. The proposed project would also incorporate approximately 7,800 square feet of the adjacent building (9760 West Pico Boulevard) for exhibit and conference room space. The proposed project is seeking a change in the existing Museum operating hours, which are from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM currently, to 7:00 AM to 12:00 AM, which would allow for additional educational programs and events.

The project Applicant is requesting the following discretionary approvals as part of the proposed project: Zone Change and Height District Change on three R1-1 zoned lots to C4-2-O; General



Plan Amendment on three lots from Low Density designation to Neighborhood Commercial designation; Variance from Transitional Height Ordinance. In addition, the following three discretionary actions requested for the adjoining YOLA school property (9760 West Pico): Plan Approval to Modify CUP; Public Benefit Project for museum use; Tract map for airspace subdivision (VTM 66144); and any other ministerial or discretionary permits or approvals to allow for development of the project. A Zoning Administrator's Determination regarding Shared Parking at 1399 Roxbury Drive is also requested. Potentially, and as deemed necessary, additional entitlements may be requested in-lieu-of or in addition to the entitlements listed above. Such entitlements would not entail any physical or operational changes to the proposed project. The additional entitlements may include, but are not limited to: (a) a Plan Approval to extend CPC-86-015-CU and modify conditions of approval and other previous approved conditions; and (b) Zoning Administrator's determination to grant relief from height and area requirements associated with the proposed project.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project site is located at the southeast corner of Pico Boulevard and Roxbury Drive in the West Los Angeles community and encompasses the following addresses: 9786 West Pico Boulevard and 1414, 1420 and 1424 Roxbury Drive. The approximately 0.8-acre rectangular-shaped project site is comprised of four parcels (Assessor Parcel Numbers: 4307004009, 4307004002, 4307004003, and 4307004004). In addition, a request for Shared Parking involves the property located at 1399 Roxbury Drive. The Santa Monica Freeway (I-10) is located approximately 2.0 miles south of the project site, and the San Diego Freeway (I-405) is located approximately 2.5 miles west of the project site.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:** Aesthetics, Air Quality, Cultural Resources (Historic Resources) Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Emergency Access and Environmental Upset), Land Use Planning, Noise, Public Services (Police and Fire Services), and Transportation/Traffic.

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared and submitted to the Department of City Planning. The Environmental Review Section welcomes all comments regarding environmental impacts of the Project. **Written comments** must be submitted to this office by **April 19, 2008.**

Please direct your comments to:

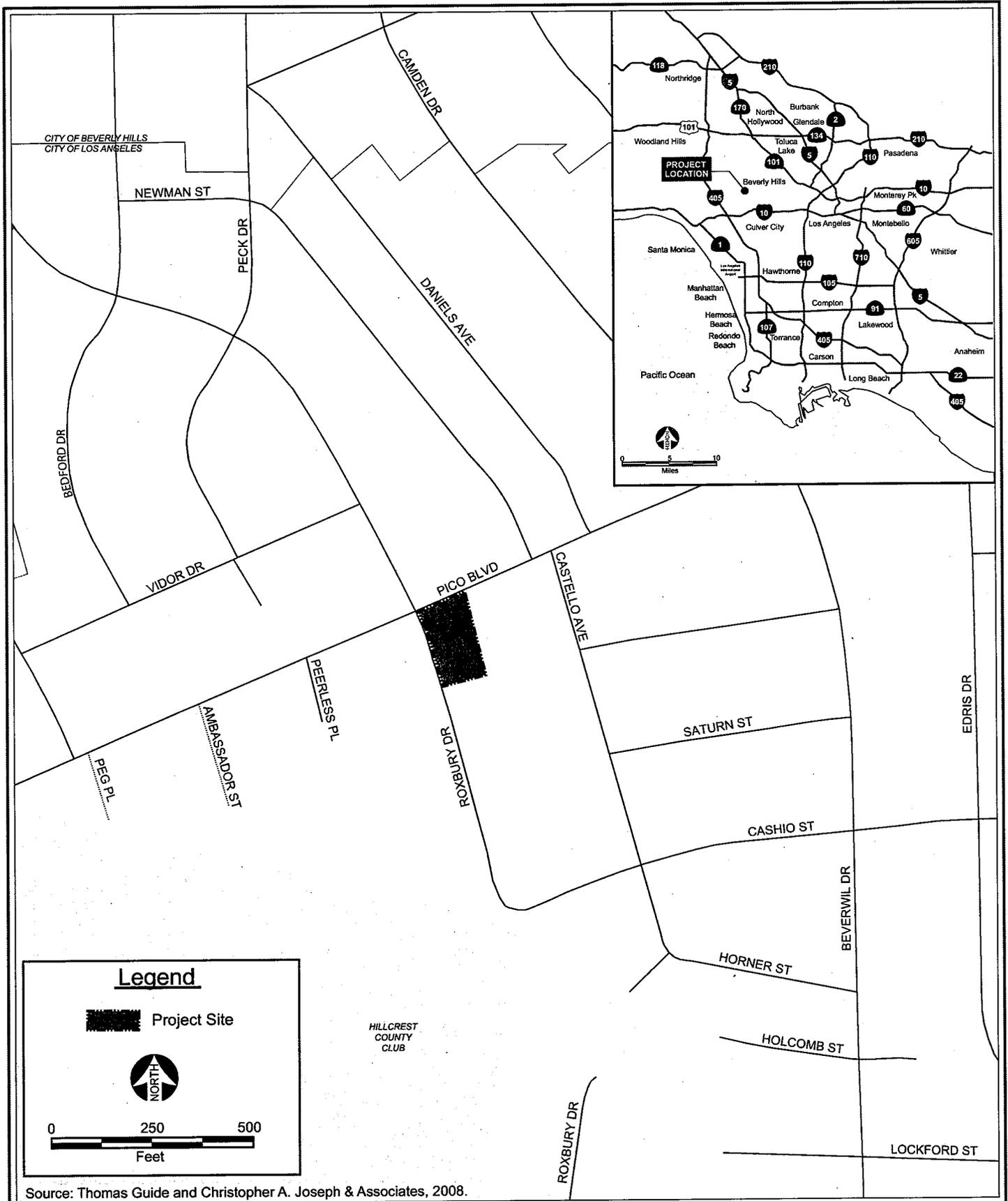
Diana Kitching  
Department of City Planning  
Environmental Review Section  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 750  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Email: [Diana.Kitching@lacity.org](mailto:Diana.Kitching@lacity.org)  
Fax: (213) 978-1343  
Phone: (213) 978-1351

S. Gail Goldberg, AICP  
Director

  
Diana Kitching  
Environmental Review Coordinator

Enclosures



**Legend**

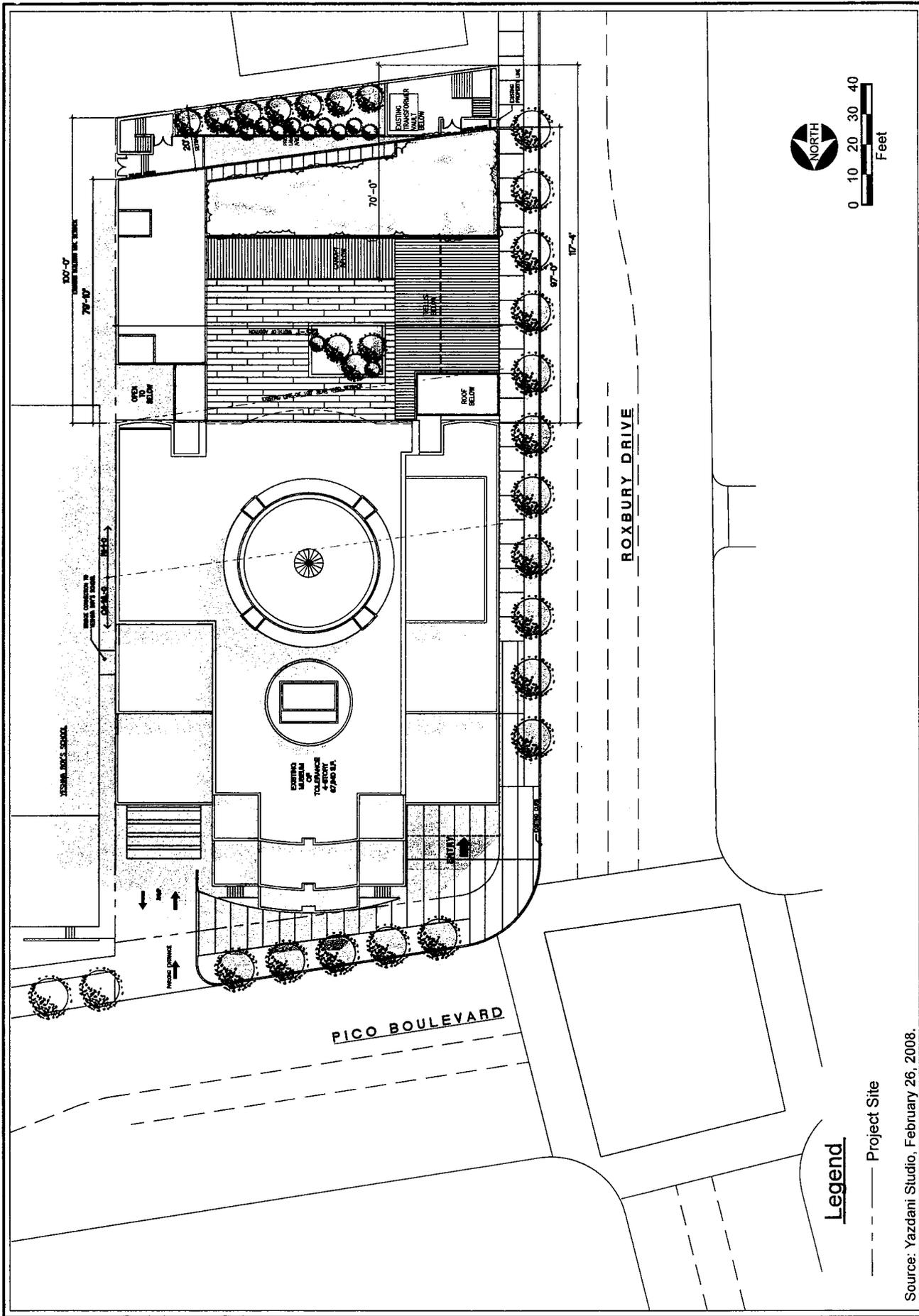
 Project Site

 NORTH

0 250 500  
Feet

Source: Thomas Guide and Christopher A. Joseph & Associates, 2008.

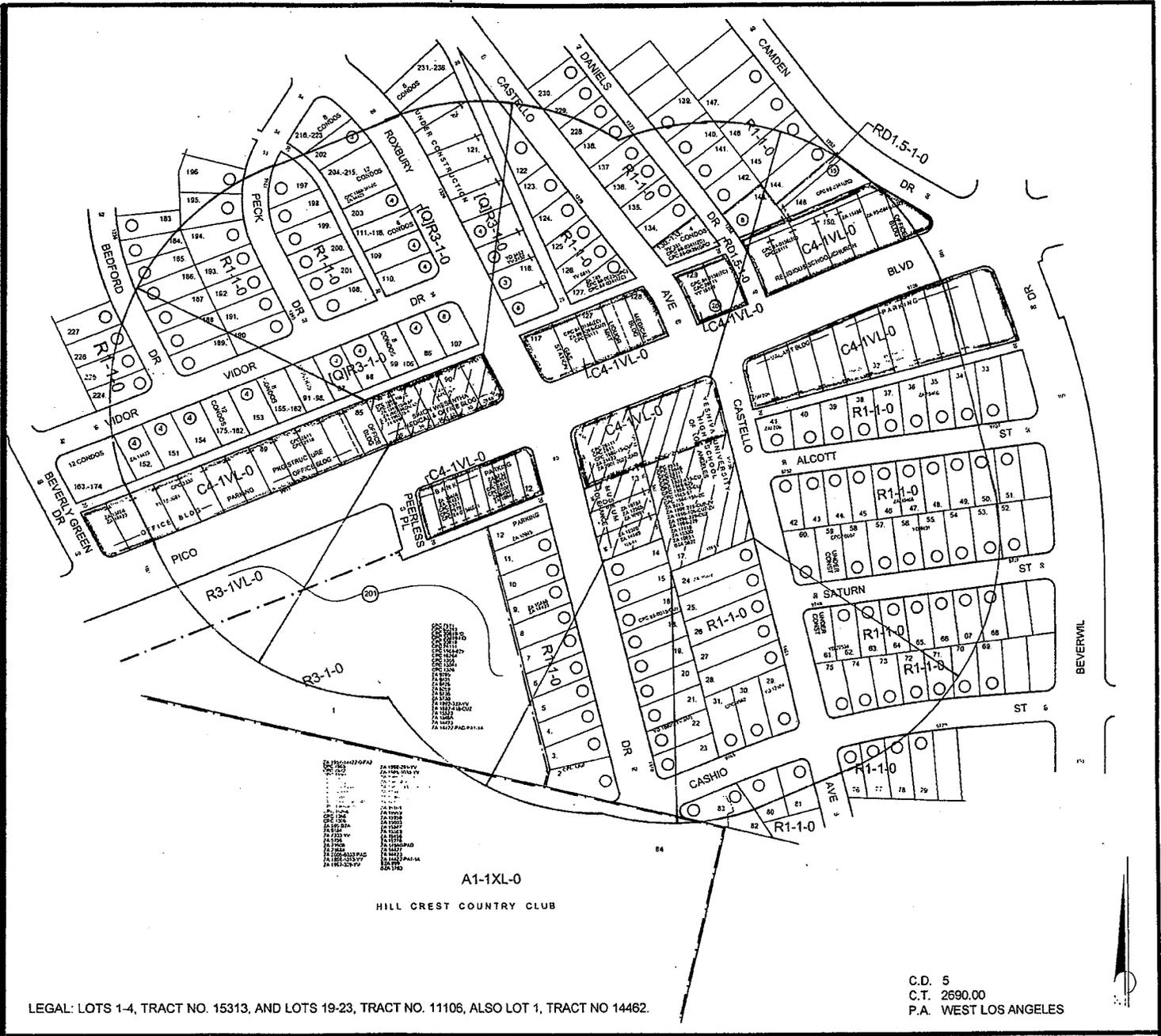
Figure 1  
Regional and Project Vicinity Map



Source: Yazdani Studio, February 26, 2008.

**CHRISTOPHER A. JOSEPH & ASSOCIATES**  
 Environmental Planning and Research

**Figure 2**  
 Site Plan



LEGAL: LOTS 1-4, TRACT NO. 15313, AND LOTS 19-23, TRACT NO. 11106, ALSO LOT 1, TRACT NO 14462.

C.D. 5  
 C.T. 2690.00  
 P.A. WEST LOS ANGELES

**GC MAPPING SERVICE, INC.**  
 3055 WEST VALLEY BOULEVARD  
 ALHAMBRA CA 91803  
 (626) 441-1080 FAX (626) 441-8850

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

2.75 NET AC.

CASE NO.  
 DATE: 02-26-2008  
 SCALE: 1" = 100' FIELD  
 USES FIELD  
 D.M. 129 B 185  
 132 A 165  
 T.B. PAGE: 632 GRID: F-4



March 20, 2008

Dear Neighbor:

As one of our neighbors, we wanted to let you know that the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) has begun an environmental review process for the proposed expansion of the Museum of Tolerance at 9786 West Pico Boulevard. Attached for your review is a copy of the Notice of Preparation from the City Planning Department informing the public that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for this proposed project.

SWC, with headquarters in Los Angeles, was established in 1977. Through its national and international offices, the organization fosters tolerance and understanding through community involvement, educational programs and social action. The Center's educational arm, the Museum of Tolerance, was opened in 1993 and hosts 350,000 visitors annually. The proposed new space is designed to meet the growing demand for the Museum's educational and cultural programs.

The purpose of the EIR is to examine the potential impacts that the proposed museum expansion may have on the surrounding community including traffic, noise, parking, shade and shadow, construction, and air quality.

The EIR will take several months to complete, and, during the process, you will have an opportunity to review the draft report and comment on it. The City will hold hearings to discuss the proposed project and the EIR and to provide an opportunity for you to voice your opinion.

Your views are important to the Museum. During the months to come we will continue to meet with community stakeholders to describe our proposed plans and discuss any issues of concern. We look forward to continuing our dialog.

Sincerely,

SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Burden", written over a horizontal line.

Susan Burden  
Chief Financial Officer  
Chief Administrative Officer