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Bureau of Planning

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**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)
FOR THE CLAREMONT HOTEL – CLUB EXPANSION AND
RESIDENTIAL PROJECT**

The City of Oakland's Planning and Building Department, Bureau of Planning, is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Claremont Hotel – Club Expansion and Residential Project (the project) as identified below, and is requesting comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR will address the potential physical, environmental effects that the project may have on each of the environmental topics outlined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City has **not** prepared an Initial Study.

The City of Oakland is the Lead Agency for the project and is the public agency with the greatest responsibility for approving the project or carrying it out. This notice is being sent to Responsible Agencies and other interested parties. Responsible Agencies are those public agencies, besides the City of Oakland, that also have a role in approving or carrying out the project. When the Draft EIR is published, it will be sent to all Responsible Agencies and to others who respond to this NOP or who otherwise indicate that they would like to receive a copy.

Responses to this NOP and any questions or comments should be directed in writing to or via email to: Ann Clevenger, City of Oakland, Bureau of Planning, 250 Frank H. Ogawa, Suite 2114 Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 238-6980 (phone); (510) 238-4730 (fax) or by e-mail at aclevenger@oaklandnet.com. Written comments on the NOP must be received at the above mailing or e-mail address **by 4:00 p.m. on July 6, 2016**. Please reference case number **ER16-010** in all correspondence.

In addition, comments may be provided at the EIR Scoping Meetings to be held before the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and the City Planning Commission.

All comments should focus on potential impacts on the physical environment, ways in which potential adverse effects might be minimized, and alternatives to the project in light of the EIR's purpose to provide useful and accurate information about such factors.

PUBLIC SCOPING HEARINGS:

The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board will conduct a public scoping hearing focusing on the Cultural Resource related aspects of the Draft EIR for the project on **Monday, June 13, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.** in Sgt. Mark Dunakin Hearing Room 1, City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA .

The City Planning Commission will conduct a public scoping hearing on the Draft EIR for the project on **Wednesday, July 6, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.** in Sgt. Mark Dunakin Hearing Room 1, City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA.

PROJECT TITLE: Claremont Hotel – Club Expansion and Residential Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is a portion of the properties that comprise the Claremont Hotel, Club and Spa, and is approximately 19.2 acres at 41 Tunnel Road, located primarily within the City of Oakland. A 0.24-acre portion of the site is located within the City of Berkeley; however, no new structures are proposed within Berkeley. The project site is situated at the base of the Claremont Hills, and as shown in Figure 1. It is generally bounded by Claremont Avenue, Domingo Avenue, Tunnel Road/State Route 13, the Berkeley Tennis Club, as well as Alvarado Road. The site is comprised of eleven parcels in the City of Oakland (Accessor Parcel Numbers [APN] 48H-7670-19, 48H-7670-20, 48H-7670-21, 48H-7670-22, 48H-7670-23, 48H-7670-24, 48H-7670-25, 48H-7670-27, 48H-7670-28-3, 64-4225-04, and 64-4225-05) and three parcels entirely within the City of Berkeley (APNs 48H-7670-26, 48H-7670-29-2, and 64-4226-24).

PROJECT SPONSOR: Claremont Hotel Properties, LP.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The Claremont Hotel, a designated City of Oakland Landmark, is located in the northern/central portion of the approximately 19.2-acre project site. No modifications are proposed to the hotel building, except for replacement of the existing porte cochère (which was added in the 1980s). Landscaping, pedestrian paths, and vehicle access driveways and parking areas surround the hotel. Landscaped lawns slope down from the hotel on the west, toward the surface parking lots and tennis courts. The northwest portion of the site is comprised of club facilities and a swimming pool complex. Surface parking and a fire access lane are located northeast and southeast of the hotel. Further northeast is a natural area, predominated by eucalyptus trees. The project site is accessible from two primary entrances: an entry from Tunnel Road and an entry from Russell Street and Domingo Avenue. The project site is located in a primarily residential area, with neighborhood serving commercial and retail uses located immediately across Domingo Avenue and Tunnel Road. The project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project entails the expansion and improvement of the subject property as summarized below, shown in Figure 2, and detailed in Table 1 below:

- **Site and Circulation Improvements** – At various locations throughout the site, realign site access, modify on-site circulation and parking, replace the existing porte cochère, and landscape improvements;
- **Club Expansion and Improvements** – At the northwest portion of the site, update and expand existing club facilities including both indoor and outdoor facilities; increase membership by 15 percent (up to 250 new members), from 1,600 to a maximum of 1,850 members; and
- **New Residential Units** – At the southeast portion of the site, construct a 43 unit for-sale residential building on existing surface parking lots and two single-family homes adjacent to the Tunnel Road entry to the site.

The proposed project would, in part, require modifications to the existing Conditional Use Permit, a Tentative Parcel Map to provide separate parcels for the residential uses, and Design Review for the new residential units. Variances also may be required.

Table 1: Summary of Existing Conditions and Proposed Project Uses and Facilities

Uses and Facilities	Existing	Proposed Project	Total with Project
Hotel Uses			
Hotel (Guest Rooms)	276	0	276
Residential Uses			
Residential Units	0	45 units	45 units
Residential Area ¹	0	70,000 sf	70,000 sf
Club Uses			
Club Members	1,600	250	1,850
Club Facilities	35,000 sf	6,000 sf	41,000 sf
Tennis Courts	10	0	10
Swimming Facilities	4 facilities (1 large pool, 1 lap pool, 1 kid's pool, 1 whirlpool)	1 new adult pool	5 total facilities
Other			
Parking Spaces	481	98 new spaces (30 for club/hotel use; minimum of 68 for residential use (1.5/unit))	579

Notes:

¹ Net saleable residential area.

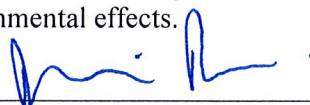
sf = square feet

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: It is anticipated that the project may have significant environmental impacts related to the following environmental topic areas, which will be evaluated in the Draft EIR: **Aesthetics, Air Quality, Historic Architectural Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use and Planning, Noise and Vibration, and Traffic and Transportation.** It is anticipated that the project will have no environmental impacts or not have significant environmental impacts on **Agriculture and Forest Resources, Biological Resources, Archeological and Paleontological Resources, Energy, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Shadow and Wind, and Utilities and Service Systems.** Nevertheless, these environmental factors will be analyzed in the Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR will also examine a reasonable range of alternatives to the project, including the CEQA-mandated No Project Alternative and other potential alternatives that may be capable of reducing or avoiding potential environmental effects.

May 31, 2016

File Number ER16-010

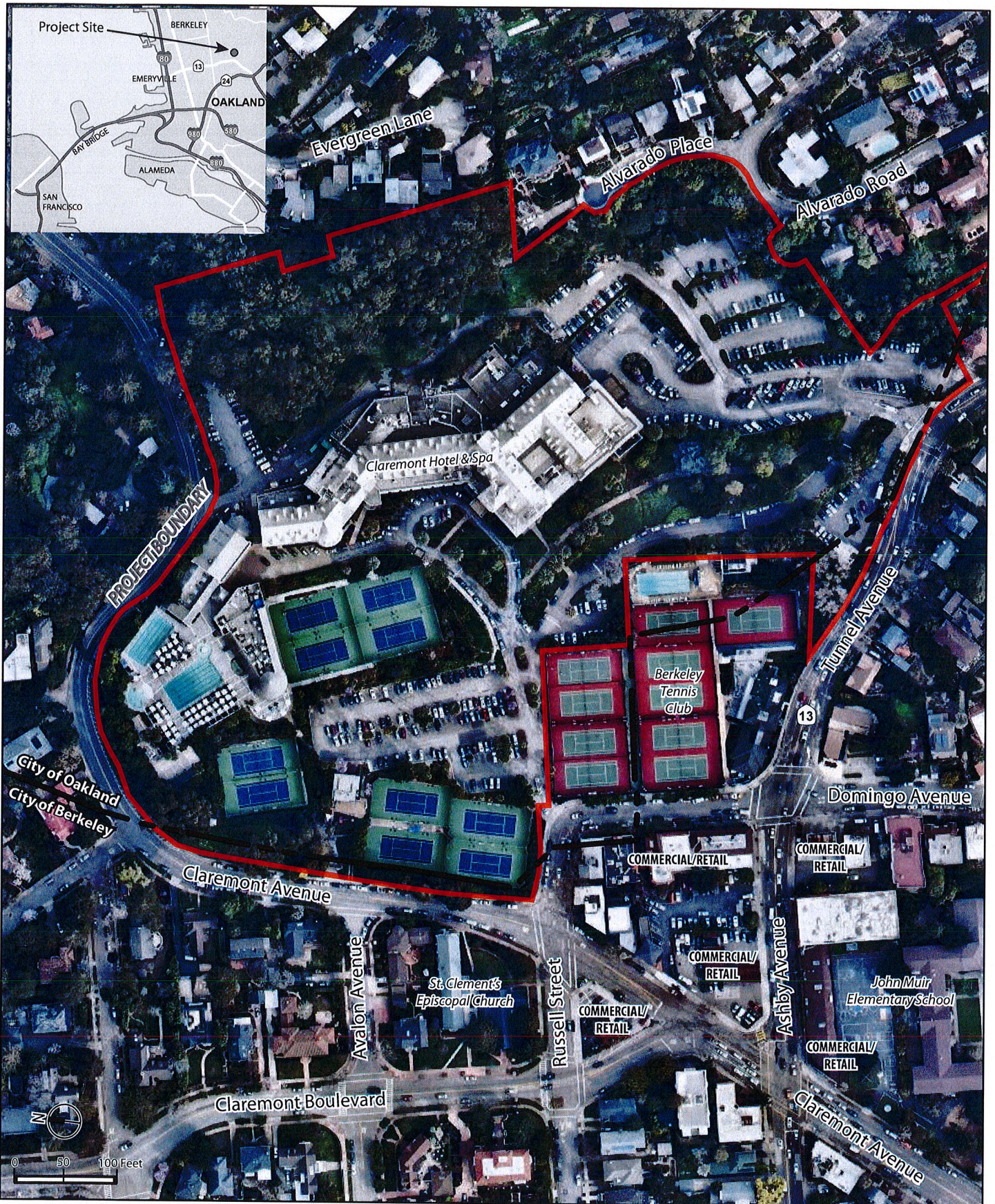


Darin Ranelletti
City of Oakland
Environmental Review Officer

Attachments:

Figure 1 Project Site

Figure 2 Proposed Project Site Plan



Source: <http://maps.us.nearmap.com>, 2016

Claremont Hotel – Club Expansion and Residential Project

Figure 1
Project Site

