

## CHAPTER 6. ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

### 6.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Section 15126.6(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires an EIR to “describe a reasonable range of alternatives to a project, or to the location of a project, which could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives.” This chapter discusses a range of alternatives to the proposed La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan (Master Plan), including alternative designs and a No Project/No Build Alternative. The State CEQA Guidelines provide the following guidance and direction for the discussion of alternatives to the project:

- “An EIR shall describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives.” (Section 15126.6(a))
- “Because an EIR must identify ways to mitigate or avoid the significant effects that a project may have on the environment (Public Resources Code Section 21002.1), the discussion of alternatives shall focus on alternatives to the project or its location which are capable of avoiding or substantially lessening any significant effects of the project, even if these alternatives would impede to some degree the attainment of the project objectives, or would be more costly.” (Section 15126.6(b))
- “The EIR shall include sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the project. A matrix displaying the major characteristics and significant environmental effects of each alternative may be used to summarize the comparison.” (Section 15126.6(d))
- “The specific alternative of “no project” shall also be evaluated along with its impact. The purpose of describing and analyzing a no project alternative is to allow decisionmakers to compare the impacts of approving the project with the impacts of not approving the project.” (Section 15126.6(e))
- “The alternatives shall be limited to ones that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. Of those alternatives, the EIR need examine in detail only the ones that the lead agency determines could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project.” (Section 15126.6(f))
- “Only [alternative] locations that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project need be considered for inclusion in the EIR.” (Section 15126.6(f)(2)(A))

CEQA does not prescribe fixed rules governing the type or number of alternatives to a project that should be analyzed in an EIR; the nature of alternatives varies depending on the context of the project being analyzed. As expressed by the California Supreme Court: “CEQA establishes no categorical legal imperative as to the scope of alternatives to be analyzed in an EIR. Each case must be evaluated on its facts, which in turn must be reviewed in light of the statutory purpose” (*Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors* (1990) 52 Cal.3d 553, 564).

Under these principles, an EIR needs to describe and evaluate only those alternatives necessary to permit a reasonable choice and “to foster meaningful public participation and informed decision making” (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6[f]). The range of alternatives required in an EIR is governed by a “rule of reason” that requires an EIR to set forth only those alternatives necessary to permit a reasoned

choice (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6 [f]). An EIR need not consider every conceivable alternative to a project. Alternatives may be eliminated from detailed consideration in the EIR if they fail to meet most of the basic project objectives, are not feasible, and/or do not avoid or substantially lessen any significant environmental effects (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6[c]).

CEQA does not require the alternatives to be evaluated at the same level of detail as the project. Rather, the discussion of alternatives must include sufficient information about each alternative to allow “meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the proposed project” (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6[d]).

Given the CEQA mandates listed above, this section: 1) describes the alternatives selection process; 2) describes the range of reasonable alternatives to the project, including the No Project/No Build Alternative; 3) examines and evaluates resource issue areas where significant adverse environmental effects have been identified and compares the impacts of the alternatives to those of the project; and 4) identifies the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

## 6.2 ALTERNATIVES SELECTION

In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, appropriate alternatives for EIR analysis are those that meet most of the basic project objectives and avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant environmental effects of the project. Consequently, this section provides a summary of the project components, reviews the objectives that were identified for the project, and identifies the significant environmental impacts of the project.

### 6.2.1 Project Summary

As described in detail in Chapter 3, Project Description, the project would result in a reimagined site design, expansion, and upgrades for the La Brea Tar Pits complex and the 13-acre portion of Hancock Park, including renovations to the George C. Page Museum (Page Museum). Table 6-1 provides a summary of the project components.

**Table 6-1. Project Components Summary**

Project Component	Description
Page Museum Renovations	Renovate existing building within the same footprint (approximately 63,200 square feet).
New Museum Building	Construct a new two-story, 40,000-square foot (sf) museum building northwest of the Page Museum, including two new theaters. The construction of the new museum building would require the removal of vegetation in the footprint of the new building.
Wilshire Gateway	Renovate the existing entrance to La Brea Tar Pits at Wilshire Boulevard and South Curson Avenue with shaded canopy and new welcome pavilion.
6th Street Gateway	Renovate the existing entrance at the northwest corner of West 6th Street and the entrance to the LACMA service drive with shaded canopy and new welcome pavilion.
Tar Pit Renovations (Pits 3, 4, 9, 13, 61, 67, and 91; Project 23)	Renovate the existing facilities at all the tar pits in the northwestern portion of the project site. These renovations would require the removal and replacement of some vegetation, although the exact amount and nature of the vegetation removal and enhancements has not been determined at the time of this report.
Pedestrian Path and Recreation Areas	Reconfigure the existing pedestrian pathways on-site into a continuous paved pedestrian path linking existing features on the project site. Provide improvements to the Central Green. Establish a children's play area, picnic areas, and a possible future small dog park west of the 6th Street Gateway.

Project Component	Description
Circulation and Parking	<p>Relocate the parking lot approximately 50 to 70 feet to the north. This would require removal and relocation of existing trees on-site. The size of the parking lot (63,000 square feet) and the number of parking spaces would not change. The shifting of the parking lot on the northern side of the project site may require removal or relocation of the trees between the existing parking lot and West 6th Street. If these trees need to be removed or relocated, they would be either moved to another location within the 13-acre project site or replaced elsewhere within the project site.</p> <p>Add new landscaping and vehicle access lanes to the parking lot.</p> <p>Establish a new school drop-off/loading area approximately 215 to 230 feet long on South Curson Avenue adjacent to the Wilshire Gateway picnic area.</p>
Landscaping	<p>Establish three distinct landscaping zones encircled by a looping pedestrian path.</p> <p>More than 330 trees are currently on the project site. The project would require removal and replacement and/or relocation of between 150 and 200 trees. The planting strategy includes the planting (introduction or relocation) of a similar number of trees as would be removed. It is <del>preliminarily</del> <u>estimated</u> that <u>up to</u> 10% of the 150 to 200 trees to be removed would be relocated rather than replaced.</p> <p>Create three biofiltration areas for stormwater management.</p>

## 6.2.2 Project Objectives

As described in Chapter 3, Project Description, the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, as a departmental unit of the County of Los Angeles (County), and the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Foundation (Foundation) have identified the following objectives for the project:

1. Renovate and expand the existing museum structure to address deferred maintenance of the building envelope and systems, to meet modern seismic, electrical, building code standards, and universal design standards, and to meet sustainability goals consistent with the County's sustainability plan (County of Los Angeles 2019; County of Los Angeles 2024).
2. Provide expanded collections storage facilities that enable access for scientific research, and preserve, protect, and allow future growth of the museum's world-class collections.
3. Provide expanded state-of-the-art laboratory research facilities to accommodate internationally significant and advanced research in paleontology.
4. Provide state-of-the-art exhibition facilities and learning environments within the park and museum to enrich the visitor experience and to support active educational and public programming.
5. Improve access and entry for different visitor types, increase connections between the museum and the park, as well as support increased visitation, special events, and revenue-producing amenities within the park and museum.
6. Expand the museum exhibits, educational classrooms, collection spaces, offices, and laboratory research facilities in one unified, cohesive facility, with the fewest impacts to historical resources possible.
7. Create a central entrance to the museum facilities to enhance the visitor experience of the museum and Hancock Park.
8. Preserve and protect the National Natural Landmark—La Brea Tar Pits—to allow access for future research and excavation, support cultural and educational interpretation, and enable the ongoing natural processes of the asphaltic seeps.
9. Redesign and renovate the Hancock Park community park green space as an expression of the goals of the County of Los Angeles's General Plan Conservation and Natural Resources Element

and the City of Los Angeles's Open Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan, to increase sustainable landscape and site design, to support passive recreational use, to increase the legibility of this important cultural destination, and to enhance connections to the quickly evolving Miracle Mile neighborhood.

## 6.2.3 Significant Impacts Resulting from the Project

Alternatives to be considered under CEQA are those that would avoid or substantially lessen one or more of the significant environmental effects identified during evaluation of the project. The environmental impact issue areas described in Chapter 5, Environmental Impact Analysis, were determined to be potentially significant but could be reduced to less than significant through the implementation of mitigation measures. ~~Three~~ For the proposed project, three impacts were found to be significant and unavoidable after implementation of the feasible mitigation measures. A summary of impacts identified for the project by issue area is provided in Table 6-2.

**Table 6-2. Summary of Impacts Resulting from the Project**

Environmental Resource	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact
Aesthetics		X	
Agriculture and Forestry Resources*			X
Air Quality		X	
Biological Resources		X	
Cultural Resources – Archaeological Resources		X	
Cultural Resources – Historical Resources	X		
Energy*			X
Geology and Soils		X	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions		X	
Hazards and Hazardous Materials		X	
Hydrology and Water Quality		X	
Land Use and Planning	X		
Mineral Resources*			X
Noise and Vibration		X	
Population and Housing*			X
Public Services*			X
Recreation		X	
Transportation	X		
Tribal Cultural Resources		X	
Utilities and Service Systems		X	
Wildfire*			X

\* Based on the evaluation in Section 7.5, Environmental Effects Found Not to be Significant, the County determined that the project would not result in significant impacts related to agricultural and forestry resources, energy, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and wildfire. Issues evaluated in Section 7.5, Environmental Effects Found Not to be Significant. Based on preliminary analysis and discussions with the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Foundation, it was determined that the project would not result in significant impacts related to agricultural and forestry resources, energy, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and wildfire.

As mentioned, the project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to historical resources, land use and planning, and transportation. Each identified significant and unavoidable impact and the reason for the significance determination is provided in Table 6-3.

**Table 6-3. Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Resulting from the Project**

Environmental Issue Area	Impact	Reason for Significance Determination
Cultural Resources – Historical Resources	<p><b>CR-HIST Impact 1:</b> As a result of project construction, the project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Historical Resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Specifically, the project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of two identified historical resources: the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the George C. Page Museum. Construction impacts would be significant. Project operation would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of historic resources pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. No operational impacts would occur.</p>	<p><b>Significant and unavoidable.</b> The proposed alterations to the Page Museum during project construction would compromise its historic integrity to the point that the historical resource would no longer convey the reasons for its significance. In addition, the project construction would result in a comprehensive redesign of Hancock Park, which would erode and interrupt the eclectic but cohesive character-defining features of this historic district such that it would no longer convey the reasons for its significance as a California Register of Historical Resources- and locally eligible historic district. The loss of eligibility for the resource represents material impairment and an impact on the environment. Construction impacts would be significant.</p> <p>While implementation of project Mitigation Measures CR-HIST/mm-1.1 through CR-HIST/mm-1.5 would reduce impacts, the project would alter these resources in such a way that they would no longer convey the reasons for their significance within the parameters of the design and key features envisioned in the Master Plan. There are no mitigation measures that would reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels while meeting the project objectives and keeping the primary elements of the Master Plan; therefore, construction impacts of the project would remain <i>significant and unavoidable</i> after mitigation.</p>
Land Use and Planning	<p><b>LUP Impact 2:</b> Implementation of the project would result in the alteration of designated historical resources and would be potentially inconsistent with the objectives, goals, and policies of the County's General Plan Conservation and Natural Resources Element, the City's General Plan Conservation Element, and the Wilshire Community Plan as they pertain to the protection of designated historical resources.</p>	<p><b>Significant and unavoidable.</b> The project would result in the alteration of designated historical resources, the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the Page Museum, which is inconsistent with the objectives, goals, and policies of the County's General Plan Conservation and Natural Resources Element, the City's Conservation Element, and the Wilshire Community Plan as they pertain to the protection of designated historical resources (County of Los Angeles 2015, City of Los Angeles 2001a, 2001b). While implementation of project Mitigation Measures CRHIST/mm-1.1 through CR-HIST/mm-1.5 would reduce impacts, the project would alter these resources in such a way that they would no longer convey the reasons for their significance within the parameters of the design and key features envisioned in the Master Plan. There are no mitigation measures that would reduce these impacts to less than significant while meeting the project objectives and keeping the primary elements of the Master Plan; therefore, impacts of the project would remain significant and unavoidable after implementation of the recommendations, creating inconsistencies with the applicable land use objectives, goals, and policies set forth in the County of Los Angeles General Plan, the City of Los Angeles General Plan, and the Wilshire Community Plan. Impacts would remain <i>significant and unavoidable</i>.</p>

Environmental Issue Area	Impact	Reason for Significance Determination
Transportation	<b>TRA-Impact 2:</b> Operation of the project would result in a net increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and would result in a substantial increase in VMT.	<b>Significant and unavoidable.</b> The project would result in an average visitor trip length that is higher than the average recreation trip length. Visitor travel trips to the museum are approximately 196% longer than the average recreation trip in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Given that museum visitor trips are longer than regional recreation trip lengths, additional visitor trips to the project site due to implementation of the project would result in a net increase in total VMT. While the project's mitigation measure TRA/mm-1.1 would aim to reduce employee and visitor VMT and support multimodal connectivity, it may be insufficient to reduce VMT to less-than-significant levels and there are no additional feasible mitigation measures to reduce the impact. Therefore, operation of the project would result in a substantial increase in VMT and would remain <i>significant and unavoidable</i> after mitigation.

Note: The LUP Impact 2 is a consistency analysis of the applicable land use plans, policies, and regulations, and considers the holistic impacts associated with implementation of the project; it does not provide separate construction and operation analyses or conclusions.

As stated in Chapter 7, Other CEQA Considerations, the project would not result in significant impacts related to agricultural and forestry resources, energy, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and wildfire based on preliminary analysis and discussions with the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Foundation. Therefore, the analysis of these issue areas is not presented in Chapter 5, Environmental Impact Analysis. All alternatives carried forward for analysis in this section would occur on the same project site and impacts on these resource areas would be similar or less than those of the project. Therefore, these resource topics are not discussed further in this alternatives analysis.

## 6.2.4 Alternatives Development and Analysis Process

In defining the feasibility of alternatives, the State CEQA Guidelines provide that: “Among the factors that may be taken into account when addressing the feasibility of alternatives are site suitability, economic viability, availability of infrastructure, general plan consistency, other plans or regulatory limitations, jurisdictional boundaries (projects with a regionally significant impact should consider the regional context), and whether the proponent can reasonably acquire, control or otherwise have access to the alternative site.” If an alternative was found to be infeasible, as defined above, then it was dropped from further consideration in this analysis.

In addition, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6 states that alternatives should “...attain most of the basic objectives of the project...”. As further explained by the California Supreme Court:

*“[A]n EIR should not exclude an alternative from detailed consideration merely because it ‘would impede to some degree the attainment of the project objectives.’ But an EIR need not study in detail an alternative that is infeasible or that the lead agency has reasonably determined cannot achieve the project’s underlying fundamental purpose . . .*

*Although a lead agency may not give a project’s purpose an artificially narrow definition, a lead agency may structure its EIR alternative analysis around a reasonable definition of underlying purpose and need not study alternatives that cannot achieve that basic goal.” (In re Bay-Delta Programmatic Environmental Impact Report Coordinated Proceedings, 43 Cal.4th 1143, 1165-1166 [2008]).*

The alternatives analysis began with screening and evaluating a list of preliminary alternatives to determine which alternatives would be selected for further analysis in the EIR. To maximize the range of alternatives considered and provide flexibility during project approval, the EIR evaluated four variations of the project aimed at reducing the significant and unavoidable impacts related to historical resources and land use and planning. In addition, the explored alternatives were examined for their ability to reduce the project's significant but mitigated environmental impacts related to the following: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural archaeological resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, noise and vibration, transportation, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems.

Each of the identified alternatives was preliminarily assessed to determine which of the alternatives met the requirements of a viable alternative under CEQA by considering whether the alternative: 1) would be feasible, 2) would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and 3) could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project.

The alternatives that met the three requirements of a viable alternative under CEQA (listed above) were carried forward for a more detailed review in the EIR.

## **6.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED**

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(c) requires that an EIR disclose potential alternatives that were considered and eliminated along with a brief explanation of the reason for elimination. Factors used to eliminate alternatives from detailed consideration include: 1) failure to meet most of the basic project objectives, 2) infeasibility, and/or 3) inability to avoid significant environmental impacts.

The alternatives discussed in the following sections were considered but eliminated from further analysis.

### **6.3.1 Alternative Projects from the Design Competition**

Three preliminary conceptual approaches to developing a master plan for La Brea Tar Pits were made public in August 2019. The concepts were presented at the end of a design competition process that started in early 2019. The designs were prepared by three multidisciplinary teams led by architectural firms. All three of the designs envisioned creating a more robust and engaging visitor experience while enhancing La Brea Tar Pits as a destination and cultural hub through expanded museum, research, and exhibition space; providing an integrated experience of the museum and Hancock Park; increasing community access; and developing more sustainable infrastructure.

The designs were evaluated through an open public process where the Museum of Natural History and the Foundation sought public input and response to the submitted designs. In addition, to support the selection process, a competition jury of leading figures from the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, design, science, natural history, and the arts was assembled to contribute to the decision-making process. The result was the selection of Weiss/Manfredi's design as the concept to further advance. The resulting Master Plan (Weiss/Manfredi 2023) is the proposed project evaluated in this EIR.

As evaluated in Section 5.5, Cultural Resources – Historical Resources, the Page Museum is a historical resource pursuant to CEQA. In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines and 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15126.4(b)(1), projects that conform with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (*Secretary's Standards*; Weeks and Grimmer 2001) generally avoid significant impacts and material impairment to historical resources.

The two design concepts that were eliminated would have resulted in far more extreme impacts to the Page Museum than the design concept considered in the Master Plan, including the following major alterations and removal of key character-defining features of the Page Museum:

- Both designs that were eliminated from further consideration removed the existing berms on the west and north elevations of the museum site and replaced with other lawn features that are not consistent with the original lawn area design that currently integrates with the Page Museum structure and is a significant design feature of this portion of Hancock Park.
- The indoor-outdoor integration provided by the open roof, podium, and central atrium of the Page Museum was removed in both designs by adding a roof structure. While the designs integrated natural elements and landscaping (e.g., a rooftop garden), neither of the two eliminated designs maintained the open roof concept of the existing Page Museum.
- Both designs that were eliminated from further consideration either removed or enclosed the Pleistocene-era frieze in the museum building. Neither of the rejected designs retained the frieze as an outdoor element of the museum. The visual prominence of the frieze is one of the key character-defining features of the museum.
- In both eliminated designs, the existing Page Museum was largely replaced with a new, larger museum structure. While meeting the Museum of Natural History's and the Foundation's objective to expand the museum exhibits, collections, offices, and laboratory research facilities into one unified, cohesive facility, both designs did so with extensive impacts to the existing Page Museum, including modifications that could be seen as a full removal and/or replacement of the existing Page Museum. The replacement of the Page Museum with a new museum building would result in material impairment to the Page Museum through its demolition.

While the proposed Master Plan also impacts key character-defining features of the existing Page Museum, the degree of the significant impacts is not as extreme as the two designs that were eliminated. The two eliminated designs did not meet the project objectives to the same degree as the proposed project, nor would they avoid significant environmental impacts. On the contrary, the historical impacts of the two eliminated designs would be more significant than those of the proposed project. For these reasons, these two alternatives were removed from the environmental review process for the Master Plan.

### **6.3.2 Alternative Location**

CEQA requires that the discussion of alternatives focus on alternatives to the project or its location that can avoid or substantially lessen any significant effects on the project. The key question and first step in the analysis is whether any of the significant effects of the project would be avoided or substantially lessened by putting the project in another location. Only locations that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project need to be considered for inclusion in the EIR (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126[5][B][1]). In addition, an alternative site need not be considered when implementation is "remote and speculative," such as when the alternative site is beyond the control of a project proponent.

La Brea Tar Pits, the Page Museum, and associated facilities have been in operation since 1977 and represent an established paleontological research site located within Hancock Park and the Miracle Mile neighborhood in the city of Los Angeles. The underlying purpose of the project is to renovate and expand the existing museum and associated facilities to provide enhanced space for fossil storage, laboratory research, exhibition and learning environments, and passive recreational opportunities, all of which are intended to preserve and protect the project site's National Natural Landmark designation (California State Parks 2022). The unique underlying geological features and history of the project site are what make the site scientifically valuable and justify the location of the Page Museum and associated scientific



facilities on-site; therefore, developing the project in an alternative location would not meet the basic project objectives. Further, there are no suitable alternate locations within control of the County or the Foundation, nor could other land be acquired that would contain the same unique environmental characteristics as those at the project site. It is possible that elements of the Master Plan could be recreated on a different site if one were available under the control of the County or the Foundation, and implementing the project in a different location could potentially lessen the project's significant and unavoidable impacts. However, given the nature of the project, the characteristics of the project site, and the intent of project objectives, it would be impractical and infeasible to propose an alternative location for the project. Therefore, consideration of an alternative location has not been further considered in the EIR.

Similarly, an alternative location for the Page Museum expansion—one that would avoid changes to the site design and berm surrounding the Page Museum—was rejected from further consideration. Among the project objectives are an expansion of the museum exhibits, collections, offices, and laboratory research facilities in one unified, cohesive facility, and the creation of a central entrance to the museum facilities to enhance the visitor experience of the museum and Hancock Park. A separate annex to the Page Museum would not meet these key project objectives, and therefore an alternative location was rejected for further consideration in this EIR.

## 6.4 ALTERNATIVES IMPACTS ANALYSIS

In this section, the environmental impacts of the alternatives carried forward for review in the EIR, including the No Project/No Build Alternative, are compared against the impacts of the project for each environmental issue discussed in Chapter 5, Environmental Impacts Analysis. Other than the No Project/No Build Alternative, only alternatives that can achieve the fundamental purpose and basic goals of the project are addressed in this section, consistent with relevant case law (*Bay-Delta Programmatic Environmental Impact Report Coordinated Proceedings* [2008] 43 Cal.4th 1143, 1165).

The following project alternatives are considered and evaluated in this section:

- No Project/No Build Alternative
- Alternative 1: Renovate Page Museum Only
- Alternative 2: Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden
- Refined Alternative 3: Adjust Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green

Each of the project alternatives is described in further detail in this chapter. A description of each scenario, its ability to meet the project objectives, and analyses of impacts with regard to each environmental resource area are provided for each alternative.

In addition, a significance determination is made about each alternative for each issue area, and a basis for that determination is provided. The determination of comparative impacts used the following criteria:

- **Similar:** Impacts would be identical or would be of the same general extent and severity as the impacts associated with the project; therefore, the significance determination would be the same.
- **Increased:** New potentially significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the impacts associated with the project would occur; therefore, the significance determination would be greater.

- **Decreased:** Potentially significant impacts would be avoided or a substantial reduction in the severity of the impacts associated with the project would occur; therefore, the significance determination would be reduced.

For the comparison of the alternatives to the project, the impact is considered prior to the application or implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 5 of this EIR. All of the issue areas considered in Chapter 5 (e.g., aesthetics, air quality, biological resources) are considered in this chapter. In addition, several environmental effects that were scoped out of the detailed analysis in this EIR are addressed in Chapter 7 (e.g., agricultural and forestry resources, mineral resources). In consideration of the alternatives analysis, none of the alternatives discussed in this chapter would have a considerable impact to the environmental topics addressed in Chapter 7. This is either because these environmental resources addressed in Chapter 7 are not present on the site (i.e., forestry resources, mineral resources) or because the alternatives addressed in this section are either the same or a lesser density to the proposed project and/or would have similar project operations. For instance, none of the alternatives discussed in this chapter would measurably change effects to public services or energy when compared to the proposed project.

A comparison of the environmental impacts resulting from each considered alternative and the project is provided later in this chapter, along with the discussion of the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

### **6.4.1 No Project/No Build Alternative**

Section 15126.6(e) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires analysis of the No Project/No Build Alternative. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, the No Project/No Build Alternative for a development project on an identifiable property consists of the circumstance under which the project does not proceed as provided by Section 15126.6(e)(3)(B) of the State CEQA Guidelines. Section 15126.6(e)(3)(B) provides that, “In certain instances, the no project alternative means ‘no build’ wherein the existing environmental setting is maintained.” As stated in Section 15126.6(e)(2), “The ‘no project’ analysis shall discuss the existing conditions at the time the notice of preparation is published, or if no notice of preparation is published, at the time environmental analysis is commenced, as well as what would be reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the project were not approved, based on current plans and consistent with available infrastructure and community services.”

In the No Project/No Build Alternative, implementation of the project would not occur and the existing project site and its physical conditions would generally remain as they are in their current state. This includes the majority of Hancock Park and the structures within the project boundary, including the Page Museum; therefore, these features would resemble existing conditions. Ongoing maintenance and minor upgrades to address necessary improvements, as required, would continue to occur and are considered to be part of the existing operational conditions. Site elements including the surface parking lot, maintenance areas, amphitheater, landscaping, and pathways would all remain. Site access for visitors, loading, maintenance vehicles, and the fire department would remain in its current configuration.

#### **6.4.1.1 Relationship to Project Objectives**

The No Project/No Build Alternative would meet one of the project objectives. Table 6-4 outlines this alternative’s ability to attain the basic project objectives outlined above and in Chapter 3, Project Description.

**Table 6-4. Attainment of Project Objectives—No Project/No Build Alternative**

Project Objective	Does the Alternative Attain the Project Objective?
Renovate and expand the existing museum structure to address deferred maintenance of the building envelope and systems, to meet modern seismic, electrical, building code standards, and universal design standards, and to meet sustainability goals consistent with the County's sustainability plan (County of Los Angeles 2019).	<b>No.</b> This alternative would not involve the renovation or expansion of the Page Museum. It would not address deferred maintenance, or the necessary upgrades required to bring the Page Museum up to current building code standards. This alternative would not result in any changes to the project site to further the sustainability goals of the County's sustainability plan.
Provide expanded collections storage facilities that enable access for scientific research, and preserve, protect, and allow future growth of the museum's world-class collections.	<b>No.</b> This alternative would maintain the existing fossil storage, maintenance, and service facilities along the northern boundary of the project site and would not expand or construct new fossil storage or support buildings on-site. The existing exhibition galleries and collections storage areas are largely inflexible which present programmatic and spatial limitations, challenging the museum's ability to adapt and allow for future growth in exhibition, education, research, and collections storage.
Provide expanded state-of-the-art laboratory research facilities to accommodate internationally significant and advanced research in paleontology.	<b>No.</b> This alternative would not include renovating or expanding the Page Museum to provide for expanded laboratory research facilities. These on-site facilities would remain as they are under current conditions.
Provide state-of-the-art exhibition facilities and learning environments within the park and museum to enrich the visitor experience and to support active educational and public programming.	<b>No.</b> This alternative would not include expanding the Page Museum to provide space for additional exhibitions, facilities, or enhanced learning environments. This alternative would not expand museum programming; it would remain as is under current conditions. In addition, museum-related exhibits and facilities located within Hancock Park (i.e., tar pits and viewing locations) would remain as they are under current conditions.
Improve access and entry for different visitor types, increase connections between the museum and the park, as well as support increased visitation, special events, and revenue-producing amenities within the park and museum.	<b>No.</b> This alternative would not alter the existing entrances to the project site, nor would this alternative modify any existing pathways or accessways. The Central Green would be maintained as is under current conditions.
Expand the museum exhibits, educational classrooms, collection spaces, offices, and laboratory research facilities in one unified, cohesive facility, with the fewest impacts to historical resources possible.	<b>No.</b> This alternative would retain the existing Page Museum as is under current conditions and would not include the addition of expanded museum facilities; however, this alternative would limit impacts to historical resources. Regardless, this alternative would not meet this objective of providing expanded museum facilities.
Create a central entrance to the museum facilities to enhance the visitor experience of the museum and Hancock Park.	<b>No.</b> In this alternative, the existing museum entrance would remain, and no additional museum facilities or buildings would be constructed.
Preserve and protect the National Natural Landmark—La Brea Tar Pits—to allow access for future research and excavation, support cultural and educational interpretation, and enable the ongoing natural processes of the asphaltic seeps.	<b>Yes.</b> The National Natural Landmarks program seeks to encourage the identification, study, designation, recognition, and preservation of nationally significant ecological and geological resources that reflect the nation's natural heritage (including paleontological/fossil-based resources). This alternative would not result in physical changes or modifications to the project that would change its scientific or historical value, nor impact the current research or programming occurring on the project site. As such, La Brea Tar Pits would continue to be recognized and protected as a National Natural Landmark.
Redesign and renovate the Hancock Park community park green space as an expression of the goals of the County of Los Angeles's General Plan Conservation and Natural Resources Element and the City of Los Angeles's Open Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan, to increase sustainable landscape and site design, to support passive recreational use, to increase the legibility of this important cultural destination, and to enhance connections to the quickly evolving Miracle Mile neighborhood.	<b>No.</b> This alternative would maintain the Central Green as it is under current conditions and would continue to allow for passive recreational uses within this multi-purpose lawn area of Hancock Park; however, it would not include changes to the current landscaping scheme other than actively maintaining current conditions on-site nor would it involve enhancements that increase connections or further promote the importance of the project site as a cultural destination within the Miracle Mile neighborhood.

### **6.4.1.2 Comparison of Significant Effects of the Alternative to the Project**

The No Project/No Build Alternative would not implement the project. No project-related construction activities would occur, and there would be no changes to the existing land use types or operational characteristics of the project site. Ongoing maintenance and minor upgrades to address necessary improvements, as required, would continue to occur as they do under existing conditions.

The No Project/No Build Alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts for the environmental issue areas examined in this EIR as the project would not be implemented. Cumulative impacts are not discussed further for the No Project/No Build Alternative.

#### **AESTHETICS**

In the No Project/No Build Alternative, the project would not be implemented, and the existing museum building and associated facilities would remain as they are under current conditions. As such, views of, and from, the project site would remain unchanged. This alternative would not have a substantial effect on a scenic vista or damage scenic resources within a State Scenic Highway, as no such resources have been identified within the vicinity of the project site and no change to the existing visual character of the project site and surroundings would occur. This alternative would avoid the project's potential to result in changes to or the addition of new sources of light and glare on the project site and would not require the project's mitigation measures related to this topic.

Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to aesthetics would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

#### **AIR QUALITY**

The No Project/No Build Alternative would not facilitate the renovation or redesign of the project site and no construction activities associated with these improvements would occur. In addition, there would be no changes to the operational characteristics of the project site in this alternative. Given this, this alternative would not conflict with an applicable air quality plan, generate short- or long-term criteria pollutant emissions in exceedance of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) significance thresholds, expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of pollutant emissions, or result in adverse odors or other emissions.

Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to air quality would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

#### **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Under the No Project/No Build Alternative, the project site would remain unchanged, and all biological resources present on-site would remain as is under current conditions. This alternative would avoid the project's potential adverse effects during the construction process on one species, the federal candidate monarch butterfly, such that this alternative would not have a substantial effect on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species. This alternative would also avoid the project's impacts on the aquatic resources habitat associated with Oil Creek. As stated in Section 5.3, Biological Resources, Oil Creek may be subject to the jurisdiction of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and may also be regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act (CWA). This alternative would not result in changes or site improvements that would impact Oil Creek, thereby avoiding impacts associated with aquatic resources

habitat. Since no construction activities would occur under this alternative, this alternative would also avoid direct and temporary impacts on nesting birds and nesting bird habitats. In addition, this alternative would not require removing or relocating the existing oak trees on-site and would not conflict with the County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance. Lastly, this alternative would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to biological resources would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES – ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The No Project/No Build Alternative would not include any ground-disturbing activities and the project site would remain unchanged. As such, there would be no potential to disturb known or unknown archaeological resources, including human remains, outside of the existing research sites.

Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to archaeological resources would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES – HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

Under the No Project/No Build Alternative, the project site would remain unchanged, and no modifications would be made to the three identified historical resources within the project site footprint, i.e., the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District, Page Museum, and Observation Pit. While the project would not result in impacts to the Observation Pit, it would result in alterations to the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the Page Museum that would potentially compromise their historic integrity to the point that these historical resources would no longer convey the reasons for their significance. By leaving the existing buildings, structures, and site plan design features/landscaping on the project site unaltered, the No Project/No Build Alternative would preserve the character-defining features of the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the Page Museum and avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to alterations of these resources.

Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to historical resources would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## **GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

The No Project/No Build Alternative would not facilitate the renovation or redesign of the project site and no construction activities, including grading or other earthwork activities, associated with these improvements would occur. Therefore, this alternative would not cause or accelerate seismic and geologic hazards including surface fault rupture, strong seismic ground motion, seismically induced settlement due to liquefaction or landslides, soil erosion, lateral spreading, subsidence, and expansive soils. Additionally, since grading and earthwork activities would not occur under this alternative, the potential to uncover subsurface paleontological resources outside of the existing research sites would not occur. However, it is important to also note that this alternative would not provide expanded space or improvement to existing research facilities for the existing and expanding paleontological resources collection at the project site. Given the current condition of the collection and research facilities at the Page Museum, the result of the No Project/No Build Alternative could be detrimental effects to the existing paleontological collections.

In consideration of the various effects, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to geology and soils would be *decreased* in comparison to the project overall because construction would not occur.

However, effects to the existing paleontological collections at the Page Museum could be negatively affected as a secondary effect.

## **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Under the No Project/No Build Alternative, no construction-related emissions or changes to the operational characteristics of the project site would occur. Therefore, this alternative would not generate new GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, above the established SCAQMD thresholds that may have a significant impact on the environment. Given that the operation of the facilities at the project site would mirror existing conditions under this alternative, it would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions. However, unlike the project, this alternative would not include components that would further the GHG reduction targets set forth in the applicable plans, policies, regulations, or recommendations of an agency adopted to reduce GHG emissions (Section 5.7, Greenhouse Gas Emissions). Specifically, this alternative would not include components that would further the GHG reduction targets set forth in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) related to mobility and GHG reductions. The project's mitigation measure involving the development of a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program for employee and visitor vehicle trips to increase alternative modes, such as walking, bicycling, public transit, and rideshare, would further consistency with applicable plans, policies, and regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. While the No Project/No Build Alternative would not result in impacts related to conflicts with applicable plans, it would also not include the project's mitigation measure to further GHG reduction targets.

Overall, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to GHG emissions would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Under the No Project/No Build Alternative, no new demolition or construction activities would occur, and the project would not be implemented. This alternative would not result in construction-related activities that would uncover subsurface hazards (i.e., subsurface methane gas produced from naturally occurring petroleum fields) or create a significant hazard to the public or environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, this alternative would not require the project's mitigation measures to address impacts associated with hazardous materials during construction. The project site would continue to be subject to the naturally occurring tar seeps and current strategies for managing this issue would remain in place (Section 5.8.1.4, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Tar Seeps). Like the project, the existing high concentration of subsurface methane gas at the project site would require ongoing control measures to provide a barrier for hazardous vapors; however, because this alternative does not include modifications to the project site, no changes to the existing methane mitigation requirements would be needed. This alternative would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school, nor would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment as the project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5. Further, and consistent with the project, this alternative would not be developed within 2 miles of a public airport or public-use airport and would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

Since the No Project/No Build Alternative would not result in project-related construction activities, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to hazards and hazardous materials would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

The No Project/No Build Alternative would not facilitate the renovation or redesign of the project site and no construction activities, including grading or other earthwork activities, associated with these improvements would occur. As such, no construction-related impacts would occur related to violating water quality standards and waste discharge requirements; decreasing groundwater supplies or interfering with groundwater recharge; altering drainage patterns, resulting in substantial erosion or siltation, flooding, and/or the creation of runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems, or impede or redirect flood flows; risk releasing pollutants due to project inundation; and conflicting with or obstructing the implementation of a water quality control plan.

Under the No Project/No Build Alternative, existing buildings and features on-site would remain as they are under current conditions, there would be no changes to the amount of impervious or pervious surfaces on the project site, and no modifications to the existing drainage patterns would be made. This alternative would not implement the project's proposed Low Impact Development (LID) Best Management Practices (BMPs), including the project's three proposed biofiltration areas, or the project's related mitigation measure to further reduce the volume of runoff or improve the quality of runoff from the project site; ~~however, even without the benefit of the project's LID BMPs and mitigation measure for non-structural BMPs, impacts from this alternative would be decreased when compared to those of the project.~~

Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to hydrology and water quality would be ~~decreased~~ similar in comparison to the project. This is because the No Project/No Build Alternative would not result in short-term, less-than-significant, construction-related water quality and hydrology impacts; however, this alternative would also not result in the permanent hydrology and water quality improvements that are contemplated for the site under the proposed project.

## LAND USE AND PLANNING

Under the No Project/No Build Alternative, the project site would remain in its current condition and no modifications to the existing structures or features on-site would occur. Like the project, this alternative would not physically divide an established community. This alternative would, however, avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to inconsistencies with applicable policies pertaining to the alteration of designated historical resources (i.e., the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the Page Museum). Since this alternative would not result in physical changes to, or operational characteristics of, the existing project site, it would be consistent with the applicable policies related to the protection of designated historical resources and avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to this issue.

Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to land use and planning would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## NOISE AND VIBRATION

Under the No Project/No Build Alternative, there would be no construction-related noise or changes to the operational characteristics of the project site. Thus, this alternative would not require the project's mitigation measure to reduce construction-related noise as it would not generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in noise levels near the project site in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. In addition, the No Project/No Build Alternative would not result in generating excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. Similar to the project, this alternative would not be near a private airstrip or within the boundaries of an airport land use plan.

The No Project/No Build Alternative would avoid the project's construction-related impacts associated with increases in temporary and permanent noise levels in the vicinity of the project. Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to noise would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## **RECREATION**

The No Project/No Build Alternative, similar to the project, would not result in a new or permanent population at the project site; therefore, it would not result in an associated increase in the use of nearby existing parks and recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of any one facility would occur or be accelerated. Since the project site would remain under current conditions, this alternative would not result in any additional adverse physical effects on the environment. As with the project, this alternative would continue to provide publicly accessible open space areas within the project site.

Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to recreation would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Under the No Project/No Build Alternative, there would be no construction-related trips or changes to the operational characteristics of the project site. This alternative would not result in any new conflict with a project plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulations system or an applicable congestion management program. This alternative would also avoid the project's estimated net increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as no changes to current conditions would occur. This alternative would not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature and would not result in inadequate emergency access as existing conditions would remain.

While the No Project/No Build Alternative would result in transportation and circulation conditions that would look similar to existing conditions, it would not include components that would further the GHG reduction targets set forth in the SCAG 2020-2045 RTP/SCS related to mobility and GHG reductions, nor would it address the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) requirements for bicycle parking or the TDM Ordinance (Section 5.13.5, Transportation, Environmental Impact Analysis). However, this alternative would avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to increased VMT. This alternative would also avoid the project's potentially inadequate emergency access during construction and operation.

Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to transportation would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## **TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

The No Project/No Build Alternative would not include any ground-disturbing activities and the project site would remain unchanged. As such, there would be no potential to disturb known or unknown tribal cultural resources, including human remains, outside of the existing research sites.

Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to tribal cultural resources would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## **UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

In the No Project/No Build Alternative, the project would not be implemented, and the existing museum building and associated facilities would remain as they are under current conditions. Therefore, this

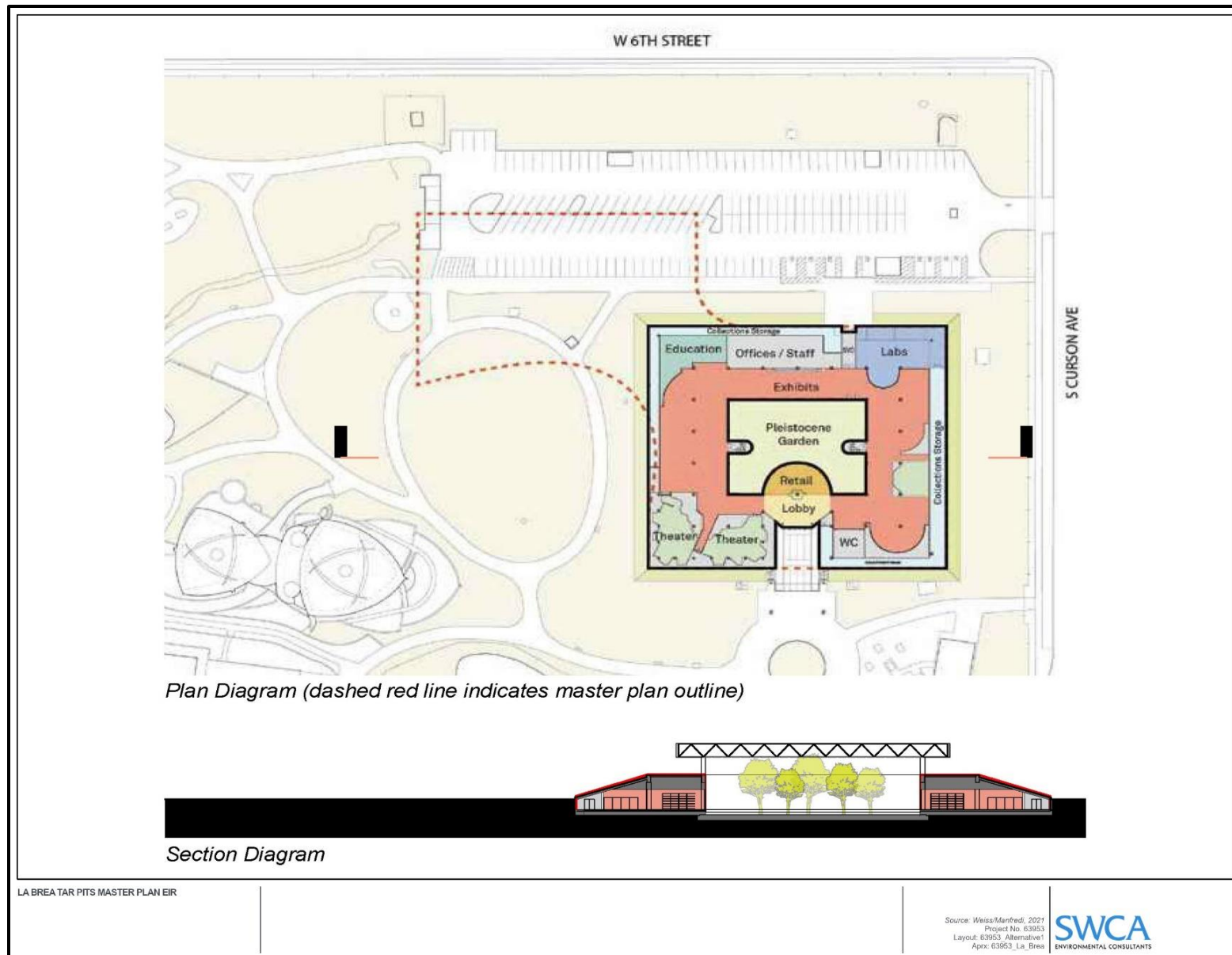


alternative would not require or result in relocating or constructing new or expanded water or wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities; affect the water supplies available to the project site; result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project; generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards; and oppose federal, state, or local management and solid waste reduction statutes and regulations.

The No Project/No Build Alternative would avoid the project's potential to require the construction of new or expanded sewer system facilities. Therefore, impacts of the No Project/No Build Alternative related to utilities and service systems would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

#### **6.4.2 Alternative 1: Renovate Page Museum Only**

In Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, the exterior conditions of the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the Page Museum would be retained as is under existing conditions, while addressing some of the museum's deficiencies by way of an interior renovation only. The renovation work within the Page Museum would upgrade its existing facilities and systems while maintaining its current program, spatial organization, and room sizes (Figure 6-1). This alternative was considered as the renovation would retain or replace in kind the historic, character-defining features related to the museum's interior such as the central open-air atrium and the fishbowl-like lab space. This alternative would emphasize remedial work on the building structure and existing exhibits and would be performed from the museum interior as much as possible. This alternative scenario would, however, require further study to determine the feasibility of the renovation to also meet modern seismic standards since modifications to the building's exterior would be avoided under this alternative. In those instances, the identified areas would be repaired or replaced in kind and designed to resemble their current physical appearance to avoid impacting the historic, character-defining features on the museum's exterior. The remainder of the project site would also resemble existing conditions, and site access for visitors, loading, maintenance vehicles, and the fire department would remain in the current configuration in this alternative. Other museum-related facilities, as well as associated passive recreational areas and pathways around and within the project site, would remain as is under current conditions.



**Figure 6-1. Alternative 1: Museum plan and section diagrams.**

### 6.4.2.1 Relationship to Project Objectives

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would meet one of the project objectives, partially achieve two of the project objectives, and would not meet the remaining objectives. Table 6-5 outlines this alternative's ability to attain the basic project objectives outlined above and in Chapter 3, Project Description.

**Table 6-5. Attainment of Project Objectives—Alternative 1 Renovate Page Museum Only**

Project Objective	Does the Alternative Attain the Project Objective?
Renovate and expand the existing museum structure to address deferred maintenance of the building envelope and systems, to meet modern seismic, electrical, building code standards, and universal design standards, and to meet sustainability goals consistent with the County's sustainability plan (County of Los Angeles 2019).	<b>Partially.</b> This alternative would renovate the existing Page Museum to address the deferred maintenance of the building envelope and systems to meet modern electrical and building code standards; however, further study is required to determine the feasibility of the renovation to also meet modern seismic standards since modifications to the building's exterior would be avoided under this alternative. The roof terrace of the Page Museum would remain inaccessible under this alternative's accessibility and universal design standards. In addition, options for achievable sustainability goals to meet the County's sustainability plan would also be further limited because this alternative would avoid any work on the Page Museum exterior and the existing site conditions in Hancock Park.
Provide expanded collections storage facilities that enable access for scientific research, and preserve, protect, and allow future growth of the museum's world-class collections.	<b>No.</b> This alternative would maintain the existing fossil storage, maintenance, and service facilities along the northern boundary of the project site and would not expand or construct new fossil storage or support buildings on-site.
Provide expanded state-of-the-art laboratory research facilities to accommodate internationally significant and advanced research in paleontology.	<b>No.</b> This alternative would not include the expansion of the Page Museum that would be needed to provide for expanded laboratory research facilities. These on-site facilities would remain as they are under current conditions.
Provide state-of-the-art exhibition facilities and learning environments within the park and museum to enrich the visitor experience and to support active educational and public programming.	<b>Partially.</b> While this alternative could feasibly upgrade the exhibition facilities and learning environments within the Page Museum such that they may be considered state-of-the-art, this alternative would not address or involve improvements to exhibition facilities and learning environments outside of the Page Museum within Hancock Park to further enrich the visitor experience and to support active educational programming.
Improve access and entry for different visitor types, increase connections between the museum and the park, as well as support increased visitation, special events, and revenue-producing amenities within the park and museum.	<b>No.</b> This alternative would not alter the existing entrances to the project site, nor would this alternative modify any of the existing pathways or accessways. The Central Green would be maintained as is under current conditions.
Expand the museum exhibits, educational classrooms, collection spaces, offices, and laboratory research facilities in one unified, cohesive facility, with the fewest impacts to historical resources possible.	<b>No.</b> This alternative would retain the existing Page Museum within its existing footprint and would renovate the interior only. It would not include the addition of expanded museum facilities; however, this alternative would limit impacts to historical resources. Regardless, this alternative would not meet this objective of providing expanded museum space for additional exhibits, collections, offices, and laboratory research facilities.
Create a central entrance to the museum facilities to enhance the visitor experience of the museum and Hancock Park.	<b>No.</b> In this alternative, the existing museum entrance would remain, and no additional museum facilities or buildings would be constructed.

Project Objective	Does the Alternative Attain the Project Objective?
Preserve and protect the National Natural Landmark—La Brea Tar Pits—to allow access for future research and excavation, support cultural and educational interpretation, and enable the ongoing natural processes of the asphaltic seeps.	<b>Yes.</b> The National Natural Landmarks program seeks to encourage the identification, study, designation, recognition, and preservation of nationally significant ecological and geological resources that reflect the nation's natural heritage (including paleontological/fossil-based resources). This alternative would result in interior renovations to the existing Page Museum only and would not result in physical changes or modifications to the project that would change its scientific or historical value, nor impact the current research or programming occurring on the project site. As such, La Brea Tar Pits would continue to be recognized and protected as a National Natural Landmark.
Redesign and renovate the Hancock Park community park green space as an expression of the goals of the County of Los Angeles's General Plan Conservation and Natural Resources Element and the City of Los Angeles's Open Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan, to increase sustainable landscape and site design, to support passive recreational use, to increase the legibility of this important cultural destination, and to enhance connections to the quickly evolving Miracle Mile neighborhood.	<b>No.</b> This alternative would maintain the Central Green as it is under current conditions and would continue to allow for passive recreational uses within this multi-purpose lawn area of Hancock Park; however, it would not include changes to the current landscaping scheme other than actively maintaining current conditions on-site nor would it involve enhancements that increase connections or further promote the importance of the project site as a cultural destination.

#### **6.4.2.2      *Comparison of Significant Effects of the Alternative to the Project***

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would require construction activities associated with this alternative's proposed improvements; however, the type of construction activities and overall duration of construction activities would be reduced in comparison to the project since there would be no grading or other earthwork activities necessary, and no other structures would be constructed as a result of this alternative. Upon completing this alternative, there would be no changes to the existing land use types or operational characteristics of the project site.

### **AESTHETICS**

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would result in renovations and upgrades to the existing Page Museum building without altering its interior configuration to avoid impacting any of the character-defining features. This alternative would not result in alterations to the exterior appearance of the existing building or any of the associated museum-related facilities on-site. As such, views of, and from, the project site would remain unchanged. Like the project, this alternative would not have a substantial effect on a scenic vista or damage scenic resources within a State Scenic Highway, as no such resources have been identified near the project site and no change to the existing visual character of the project site and surroundings would occur. Therefore, this alternative would not adversely alter or degrade the existing visual character or scenic quality of the project site and would be consistent with the applicable policies that govern scenic quality in both County and City plans. This alternative would avoid the project's potential to result in changes to or the addition of new sources of light and glare on the project site and would not implement the project's mitigation measures related to this topic. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to aesthetics.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to aesthetics would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## **AIR QUALITY**

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would result in upgrades to the interior Page Museum within the existing building footprint. Construction activities associated with this alternative would be reduced in comparison to the project since there would be no grading or other earthwork activities necessary, and no other structures would be constructed as a result of this alternative. Upon completion of this alternative, there would be no changes to the operational characteristics of the project site. Given this, daily construction emissions associated with this alternative would be reduced in comparison to the project and operational emissions would be similar to existing conditions, thereby reduced when compared to the project. This alternative would not conflict with an applicable air quality plan, generate short- or long-term criteria pollutant emissions exceeding an SCAQMD significance threshold, expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of pollutant emissions, or result in adverse odors or other emissions. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to air quality. Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to air quality would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would result in upgrades to the interior of the Page Museum, and all biological resources present on-site would remain as is under current conditions. This alternative would avoid the project's potential adverse effects during the construction process on one species, the federal candidate monarch butterfly, such that this alternative would not have a substantial effect on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species. This alternative would also avoid the project's impacts on the aquatic resources habitat associated with Oil Creek. As stated in Section 5.3, Biological Resources, Oil Creek may be subject to the jurisdiction of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and may also be regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the CWA. This alternative would not result in changes or site improvements that would impact Oil Creek, thereby avoiding impacts associated with aquatic resources habitat. While construction activities would be limited under this alternative, the project's mitigation measure to address impacts on nesting birds and nesting bird habitats would be implemented to avoid direct and temporary impacts. This alternative would not include removing or relocating the existing oak trees on-site and would not conflict with the County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance. Lastly, this alternative would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to biological resources. Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to biological resources would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES – ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would not include grading or excavation activities, and construction activities would be isolated to the existing footprint of the Page Museum. The remainder of the project site would remain unchanged. As such, there would be no potential to disturb known or unknown archaeological resources, including human remains, outside of the existing research sites. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to archaeological resources.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to archaeological resources would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES – HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, was designed with the intention of avoiding the project's significant and unavoidable impacts on two of the identified historical resources within the project site, i.e., the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the Page Museum. This alternative would accomplish upgrades to the Page Museum building within its existing footprint and without altering its interior configuration and would preserve the Museum's character-defining features (Section 5.5, Cultural Resources – Historical Resources), including the following:

- Oversized one-story mass/height
- Prominent fiberglass frieze with bas relief Pleistocene scenes
- Fishbowl-like laboratory space in museum interior
- Burial mound-like site with sharply raised berms with turf plantings on each side, pyramidal massing, and a square plan
- Symmetrical design composition, building and site
- Descending entrance progression on the south elevation into the center of the building, flanked by mirror stairways leading to the upper podium at the second floor
- Indoor-outdoor integration, open-air roof, and open configuration at the podium level overlooking the atrium
- Open central atrium with landscaping
- Visual primacy as the principal built-environment feature of the historic district

In addition, the site design for the remainder of the project site would remain unaltered, also preserving the character-defining features of the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District, including the following:

- Oversized, sparsely developed parcel, with large swaths of open park space
- Lake Pit
- Mature trees framing Hancock Park, with concentrations along the north and east boundaries
- Page Museum and its site, with pyramidal massing, square plan, and sharply raised berms, along with the visual prominence of Page Museum
- Observation Pit
- Corner entrance with diagonal entry path at Wilshire Boulevard
- Circulation corridors/pathways, including east-west pathways leading from the parking lot and north-south pathway northwest from Central Green
- Remnants of 1930s stone walls in the northwestern portion of the site
- Significant paleontological resources on-site, including various dig and studies sites

By isolating the upgrades to the Page Museum to retain the interior configuration without any exterior modifications to the existing structures or the remainder of the project site within Hancock Park, Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would preserve the character-defining features of the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the Page Museum and avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to alterations of those resources. In addition, unlike the project, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to historical resources.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to historical resources would be *decreased* in comparison to the project. In comparison to the proposed La Brea Master Plan, the decrease would be significant enough to fully avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts in the issue area of historical resources.

## **GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would result in limited construction activities focused on the renovation and upgrades to an existing building and would not include grading or other earthwork activities. This alternative would address some of the deferred maintenance issues and upgrades and, like the project, would be subject to all applicable regulations, including the applicable provisions in the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, Seismic Safety Act, Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, the California Building Code, and the 2020 County of Los Angeles Building Code. Given that earthwork activities would not occur, this alternative would not cause or accelerate seismic and geologic hazards including surface fault rupture, strong seismic ground motion, seismically induced settlement due to liquefaction or landslides, soil erosion, lateral spreading, subsidence, and expansive soils. Additionally, this alternative would avoid the project's potential to uncover subsurface paleontological resources outside of the existing research sites. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to geology and soils resources.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to geology and soils would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Under Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, construction-related emissions would be limited to the interior upgrades of the Page Museum. While this alternative would include construction activities associated with these improvements, the type of construction activities and overall duration of construction activities would be reduced in comparison to the project since there would be no grading or other earthwork activities necessary, and no other structures would be constructed as a result of this alternative. This alternative would incorporate the project's mitigation measure related to eliminating natural gas infrastructure and increasing electric vehicle charging stations. Thus, this alternative would not generate, either directly or indirectly, substantial new GHG emissions above the established SCAQMD thresholds that may have a significant impact on the environment.

Given that the operation of the facilities at the project site would be similar to the project under this alternative, it would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions. Like the project, this alternative would include components that would further the GHG reduction targets set forth in the applicable plans, policies, regulations, or recommendations of an agency adopted to reduce GHG emissions (see Section 5.7, Greenhouse Gas Emissions). Specifically, this alternative would include components that would further the GHG reduction targets set forth in the SCAG 2020-2045 RTP/SCS related to mobility and GHG reductions. The project's mitigation measure involving the development of a TDM program for employee and visitor vehicle trips to increase alternative modes, such as walking, bicycling, public transit, and rideshare, would further consistency with applicable plans, policies, and regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. In addition, with incorporation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to GHG emissions.

Overall, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to GHG emissions would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Under Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, construction activities would be limited to the existing footprint of the Page Museum and would not include grading, excavation, or other earthwork activities. Thus, this alternative would not result in construction-related activities that would create a

significant hazard to the public or environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Under this alternative, the project site would continue to be subject to the naturally occurring tar seeps, and current strategies for managing this issue would remain in place (see Section 5.8.1.4, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Tar Seeps). Like the project, the existing high concentration of subsurface methane gas at the project site would require ongoing control measures to ensure a properly designed methane mitigation system would provide a barrier for hazardous vapors. Due to the high potential for elevated concentrations of methane gas at the project site, operational impacts of this alternative related to the release of hazardous materials into the environment would be similar to the project and would include the project's operational mitigation measure to address this impact. This alternative could emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school and would include the project's mitigation measures to address construction and operational impacts associated with this issue. This alternative would not create a significant hazard to public or the environment as the project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5. Further, and consistent with the project, this alternative would not be developed within 2 miles of a public airport or public-use airport and would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials.

Therefore, the impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to hazards and hazardous materials would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would result in construction activities that would be limited to the existing footprint of the Page Museum and would not include grading, excavation, or other earthwork activities. Since existing buildings and features on-site would remain as they are under current conditions, there would be no changes to the amount of pervious or impervious surfaces on the project site, and no modifications to the existing drainage patterns would be made. Given this, this alternative would not violate any water quality standards and waste discharge requirements; decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge; alter drainage patterns that would result in substantial erosion or siltation, flooding, and/or the creation of runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems, or impede or redirect flood flows.

Regarding water quality, because only interior renovations of the Page Museum would occur, unlike the proposed project, it is not anticipated that there would be the potential for water quality impacts during construction. However, as part of the project design, this alternative would also not implement the Master Plan's proposed LID BMPs, including the project's three proposed biofiltration areas. Thus, this alternative would not provide for the beneficial water quality effect of the Master Plan's proposed biofiltration features. Because the alternative would not implement the beneficial water quality features of the proposed project but it would, conversely, avoid the construction-period effect to water quality that would be anticipated under the proposed project, the net effect to water quality is considered similar.

Therefore, impacts of the Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only related to hydrology and water quality would be *similar* in comparison to the project. This is because Alternative 1 would not result in short-term, less-than-significant, construction-related water quality and hydrology impacts; however, this alternative would also not result in the permanent hydrology and water quality improvements that are contemplated for the site under the proposed project.



## LAND USE AND PLANNING

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would result in improvements to the Page Museum only within the existing building footprint while the remainder of the project site would remain unchanged. Like the project, this alternative would not physically divide an established community given no new structures would be introduced, and the site design of the project site would reflect current conditions. This alternative would, however, avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to inconsistencies with applicable policies pertaining to the alteration of designated historical resources (i.e., the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the Page Museum). While this alternative would result in physical changes to the Page Museum, these changes would upgrade the building without altering its interior configuration to avoid impacting any of the character-defining features. Given the nature of the focused upgrades within this alternative, it would be consistent with the applicable plans and policies related to the protection of designated historical resources. In addition, unlike the project, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to land use and planning.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to land use and planning would be *decreased* in comparison to the project. In comparison to the proposed La Brea Master Plan, the decrease would be significant enough to fully avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to inconsistencies with applicable policies pertaining to the alteration of designated historical resources.

## NOISE AND VIBRATION

Under Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, project improvements would be limited to the Page Museum. While this alternative would include construction activities associated with these improvements, the type of construction activities and equipment, as well as the overall duration of construction activities, would be reduced in comparison to the project since there would be no grading or other earthwork activities necessary, and no other structures would be constructed as a result of this alternative. Both the duration and intensity of construction-related noise would be reduced for this alternative when compared to the project. Given this, this alternative would not include the project's mitigation measure to reduce construction-related noise as it would not generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in noise levels near the project site in excess of the standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. In addition, this alternative would not result in the generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. Similar to the project, this alternative would not result in noise-related impacts on the operational characteristics of the project site. In addition and similar to the project, this alternative would not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, so no impacts related to airport noise would occur. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to noise.

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would avoid the project's construction-related impacts associated with increases in temporary and permanent noise levels in the vicinity of the project. Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only related to noise would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## RECREATION

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, similar to the project, would not result in a new or permanent population to the project site; therefore, it would not result in an associated increase in the use of nearby existing parks and recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of any one facility would occur or be accelerated. Since the project site would remain under current conditions, this alternative would not result in any additional adverse physical effects on the environment. As with the

project, this alternative would continue to provide publicly accessible open space areas within the project site. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to recreation.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to recreation would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Under Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, construction-related trips would be reduced when compared to the project as the scope and duration of the project would be significantly reduced in comparison. After completing the Page Museum renovations for this alternative, no changes to the operational characteristics of the project site would occur that would substantially increase the VMT to and from the project site. Thus, this alternative would avoid the project's estimated net increase in VMT and avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impact related to increased VMT. While this alternative would result in transportation and circulation conditions that would look similar to existing conditions, it would not include components that would further the GHG reduction targets set forth in the SCAG 2020-2045 RTP/SCS related to mobility and GHG reductions, nor would it address the LAMC requirements for bicycle parking or the TDM Ordinance (see Section 5.13.5, Transportation, Environmental Impact Analysis). Similar to the project, this alternative could result in a significant impact related to ensuring consistency with transportation plans, programs, ordinances, or policies. In addition, and similar to the project, this alternative would not include components that would substantially increase hazards due to a design feature. Lastly, this alternative would avoid the project's potential impacts to inadequate emergency access during construction and operation and would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to transportation.

While this alternative would not include components that would further the GHG reduction targets, it would avoid the project's operational traffic impacts related to increased VMT and inadequate emergency access during construction and operation. Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to transportation would be *decreased* in comparison to the project. In comparison to the proposed La Brea Master Plan, the decrease would be significant enough to fully avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts in the issue area of transportation, which are related to increases in VMT. Increases in VMT would not be expected with the implementation of Alternative 1.

## **TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would not include grading or excavation activities, and construction activities would be isolated to the existing footprint of the Page Museum. The remainder of the project site would remain unchanged. As such, there would be no potential to disturb known or unknown tribal cultural resources, including human remains, outside of the existing research sites. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to tribal cultural resources.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, related to tribal cultural resources would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

## **UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only, would result in improvements to the Page Museum only within the existing building footprint while the remainder of the project site would remain unchanged. As such, this alternative would not include or result in relocating or constructing new or expanded water or wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities; affect the water supplies available to the project site; result in a determination by the wastewater

treatment provider that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project; generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards; and oppose federal, state, or local management and solid waste reduction statutes and regulations. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to utilities and service systems.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 1, Renovate Page Museum Only related to utilities and service systems would be *decreased* in comparison to the project.

### 6.4.3 Alternative 2: Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would include renovating the existing Page Museum to maintain the central atrium with the Pleistocene Garden in place while also providing the same expanded museum facilities and programming as proposed by the project. To maintain the central atrium footprint while providing the proposed laboratory, classroom, and multi-purpose educational spaces, Alternative 2 would include expanding the new museum space by approximately 15,000 square feet above what is proposed by the project. In addition, the character of the open-air roof would remain intact.

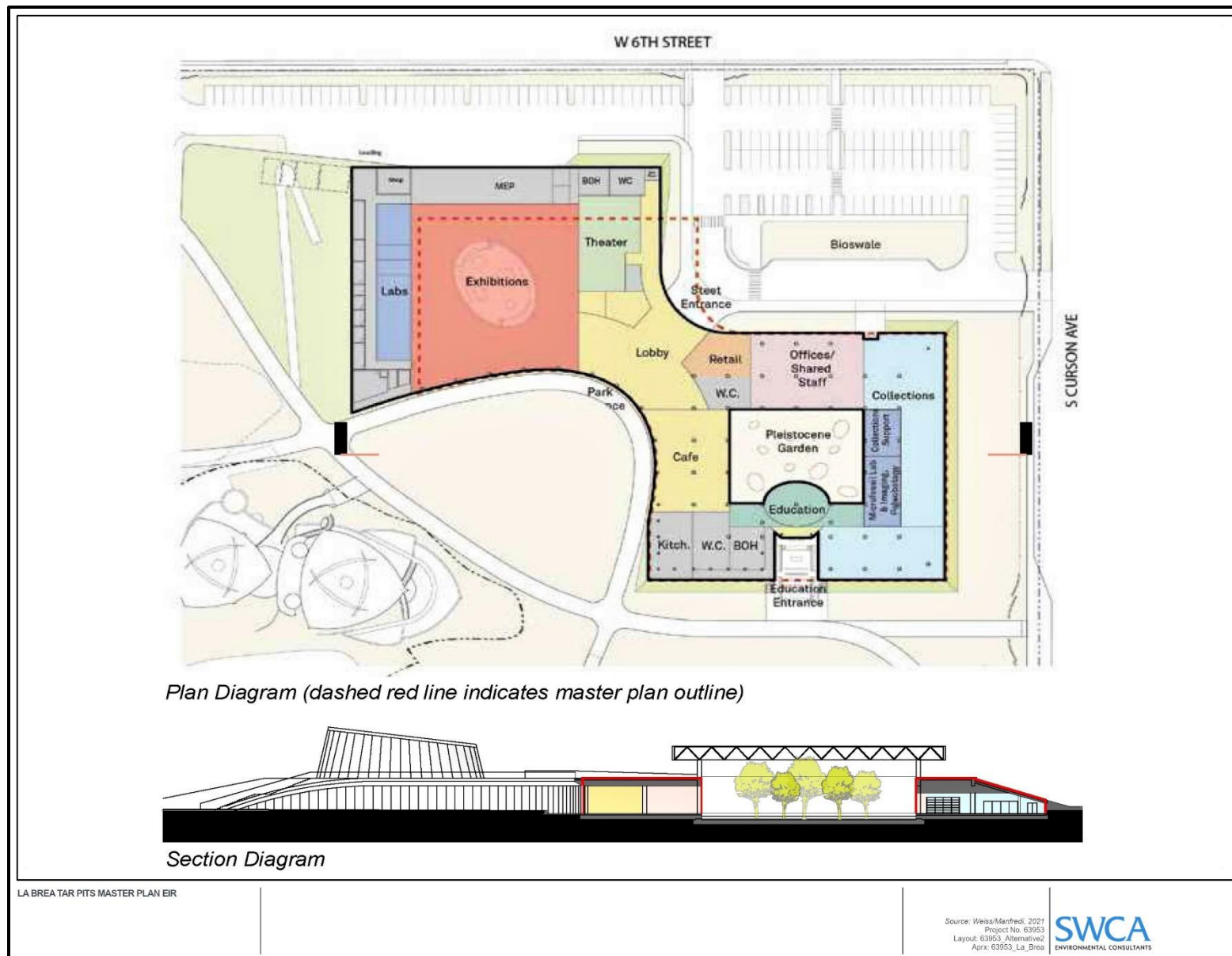
As shown in Figure 6-2, this increased square footage would include expansion to the north and west of the existing Page Museum. This alternative would slightly reconfigure the surface parking lot, like the project, extending it west of the new museum building footprint. Reconfiguration of the parking lot would include the removal or relocation of the existing ornamental trees bordering the northern portion of the project site along 6th Street, like the project.

This alternative would adjust the project's triple-loop pedestrian path adjacent to the proposed new museum building to accommodate the larger building footprint. The landscaping improvements and overall landscape design of the project site in Alternative 2 would be similar to the project, except for the reconfigured northern portion of the project site, the reduced open space area, as well as the adjustment to the pedestrian path.

Aside from the modifications discussed above, Alternative 2 would be similar to the project, as outlined in Chapter 3, Project Description, and Table 6-1. Table 6-6 provides a summary of the project components of Alternative 2 that are different from the project.

**Table 6-6. Overview of Alternative 2 Project Components Different from the Project**

Project Component	Description
Page Museum Renovations	Renovate the existing building in the same footprint (approximately 63,200 square feet) while maintaining the central atrium with Pleistocene Garden in place.
New Museum Building	Construct a new two-story 55,000-gsf museum building northwest of the Page Museum. The footprint of the new museum building in this alternative would increase by 15,000 gsf over the new museum footprint proposed by the project.
Pedestrian Path and Recreation Areas	Reconfigure the geometry of the pedestrian pathways adjacent to the new museum building to accommodate for the expanded footprint.
Circulation and Parking	Reconfigure the parking lot, extending it west of the new museum building footprint. This would require removing and/or relocating existing trees on-site.



**Figure 6-2. Alternative 2: Museum plan and section diagrams.**

### 6.4.3.1 Relationship to Project Objectives

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would meet seven of the project objectives, partially meet two of project objectives. Table 6-7 outlines this alternative's ability to attain the basic project objectives outlined above and in Chapter 3, Project Description.

**Table 6-7. Attainment of Project Objectives—Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden**

Project Objective	Does the Alternative Attain the Project Objective?
Renovate and expand the existing museum structure to address deferred maintenance of the building envelope and systems, to meet modern seismic, electrical, building code standards, and universal design standards, and to meet sustainability goals consistent with the County's sustainability plan (County of Los Angeles 2019).	<b>Partially.</b> This alternative would allow for renovating the Page Museum to address the deferred maintenance of the building envelope and systems to meet modern electrical and building code standards as well as seismic standards. This alternative would also include sustainability strategies designed to improve stormwater management, reduce the heat island effect, provide more shade, and reduce light pollution to further the sustainability of the County's sustainability plan. However, this alternative would reduce the amount of open space on-site and would not be consistent with the County's sustainability plan.
Provide expanded collections storage facilities that enable access for scientific research, and preserve, protect, and allow future growth of the museum's world-class collections.	<b>Yes.</b> This alternative would include constructing an additional 2,000-square-foot satellite maintenance and support building dedicated to fossil storage, maintenance, and service facilities along the northern boundary of the project site.
Provide expanded state-of-the-art laboratory research facilities to accommodate internationally significant and advanced research in paleontology.	<b>Yes.</b> This alternative would allow for renovating the Page Museum and constructing a new museum building that would add 55,000 square feet of museum space to support expanding the laboratory research facilities.
Provide state-of-the-art exhibition facilities and learning environments within the park and museum to enrich the visitor experience and to support active educational and public programming.	<b>Yes.</b> This alternative would include renovating the Page Museum and constructing a new museum building that would add 55,000 square feet of museum space to provide space for additional exhibition facilities or enhanced learning environments. In addition, this alternative would allow for renovating the existing facilities at all the tar pit locations throughout the project site to allow for improved interpretive signage and viewing areas to further enrich the visitor experience and to support active educational programming.
Improve access and entry for different visitor types, increase connections between the museum and the park, as well as support increased visitation, special events, and revenue-producing amenities within the park and museum.	<b>Yes.</b> This alternative would provide for enhanced entrances to the project site at the Wilshire and 6th Street Gateways and would also reconfigure the existing pedestrian pathways on-site into a continuous paved pedestrian path linking all the existing elements of the park. A pedestrian walking path would be constructed across the project site with interpretive signage and explanations related to the former industrial heritage of the site. The project site is currently served by a complete network of sidewalks around the project site block and adjacent street network, with signalized intersections and crosswalks. This alternative would also establish a new school drop-off/loading area on South Curson Avenue adjacent to the Wilshire Gateway picnic area.
Expand the museum exhibits, educational classrooms, collection spaces, offices, and laboratory research facilities in one unified, cohesive facility, with the fewest impacts to historical resources possible.	<b>Yes.</b> This alternative would expand museum facilities through the construction of the new museum building, while retaining the Page Museum's central atrium Pleistocene garden and open-air roof line, thereby decreasing impacts to historical resources. The renovated Page Museum and new museum building would be connected via a central lobby area and an integrated organization of exhibits and collections, helping to create connection and cohesion between the two museum spaces.

Project Objective	Does the Alternative Attain the Project Objective?
Create a central entrance to the museum facilities to enhance the visitor experience of the museum and Hancock Park.	<b>Yes.</b> This alternative would result in a renovated Page Museum and new museum building with a central entry point accessible from the project's parking lot as well as from the Central Green. The central entrance would lead to the museum lobby, which would provide a space for visitors to circulate and become familiar with organization of the museum's exhibits and collections both inside the museum spaces as well as the outdoor spaces within Hancock Park.
Preserve and protect the National Natural Landmark—La Brea Tar Pits—to allow access for future research and excavation, support cultural and educational interpretation, and enable the ongoing natural processes of the asphaltic seeps.	<b>Yes.</b> This alternative would allow for renovating and expanding the existing Page Museum and the remainder of the project site within Hancock Park in a way that would further the fundamental mission of La Brea Tar Pits as a site and facility dedicated to research, education, and exhibition. Under this alternative, the project site would continue to be recognized and protected as a National Natural Landmark.
Redesign and renovate the Hancock Park community park green space as an expression of the goals of the County of Los Angeles's General Plan Conservation and Natural Resources Element and the City of Los Angeles's Open Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan, to increase sustainable landscape and site design, to support passive recreational use, to increase the legibility of this important cultural destination, and to enhance connections to the quickly evolving Miracle Mile neighborhood.	<b>Partially.</b> This alternative would reduce the amount of dedicated open space on-site due to the expanded footprint of the new museum building. However, this alternative would also redesign and renovate the Hancock Park community park green space to include a landscape design and planting scheme that would aim to ease water consumption and ensure appropriate maintenance. This alternative would include improvements to the existing multi-purpose grass lawn, the Central Green, which would provide a setting for community activities, passive recreational uses, events, and public gatherings. This alternative would also install a new welcome pavilion with a canopy and shade trees at Wilshire Gateway, and a shaded welcome area at the 6th Street Gateway to increase the project site's notability within the Miracle Mile neighborhood.

### **6.4.3.2 Comparison of Significant Effects of the Alternative to the Project**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would result in similar types of construction activities, duration, and equipment as the project. Upon project completion, this alternative would result in similar land uses and operational activities as proposed by the project.

## **AESTHETICS**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would result in changes to the site design and some of the visual characteristics of the project site when compared to the project. Like the project, this alternative's changes in site design would be visible directly from adjacent off-site locations, including high-rise residential and commercial buildings. However, due to the topography of the project site and the relative lack of buildings on the site compared with the surrounding dense urban development, view changes would typically occur at limited vantage points, as opposed to along extensive roadway segments or from entire large geographic areas. While this alternative would result in an expanded footprint for the new museum building, it would still be two stories in height, as proposed by the project. Like the project, this alternative would not have a substantial effect on a scenic vista or damage scenic resources within a State Scenic Highway, as no such resources have been identified near the project site and changes to the existing visual character of the project site would integrate with the surrounding urban development along Wilshire Boulevard and the park setting of Hancock Park. Like the project, implementation of this alternative would change the overall project site design and result in modifications to the visual characteristics of the project site, but not in such a way that it would adversely alter or degrade the existing visual character or scenic quality of the project site, and would be consistent with the applicable policies that govern scenic quality in both County and City plans. This alternative would create new

sources of light and glare, similar to the project, and would include the same mitigation measures as the project to address potential issues related to this issue. In addition, with implementation of the project's mitigation measures to address light and glare, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to aesthetics.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to aesthetics would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **AIR QUALITY**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would result in similar types of construction activities, duration, and equipment as the project. Upon project operation, this alternative would result in similar land uses as proposed by the project, except for the larger museum footprint. Like the project, this alternative would be subject to consistency with the air quality standards and the land use assumptions identified in the SCAQMD's Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and SCAG's regional plans and policies. As identified for the project, this alternative would also implement mitigation measures to reduce construction-related air pollutant emissions. Operational emissions may vary slightly when compared to the project given the expanded footprint of the museum building; however, as shown in Section 5.2, Air Quality, the project is significantly below SCAQMD's established significance thresholds. This alternative would not result in a considerable change from the anticipated uses within the project's site plan that would increase daily operations in such a manner to exceed the maximum daily operational emissions set forth by SCAQMD's significance thresholds. In addition, this alternative would implement the project's mitigation measure which incorporates a number of key control measures identified by the SCAQMD to ensure this alternative does not conflict with an applicable air quality plan, generate short- or long-term criteria pollutant emissions in exceedance of SCAQMD significance thresholds, expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of pollutant emissions, or result in adverse odors or other emissions. In addition, with implementation of the project's mitigation measure to reduce construction-related air pollutant emissions, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to air quality. Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to air quality would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would allow for modifications to the project's site plan and would result in similar types of construction activities, duration, and equipment as the project. The overall area of ground disturbance during the construction of this alternative would be similar to that of the project. Future operational conditions under this alternative would result in similar land uses as proposed by the project; however, this alternative would result in the loss of 10,000 square feet of open space area over what is proposed by the project due to the increase in the floor area of the new museum.

Thus, this alternative, like the project, could result in adverse effects during the construction process on one species, the federal candidate monarch butterfly, either directly or through habitat modifications. In addition, this alternative could result in impacts to regulated aquatic resources habitat associated with Oil Creek and could also result in the removal or relocation of the existing oak trees on-site, thereby conflicting with the County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance. Like the project, this alternative would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Given the similar nature of ground disturbance, construction activities, and future operational conditions, this alternative would implement the same mitigation measures to address potential impacts as the project. In addition,

with implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to biological resources.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to biological resources would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES – ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would include grading, excavation, and other earthwork activities, similar to the extent proposed by the project, throughout most of the project site. As such, there would be similar potential to disturb known or unknown archaeological resources, including human remains, within the project site. This alternative would implement the same project mitigation measures to reduce this alternative's potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. In addition, with implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to archaeological resources.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to archaeological resources would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES – HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, was designed with the intention of eliminating impacts to the Page Museum by maintaining the following three primary, character-defining features of this historical resource:

- Prominent fiberglass frieze with bas relief Pleistocene scenes
- Indoor-outdoor integration, open-air roof, and open configuration at the podium level overlooking the atrium
- Open central atrium with landscaping

Alterations to the berm surrounding the Page Museum, which is a character-defining feature, would be largely the same in this alternative as in the project. Retention of the open-air roof line of the Page Museum would remain intact, which would decrease impacts to the Page Museum.

By altering the project to retain the central atrium Pleistocene garden, as conceived by Alternative 2, this alternative would result in an increased footprint, with expansion occurring to the north and west of the Page Museum. Although this alternative would avoid impacting the three bulleted character-defining features of the Page Museum, an identified historical resource, the increase in size of the expansion footprint could result in a *greater* impact on the following four primary character-defining features of the historical resources of the Page Museum and La Brea Tar Pits Historic District:

- Page Museum
  - Fishbowl-like laboratory space in museum interior
  - Burial mound-like site with sharply raised berms with turf plantings on each side, pyramidal massing, and a square plan
  - Visual primacy as the principal built-environment feature of historic district
- La Brea Tar Pits Historic District:
  - Oversized, sparsely developed parcel, with large swaths of open park space



For these reasons, Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would preserve the character-defining features of the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the Page Museum and avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to alterations of those resources. However, as a result of the increased footprint of Alternative 2 as compared to the proposed Master Plan, this alternative would also result in additional impacts to historical resources by resulting in a greater loss of character-defining open space in the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District. With respect to cumulative impacts, this alternative would contribute to cumulative impacts related to historical resources, like the project.

When the impacts to the various character-defining features are considered in combination, the benefits of avoiding the impacts to the Page Museum's three character-defining features (frieze, indoor-outdoor integration and open-air roof, and open central atrium) do not outweigh the additional impacts to character-defining features Alternative 2 would create. Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2 related to historical resources would be roughly *similar* in comparison to the project. Impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to historical resources would remain significant and unavoidable and would occur to a similar degree as compared to the project, although they would change in severity depending upon the historical resources character-defining feature under consideration.

## **GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would include grading, excavation, and other earthwork activities at a similar extent to that proposed by the project throughout most of the project site except for the expansion of the new museum building. Like the project, this alternative would be subject to all applicable regulations, including the applicable provisions in the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, Seismic Safety Act, Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, the California Building Code, and the 2020 County of Los Angeles Building Code. As with the project, this alternative would include construction activities on soils with existing artificial fill that may not be suitable to support foundations, slabs on grade, paving, or new compacted fills and could cause geologic instability at the project site related to subsidence (i.e., compressible and collapsible soils) and expansive soils. This alternative would implement the same project mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts related to subsidence, as well as compressible, collapsible, and expansive soils, to less-than-significant levels. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative geotechnical or soils-related hazards.

Similar to the project, all ground-disturbing activities associated with the construction of this alternative have the potential to impact subsurface paleontological resources given the high paleontological sensitivity of the project site. Paleontological resources may be impacted by the construction or implementation of this alternative regardless of the depth of grading and/or excavation activities. Any fossils encountered during ground-disturbing activities could be at risk for damage or destruction from such activities depending on the nature of the fossil encountered. This alternative would require implementing the same project mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts on paleontological resources to less-than-significant levels. With implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to paleontological resources. Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to geology and soils would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would result in similar types of construction activities, duration, and equipment as the project. Upon project operation, this alternative would result in similar land uses as proposed by the project. Given that this alternative would result in a similar construction and operational conditions as the project, this alternative would generate similar GHG emissions. This alternative would also incorporate the project's mitigation measure related to eliminating

natural gas infrastructure and increasing electric vehicle charging stations. Like the project, this alternative would not generate GHG emissions above the established SCAQMD thresholds.

Given that the operation of the facilities at the project site would be similar to the project under this alternative, it would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions. Like the project, this alternative would include components that would further the GHG reduction targets set forth in the applicable plans, policies, regulations, or recommendations of an agency adopted to reduce GHG emissions (see Section 5.7, Greenhouse Gas Emissions). Specifically, this alternative would include components that would further the GHG reduction targets set forth in the SCAG 2020-2045 RTP/SCS related to mobility and GHG reductions. The project's mitigation measure involving the development of a TDM program for employee and visitor vehicle trips to increase alternative modes such as walking, bicycling, public transit, and rideshare would further consistency with applicable plans, policies and regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. In addition, with incorporation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to GHG emissions.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to GHG emissions would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would include grading, excavation, and other earthwork activities at a similar extent to that proposed by the project throughout most of the project site except for the reconfigured site design of the northeastern portion of the project site. When compared to the project, this alternative has similar potential for construction-related activities to uncover subsurface hazards (i.e., subsurface methane gas produced from naturally occurring petroleum fields) or create a significant hazard to the public or environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

Therefore, this alternative would include the project's mitigation measures to address impacts associated with hazardous materials during construction. Under this alternative, like the project, the project site would continue to be subject to the naturally occurring tar seeps, and current strategies for managing this issue would remain in place (see Section 5.8.1.4, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Tar Seeps). In addition, the existing high concentration of subsurface methane gas at the project site would require ongoing control measures to ensure a properly designed methane mitigation system would provide a barrier for hazardous vapors. Due to the high potential for elevated concentrations of methane gas at the project site, the operational impacts of this alternative related to the release of hazardous materials into the environment would be similar to the project and would include the project's operational mitigation measure to address this impact. Like the project, this alternative could emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school and would include the project's mitigation measures to address construction and operational impacts associated with this issue. This alternative would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5. Further, and consistent with the project, this alternative would not be developed within 2 miles of a public airport or public-use airport and would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Additionally, with implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to hazardous materials.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to hazards and hazardous materials would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would include grading, excavation, and other earthwork activities at a similar extent to that proposed by the project throughout most of the project site except for the expansion of the new museum building. While this alternative would result in an expanded building footprint and reconfigured surface parking lot, it would also result in converting approximately 10,000 square feet of open space pervious surface area to impervious surfaces. Overall, the area of pervious surfaces in this alternative would be slightly decreased when compared to the project.

Like the project, this alternative would result in earthwork activities that would require soil to be excavated and transported off-site and similar dewatering practices as the project would occur under this alternative due to the presence of naturally occurring tar (petroleum) in the subsurface soils. Like the project, compliance with the requirements of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) (CWA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] Program and Porter-Cologne Act waste discharge requirements), Construction General Permit, and County stormwater regulations would be sufficient to address the potential for the buildout of the project to violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements during construction activities. This alternative would implement the three LID BMPs in accordance with the Los Angeles County LID Standards Manual (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works 2014), as outlined in Section 5.9, Hydrology and Water Quality.

This alternative would implement the project's proposed LID BMPs, including the project's three proposed biofiltration areas, and the project's related mitigation measure for non-structural BMPs to further reduce the volume of runoff or improve the quality of runoff from the project site and maximize the percolation of rainfall into the groundwater basin and proposed permeable landscape areas. Similar to the project buildout, this alternative would not adversely affect local groundwater levels or deplete groundwater supplies. While the modifications to the northeastern corner of the project site would occur under this alternative, it would result in a similar overall area of impervious surfaces when compared to the project and, like the project, would be designed to capture, filter, and reduce the volume of any additional runoff from the project's proposed impervious surfaces in a way that mimics, as well as improves, existing drainage patterns. The project site is not in a flood hazard zone or tsunami zone and the risk of a seiche is low. Therefore, there would be no risk of releasing pollutants due to project inundation by these hazards, similar to the project. Lastly, given that this alternative would be subject to compliance with existing applicable regulatory requirements and would implement the project's LID BMPs, this alternative would not conflict with or obstruct implementing a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. Additionally, with implementation of the project's LID BMPs and mitigation measure, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to hydrology and water quality.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to hydrology and water quality would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## LAND USE AND PLANNING

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would include renovations to the Page Museum aimed at preserving some of the identified character-defining features while also providing the expanded museum facilities and the same programming proposed by the project. Like the project, this alternative would not physically divide an established community as all project activities would occur within the existing boundary of the project site and would not introduce features that would implement barriers or divide the established uses within the project site or the greater area of Hancock Park and the surrounding neighborhood. Like the project, this alternative would also result in significant and

unavoidable impacts related to inconsistencies with applicable policies pertaining to the alteration of designated historical resources (i.e., the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the Page Museum). While this alternative aims to preserve some of the identified character-defining historic features of the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District, it would result in significant physical changes, partial demolition, and new construction affecting the two designated historical resources within the project site in such a way that they may no longer convey the reasons for their significance, depending upon the historical resources character-defining feature under consideration. Implementation of project mitigation measures aims to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for the significance of the impacts to the degree feasible; however, they would not mitigate impacts below the level of significance. Therefore, like the project, this alternative would be inconsistent with the applicable land use objectives, goals, and policies set forth in the County of Los Angeles General Plan, the City of Los Angeles General Plan, and the Wilshire Community Plan related to the alteration and preservation of historical resources (County of Los Angeles 2015, City of Los Angeles 2001a, 2001b).

In addition, and like the project, this alternative would contribute incrementally toward cumulative impacts on historical resources and related land use policies protecting these resources (i.e., County of Los Angeles General Plan, the City of Los Angeles General Plan, and the Wilshire Community Plan) even with implementation of the project's mitigation measures aimed at reducing impacts to historical resources.

In comparison to the proposed La Brea Master Plan, this alternative would not avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to inconsistencies with applicable policies pertaining to the alteration of designated historical resources. Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to land use and planning would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **NOISE AND VIBRATION**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would include similar types of construction activities and equipment as the project. This alternative could generate a substantial increase in ambient 2015 noise levels in the vicinity of the project, which could affect noise-sensitive land uses. The project's mitigation measures would be included to reduce construction-related noise for the duration of the construction phase of this alternative, like the project. Once operational, this alternative, like the project, would establish stationary on-site noise sources at the project site as well as contribute to off-site roadway traffic noise. This alternative would include new stationary noise sources similar to the project, including parking lot facility noise, mechanical equipment (i.e., dry coolers and emergency generators), loading and waste compacting activities, and activities associated with the use of outdoor spaces (e.g., outdoor café located on the center terrace on the west side of the Page Museum; Pit 91 outdoor classroom), and roadway traffic noise sources. Given that the project would result in similar museum-related uses, operational noise from this alternative would be similar to the project. Like the project, this alternative would not result in generating excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. Given that the project site is not near a private airstrip or within the boundaries of an airport land use plan, this alternative would have similar impacts related to airport noise as the project. Like the project, this alternative would not contribute considerably to cumulative noise and/or vibration impacts.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to noise would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **RECREATION**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, similar to the project, would not result in a new or permanent population (including employees and visitors) that would use the project site for

recreation or increase the use of nearby parks or recreational facilities; therefore, it would not result in an associated increase in the use of nearby existing parks and recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of any one facility would occur or be accelerated. Since this alternative would result in the same improvements and enhancements to the existing passive recreational uses and outdoor spaces as the project, this alternative would result in similar physical effects on the environment during construction and would implement the project's mitigation measures to reduce construction impacts. As with the project, this alternative would continue to provide publicly accessible open space areas within the project site. Like the project, with implementation of the project's mitigation measures to address construction impacts associated with adverse physical effects on the environment, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to recreation.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden related to recreation would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would result in an expanded footprint of the new museum building. Given the museum square footage was used, in part, to estimate the net increase in project-generated trips along with the average visitor trip length (see Section 5.13, Transportation), this alternative would likely result in an increase in estimated regional VMT above that estimated for the project. While the project's mitigation measure to reduce employee and visitor VMT and support multimodal connectivity would be included for this alternative, like the project, it may be insufficient to reduce VMT to less-than-significant levels. Thus, this alternative would not address the project's significant and unavoidable impact related to increased VMT, and the impacts of this alternative would be similar to the project for this issue.

Similar to the project, this alternative could result in an impact related to consistency with transportation plans, programs, ordinances, or policies as they relate to the LAMC ordinances for vehicle parking supply, bicycle parking supply, and TDM. This alternative would result in similar inconsistencies as the project related to the GHG reduction targets set forth in the SCAG 2020-2045 RTP/SCS. The project's mitigation measure to implement a TDM program would also be included in this alternative to reduce museum employee and visitor vehicle trips and increase the use of alternative modes of transportation such as walking, bicycling, public transit, and rideshare.

Similar to the project, this alternative would not include components that would substantially increase hazards due to a design feature. Lastly, this alternative would result in similar impacts related to inadequate emergency access during construction and operation and would include implementing the project's mitigation measures to reduce impacts. With respect to cumulative impacts, this alternative would result in increased VMT and would contribute to cumulative transportation impacts, like the project.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to transportation resources would be *similar* in comparison to the project. Impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to transportation, specifically the increase in regional VMT associated with the alternative, would remain significant and unavoidable and would occur to a similar degree as compared to the project.

## **TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would include grading, excavation, and other earthwork activities at a similar extent to that proposed by the project. As such, there would be similar

potential to disturb known or unknown cultural resources, including human remains, within the project site. This alternative would include implementing the same project mitigation measures to reduce this alternative's potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. In addition, with implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to tribal cultural resources.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to tribal cultural resources would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

## **UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would result in a similar project site design as the project, except for the expanded footprint of the new museum. This increase in square footage for the new museum is necessary to retain the Central Atrium and would represent similar usable square footage for the buildings as the project. As such, this alternative would result in similar demand for utilities and service systems as the project. Since project impacts related to utilities identified the potential to include construction of new or expanded sewer system facilities, and this alternative proposes similar building sizes and an overall similar site design as the project, it would implement the same project mitigation to address the potential need for constructing new or expanded sewer system facilities. Like the project, this alternative would conform to the demographic projections from SCAG's 2020-2045 RTP/SCS. Since the project site is currently located in the City's service area, it is considered to have been included in the LADWP's water supply planning efforts. Thus, the impacts of this alternative related to the water supply would be similar to the project. This alternative would result in similar generation of solid waste due to the similar building square footages associated with this alternative and, like the project, would be consistent with the applicable regulations associated with solid waste and would promote compliance with the Integrated Waste Management Act, Assembly Bill 939; Mandatory Commercial and Multi-Family Recycling, Assembly Bill 341; and California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, Assembly Bill 1826. In addition, with implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to utilities and service systems.

Overall, impacts of Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, related to utilities and service systems would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

### **6.4.4 Refined Alternative 3: Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would include the renovation of the Page Museum within the existing building footprint, similar to the project, but would incorporate a series of design refinements to reduce impacts on certain primary character-defining features of the Page Museum, including retaining the courtyard (also referred to as the "atrium") as an exterior space and retaining the space frame that supports the frieze ~~refining the materiality and size of the expansion atrium pop up to better compliment the frieze, preserving a larger portion of the existing berm on the west side of the Page Museum, and detailing the second floor glass enclosure underneath the Page Museum frieze to be as transparent as possible.~~ This alternative would also include constructing a new museum building of approximately 40,000 square feet, similar to the project, but would adjust the building footprint further to the north and west of the project's proposed footprint (Figure 6-3). This adjustment would allow for more separation of the new museum from the existing Page Museum ~~by narrowing the transition area connection between the two buildings.~~ Adjusting the footprint of the new museum to the north would also allow for approximately 4,000 square feet of open space to be added to the Central Green. In this alternative, the on-site surface parking would be reconfigured to complement the adjusted building footprint, extending west of the new museum building as with the

project, but this alternative would maintain the number of parking spaces that currently exist on-site and would not add additional parking spaces.

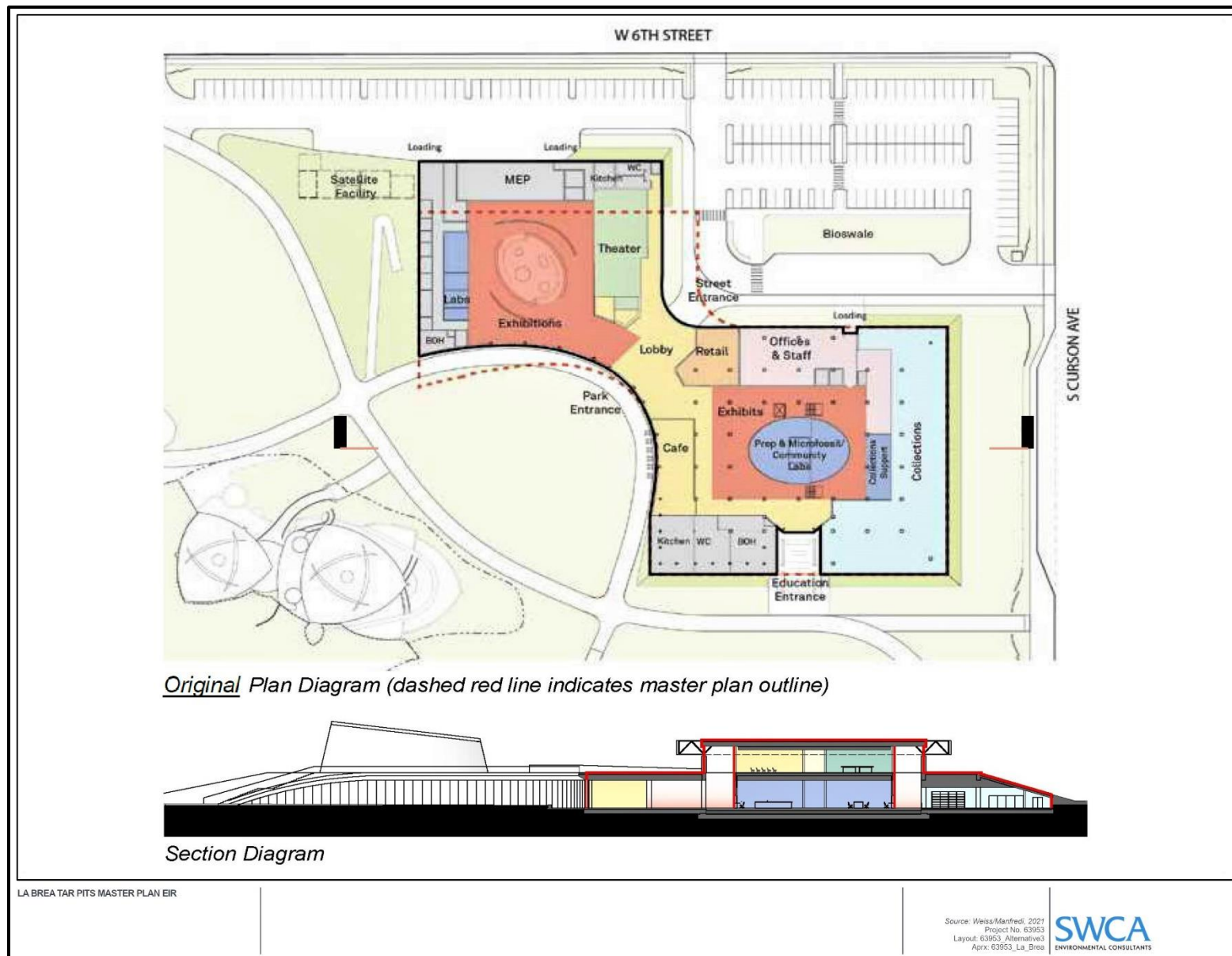
After completion of the Draft EIR, the County, acting through the Foundation, considered the EIR evaluation with respect to the Draft EIR comments made by the commenting entities and individuals. Many comments noted that the full build out of the Master Plan, as reflected in the Draft EIR, would result in historic resources losing their eligibility. Additionally, some comments opined that the footprint of the project was too large and expressed that alternatives should be considered which would result in fewer impacts to the Page Museum. As a result, the County conducted further feasibility studies of the original Alternative 3; the County determined that further exploration of Alternative 3 should occur to determine if additional improvements could be made to the alternative to address the comments received on the Draft EIR. As a result of this process, this section of the EIR expands the consideration of the original Alternative 3 with a refined version of the alternative. Additional figures showing Refined Alternative 3 are presented in Figures 6-4, 6-5, and 6-6. Refined Alternative 3 would not create additional or more intense environmental impacts than those previously disclosed when compared to the original Alternative 3 concept, as further detailed in each of the expanded environmental evaluations that follow. Below are some key variations in Refined Alternative 3 that are considered in this alternatives analysis:

- The central, open courtyard of the Page Museum, which contributes to the indoor-outdoor integration of the museum and is a primary character-defining feature, would no longer be covered and converted to indoor space; it would remain as an open courtyard. The landscaping and hardscaping features of the courtyard would be renovated to create a more usable public space and include climate-appropriate and native vegetation relevant to interpretive themes of the tar pits. This differs from the original Alternative 3, which replaced the open courtyard with research laboratory space.
- The structural space frame that supports the frieze (the open-air, steel-grid roof that enhances the indoor-outdoor integration of the Page Museum and is a primary character-defining feature) would not be altered or capped, as had been proposed in the original Alternative 3. Instead, the existing space frame and open-air grid roof would remain intact as it is currently but would be repainted and repaired.
- The Page Museum and the new museum building would be connected only with a covered, open-air breezeway; the original Alternative 3 proposed a physical connection/joining of the two buildings. An entrance would be incorporated into the northwestern corner of the Page Museum to provide access to the breezeway. The open-air breezeway that is proposed in the Refined Alternative 3 is a contrast to the previous concept of an enclosed entrance space joining the two buildings, which was proposed by the original Alternative 3. This change in the Refined Alternative 3 design means the connection between the two buildings would be scaled down, and demolition at the northwest corner of the Page Museum would be reduced, thereby retaining more of the original character-defining features and materials of the historical Page Museum resource.
- Removal of a portion of the berm would be focused at the northwest corner to accommodate a new entrance to the Page Museum, and modification of the west and north sides of the berm would still be necessary, albeit in a scaled down manner. The modifications would result in a new version of the berm that would allow for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp up to the terrace level on the west, and a change in elevation on the north allowing for access to the new entrance.
- As described above, the on-site surface parking would be reconfigured to complement the adjusted building footprint. The original Alternative 3 proposed two driveways along 6<sup>th</sup> Street and one driveway on South Curson Avenue for public vehicular access to the parking lot. However, it has been determined that it would be operationally preferred to eliminate the

driveway at the far western end of the parking lot on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The result is that Alternative 3 would have one driveway on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and one driveway on South Curson Avenue. This modification has been further addressed in the Transportation analysis contained in Section 6.4.4.2, below.

- The programming for interior spaces of the Page Museum and the new museum building would be revised, resulting in changes to the location of the theater, classrooms, the retail store, the café, and other interior elements. The Page Museum would also feature less staff office space than originally proposed.
- The canopy above the existing main entrance to the Page, which was envisioned in the proposed project and the original Alternative 3, would not be included in Refined Alternative 3, and would be replaced with trees to shade the proposed stepped seating.
- The reduced footprint of Refined Alternative 3 would require less ground disturbance during construction and would result in less soil import and export. The features retained by Refined Alternative 3 would be maintained and repaired as needed.
- Like the project, Refined Alternative 3 would include renovations to address deferred maintenance of the building and systems and to meet modern seismic, electrical, building code standards, and universal design standards.





**Figure 6-3. Original Alternative 3: Museum plan and section diagrams.**



**Figure 6-4. Refined Alternative 3: Hancock Park site plan.**





**Figure 6-5. Refined Alternative 3: Aerial illustration.**



**Figure 6-6. Refined Alternative 3: Courtyard.**



Aside from the modifications discussed above, Alternative 3 would be similar to the project, as outlined in Chapter 3, Project Description, and Table 6-1. Table 6-8 provides a summary of the project components of Alternative 3 that are different from the project.

**Table 6-8. Overview of Alternative 3 Project Components Different from the Project**

Project Component	Description
Page Museum Renovations	Renovate the existing building in the same footprint (approximately 63,200 square feet) while incorporating a series of design refinements to reduce impacts on certain primary character-defining features.
New Museum Building	Construct a new two-story 40,000-gsf museum building with a slightly adjusted footprint to the north and west while narrowing the transition area connection to the Page Museum.
Pedestrian Path and Recreation Areas	Expand the Central Green area by approximately 4,000 square feet due to the adjusted footprint of the new museum building.
Circulation and Parking	Reconfigure parking lot, extending it west of the new museum building footprint while maintaining the existing number of on-site parking spaces. This would require removing and, <u>where possible</u> , relocating existing trees on-site.

#### **6.4.4.1 Relationship to Project Objectives**

Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would meet all of the project objectives. Table 6-9 outlines this alternative's ability to attain the basic project objectives outlined above and in Chapter 3, Project Description.

**Table 6-9. Attainment of Project Objectives—Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green**

Project Objective	Does the Alternative Attain the Project Objective?
Renovate and expand the existing museum structure to address deferred maintenance of the building envelope and systems, to meet modern seismic, electrical, building code standards, and universal design standards, and to meet sustainability goals consistent with the County's sustainability plan (County of Los Angeles 2019).	<b>Yes.</b> This alternative would allow for renovating the Page Museum to address the deferred maintenance of the building envelope and systems to meet modern electrical and building code standards as well as seismic standards. This alternative would also include sustainability strategies designed to improve stormwater management, reduce heat island effect, provide more shade, and reduce light pollution to further the sustainability of the County's sustainability plan.
Provide expanded collections storage facilities that enable access for scientific research, and preserve, protect, and allow future growth of the museum's world-class collections.	<b>Yes.</b> This alternative would include constructing an additional 2,000 square-foot satellite maintenance and support building dedicated to <del>for</del> fossil storage, maintenance, and service facilities along the northern boundary of the project site.
Provide expanded state-of-the-art laboratory research facilities to accommodate internationally significant and advanced research in paleontology.	<b>Yes.</b> This alternative would allow for renovating the Page Museum and constructing a new museum building, adding an additional 40,000 square feet of museum space to support expanded laboratory research facilities.
Provide state-of-the-art exhibition facilities and learning environments within the park and museum to enrich the visitor experience and to support active educational and public programming.	<b>Yes.</b> This alternative would include renovating the Page Museum and constructing a new museum building, adding an additional 40,000 square feet of museum space to provide space for additional exhibitions, facilities, or enhanced learning environments. In addition, this alternative would allow for renovating the existing facilities at all the tar pit locations throughout the project site to allow for improved interpretive signage and viewing areas to further enrich the visitor experience and to support active educational programming.

Project Objective	Does the Alternative Attain the Project Objective?
<p>Improve access and entry for different visitor types, increase connections between the museum and the park, as well as support increased visitation, special events, and revenue-producing amenities within the park and museum.</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> This alternative would include enhanced entrances to the project site at the Wilshire and 6th Street Gateways and would also reconfigure the existing pedestrian pathways on-site into a continuous paved pedestrian path linking all the existing elements of the park. A pedestrian walking path would be constructed across the project site with interpretive signage and explanations related to the former industrial heritage of the site. The project site is currently served by a complete network of sidewalks around the project site block and adjacent street network, with signalized intersections and crosswalks. This alternative would also establish a new school drop-off/loading area on South Curson Avenue adjacent to the Wilshire Gateway picnic area.</p>
<p>Expand the museum exhibits, educational classrooms, collection spaces, offices, and laboratory research facilities in one unified, cohesive facility, with the fewest impacts to historical resources possible.</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> This alternative would expand museum facilities through the construction of the new museum building. The renovated Page Museum and new museum building would be connected via a central lobby area and an integrated organization of exhibits and collections, helping to create connection and cohesion between the two museum spaces. The design refinements presented in this alternative would lessen certain impacts to character-defining features to both the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District in such a way that decreases the overall severity of the significant and unavoidable historical resources impacts.</p>
<p>Create a central entrance to the museum facilities to enhance the visitor experience of the museum and Hancock Park.</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> This alternative would result in a renovated Page Museum and new museum building with a central entry point accessible from the project's parking lot as well as from the Central Green. The central entrance would lead to the museum lobby, which would provide a space for visitors to circulate and become familiar with organization of the museum's exhibits and collections both inside the museum spaces as well as the outdoor spaces within Hancock Park.</p>
<p>Preserve and protect the National Natural Landmark—La Brea Tar Pits—to allow access for future research and excavation, support cultural and educational interpretation, and enable the ongoing natural processes of the asphaltic seeps.</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> This alternative would allow for renovating and expanding the existing Page Museum and the remainder of the project site within Hancock Park in a way that would further the fundamental mission of La Brea Tar Pits as a site and facility dedicated to research, education, and exhibition. Under this alternative, the project site would continue to be recognized and protected as a National Natural Landmark. <u>Furthermore, this alternative would result in the preservation of several character-defining features of the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District. Specifically, the central courtyard of the Page Museum would remain as an open courtyard, the existing space frame of the frieze would not be altered or capped, the Page Museum and the new museum would only be connected by a covered open-air breezeway, and demolition of the northwest corner of the Page Museum would be reduced.</u></p>
<p>Redesign and renovate the Hancock Park community park green space as an expression of the goals of the County of Los Angeles's General Plan Conservation and Natural Resources Element and the City of Los Angeles's Open Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan, to increase sustainable landscape and site design, to support passive recreational use, to increase the legibility of this important cultural destination, and to enhance connections to the quickly evolving Miracle Mile neighborhood.</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> This alternative, like the project, would redesign and renovate the Hancock Park community park green space to include a landscape design and planting scheme that would address the realities of Los Angeles's current and projected climate and aim to ease water consumption and ensure appropriate maintenance. This alternative would include a 4,000-square-foot expansion of, and improvements to, the existing multi-purpose grass lawn, the Central Green, which would provide a setting for community activities, passive recreational uses, events, and public gatherings. This alternative would also install a new welcome pavilion with a canopy and shade trees at Wilshire Gateway, and a shaded welcome area at the 6th Street Gateway to increase the legibility within the Miracle Mile neighborhood.</p>

#### **6.4.4.2 Comparison of Significant Effects of the Alternative to the Project**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would result in similar types of construction activities, duration, and equipment as the project. Upon project completion, this alternative would result in similar land uses and operational activities as proposed by the project.

Further, Refined Alternative 3 does not differ significantly from the original Alternative 3 that was described in the Draft EIR. None of the conditions for recirculation of the Draft EIR specified in State CEQA Guidelines 15088.5 have been met, and this new information merely amplifies and expands upon the broad intent of the original Alternative 3. The adjustments made in the Refined Alternative 3 do not constitute “significant” new information because no additional substantial environmental effect of the project has been identified, nor has the severity of an environmental impact changed.

### **AESTHETICS**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would result in changes to the building footprints, adjustments to the site design in the northeastern portion of the project site, and would slightly modify some of the visual characteristics of the museum buildings on the project site when compared to the project. Like the project, this alternative’s changes in site design would be visible directly from adjacent off-site locations, including high-rise residential and commercial buildings. However, due to the topography of the project site and relative lack of buildings on the site compared with the surrounding dense urban development, view changes would typically occur at limited vantage points, as opposed to along extensive roadway segments or from entire large geographic areas. This alternative would adjust the footprint for the new museum building, shifting it further north allowing for more space and a narrower transition connection between the Page Museum and the new museum building. This refinement would reduce the visual competition between the two buildings and would preserve more of the existing berm along the western side of the Page Museum. While the new museum footprint would be adjusted, it would still be two stories in height, as proposed by the project. This alternative would also adjust the materiality of the new museum atrium feature to ensure that it complements the materiality of the Page Museum.

Like the project, this alternative would not have a substantial effect on a scenic vista or damage scenic resources within a State Scenic Highway, as no such resources have been identified near the project site and changes to the existing visual character of the project site would integrate with the surrounding urban development along Wilshire Boulevard and the park setting of Hancock Park. Like the project, implementation of this alternative would change the overall project site design and result in modifications to the visual characteristics of the project site, but not in such a way that it would adversely alter or degrade the existing visual character or scenic quality of the project site and would be consistent with the applicable policies that govern scenic quality in both County and City plans. This alternative would create new sources of light and glare, similar to the project, and would include the same mitigation measures as the project to address potential issues related to this issue. In addition, with implementation of the project’s mitigation measures to address light and glare, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to aesthetics.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to aesthetics would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the aesthetics analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and

refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. The refinements would result in less structural changes to the existing buildings, which would naturally result in less changes to the aesthetic character of the site. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. By further preserving the existing character-defining features of the Page Museum, the refinements would not affect impacts to aesthetics.

## **AIR QUALITY**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would result in similar types of construction activities, duration, and equipment as the project. Upon project operation, this alternative would result in similar land uses as proposed by the project. Like the project, this alternative would be subject to consistency with the air quality standards and the land use assumptions identified in the SCAQMD's AQMP and SCAG's regional plans and policies. As identified for the project, this alternative would also implement mitigation to reduce construction-related air pollutant emissions. Operational emissions may vary slightly when compared to the project given the expanded footprint of the museum building; however, as shown in Section 5.2, Air Quality, the project is significantly below the established SCAQMD's significance thresholds, and this alternative would not result in a considerable change from the anticipated uses within the project's site plan that would increase daily operations in such a manner to exceed the maximum daily operational emissions set forth by SCAQMD's significance thresholds. In addition, this alternative would implement the project's mitigation measure which incorporates a number of key control measures identified by the SCAQMD to ensure this alternative would not conflict with an applicable air quality plan, generate short- or long-term criteria pollutant emissions in exceedance of SCAQMD significance thresholds, expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of pollutant emissions, or result in adverse odors or other emissions. In addition, with implementation of the project's mitigation measure to reduce construction-related air pollutant emissions, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to air quality.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to air quality would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the air quality analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. The refinements would replace the connection point between the Page Museum and the new museum with an open-air breezeway, which would reduce the amount of demolition necessary at the northwest corner of the Page Museum. Naturally, emissions associated with construction may be reduced by this change. This would be offset any increased emissions resulting from the reconfiguration of the parking lot. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. By further preserving the existing character-defining features of the Page Museum, the refinements would not affect impacts to air quality.

## **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would allow for modifications to the project's site plan, resulting in similar types of construction activities, duration, and equipment as the project. The overall area of ground disturbance during the construction of this alternative would be similar to that of the project. Future operational conditions under this alternative would result in similar land uses as proposed by the project; however, this alternative



would result in the gain of 4,000 square feet of open space area to be added to the Central Green over what is proposed by the project.

This alternative, like the project, could result in adverse effects during the construction process on one species, the federal candidate monarch butterfly, either directly or through habitat modifications. In addition, this alternative could result in impacts to regulated aquatic resources habitat associated with Oil Creek and could also result in removing or relocating the oak trees on-site, thereby conflicting with the County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance. Like the project, this alternative would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Given the similar nature of ground disturbance, construction activities, and future operational conditions, this alternative would implement the same mitigation measures to address potential impacts as the project. In addition, with implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to biological resources.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to biological resources would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the biological resources analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. The refinements would reduce the number of trees to be removed or relocated from between 150 and 200 trees, down to between 130 and 160 trees. The refinements would also result in the addition of between 320 and 360 new trees. Impacts to the local habitats supported by the site would remain the same. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. By further preserving the existing character-defining features of the Page Museum, the refinements would not affect impacts to biological resources.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES – ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would include grading, excavation, and other earthwork activities similar to the extent proposed by the project throughout most of the project site. As such, there would be similar potential to disturb known or unknown archaeological resources, including human remains, within the project site. This alternative would implement the same project mitigation measures to reduce this alternative's potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. In addition, with implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to archaeological resources.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to archaeological resources would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the archaeological resources analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. The refinements would result in the same level of ground disturbance and would not result in any additional earthwork activities. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. By further preserving the existing character-defining features of the Page Museum, the refinements would not affect the impacts to archeological resources.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES – HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would refine and decrease some of the changes to character-defining features to both the Page Museum and La Brea Tar Pits Historic District. Adjusting the building footprint to the north and west of the project's proposed footprint would allow for a greater separation of the new museum from the existing Page Museum, which would contribute to retaining the visual primacy of the Page Museum in the context of the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District.

Further, by narrowing the transition area connection between the two buildings, less of the character-defining berm would be removed from the Page Museum site, which would contribute in a small degree to lessening the impact to both the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District.

In addition, design refinements to the materiality and size of the expansion atrium pop-up, aimed at better complementing the frieze, and detailing the second floor glass enclosure underneath the Page Museum frieze to be as transparent as possible, would reduce impacts on certain primary character-defining features of the Page Museum.

These design refinements would contribute to retaining the visual primacy of the Page Museum in the context of the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District. There would be a greater separation of the new museum building from the existing Page Museum, in part because the new museum building's footprint would be adjusted to the north and west, and in part because the connection point for the Page Museum and the new museum building would be decreased to a breezeway rather than the broad, sweeping enclosed hyphen that would physically connect the two buildings into a single and cohesive envelope.

Further, by decreasing the connection point between the two buildings to a breezeway, less of the character-defining berm, which currently goes around the full extent of the Page Museum, would be removed. Removal of a portion of the berm would be focused at the northwest corner to accommodate a new entrance to the Page Museum from the breezeway. The west and north sides of the berm would be modified adjacent to the new, scaled back northwest corner entrance, which would result in a slightly altered new version of a berm. This would allow for the addition of an ADA ramp up to the terrace level on the west side of the Page Museum, and a change in elevation on the north side to allow for access to the new entrance while also retaining most of the berm in its existing condition. These design refinements would contribute, in a small degree, to lessening the impact to both the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District.

After completion of the Draft EIR, the Foundation considered the EIR evaluation and the comments made by the commenting entities during the Draft EIR public review period. As a result, this section of the EIR expands the consideration of Alternative 3. A refined version of Alternative 3 is presented earlier in this chapter in Figures 6-4, 6-5, and 6-6. The refined version of Alternative 3 does not create additional historical impacts when compared to the original Alternative 3 concept. In fact, the refined version of Alternative 3 further reduces impacts to character-defining features of the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District. Specifically:

- The central, open courtyard of the Page Museum, which contributes to the indoor-outdoor integration of the museum and is a primary character-defining feature, would no longer be covered and converted to indoor space; it would remain as an open courtyard. The landscaping and hardscaping features of the courtyard would be renovated to create a more usable public space and include climate-appropriate and native vegetation relevant to interpretive themes of the tar pits. This differs from the original Alternative 3, which replaced the open courtyard with research laboratory space.

- The structural space frame that supports the frieze (the open-air, steel-grid roof that enhances the indoor-outdoor integration of the Page Museum and is a primary character-defining feature) would not be altered or capped, as had been proposed in the original Alternative 3. Instead, the existing space frame and open-air grid roof would remain intact as it is currently but would be repainted and repaired.
- The Page Museum and the new museum building would be connected only with a covered, open-air breezeway; the original Alternative 3 proposed a physical connection/joining of the two buildings. An entrance would be incorporated into the northwestern corner of the Page Museum to provide access to the breezeway. The open-air breezeway that is proposed in the Refined Alternative 3 is a contrast to the previous concept of an enclosed entrance space joining the two buildings, which was proposed by the original Alternative 3. This change in the Refined Alternative 3 design means the connection between the two buildings would be scaled down, and demolition at the northwest corner of the Page Museum would be reduced, thereby retaining more of the original character-defining features and materials of the historical Page Museum resource.
- Removal of a portion of the berm would be focused at the northwest corner to accommodate a new entrance to the Page Museum, and modification of the west and north sides of the berm would still be necessary, albeit in a scaled down manner. The modifications would result in a new version of the berm that would allow for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp up to the terrace level on the west, and a change in elevation on the north allowing for access to the new entrance.
- The canopy above the existing main entrance to the Page, which was envisioned in the proposed project and the original Alternative 3, would not be included in Refined Alternative 3, and would be replaced with trees to shade the proposed stepped seating.

~~With these changes, the design refinements presented in Alternative 3 would lessen certain impacts to character-defining features to both the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District. However, the character-defining berm around the Page Museum would still largely be removed and the new museum annexed to it. Considered in combination, the removal of the character-defining berm around the Page Museum, along with the other site plan changes, would continue to result in a significant and unavoidable impact to historical resources. However, the overall severity of the significant and unavoidable historical resources impacts would be reduced because of the narrowing the transition area connection between the two buildings and the design refinements to the materiality and size of the expansion atrium pop-up, aimed at better complimenting the frieze. With respect to cumulative impacts, this alternative would contribute to cumulative impacts related to historical resources, like the project, although cumulative impacts would be decreased in overall severity.~~

The design refinements presented in Refined Alternative 3 would lessen impacts to character-defining features of the Page Museum. One of the primary character-defining features of the Page Museum is its visual primacy on the grounds of the Tar Pits; the design refinements presented in the refined version of Alternative 3 would result in less of an impact to the Page Museum's visual primacy. The Page Museum would be connected to the new museum building only by a covered open-air breezeway. Demolition would be reduced at the northwest corner of the Page Museum where a new entrance would be created. In addition, the building's central open courtyard would remain an open courtyard and the structural space frame that supports the frieze would remain intact as it is currently but would be repainted and repaired on an as-needed basis. Most of the character-defining berm around the Page Museum would remain but would be modified. Removal of a portion of the berm would be focused at the northwest corner where the new entrance to the Page Museum would be created. Modification of the west and north sides of the berm would result in a new version of the berm that would allow for the ADA ramp up to the terrace level on the west and a change in elevation on the north allowing for access to the new entrance. Refined

Alternative 3 would reduce impacts to the Page Museum to the extent that the building would continue to convey its historic significance and retain its eligibility as a historical resource.

Considered in combination, the removal of the character-defining berm at the northwest corner, the new Page Museum entrance at the northwest corner, modification of the western and northern portions of the berm, construction of the new museum building, and other site plan changes would continue to result in a significant and unavoidable impact to the La Brea Tar Pits historic district. However, the overall severity of the significant and unavoidable impacts to the historic district would be reduced because of the increased separation of the new museum building from the Page Museum, and the design refinements that retain more of the Page Museum's character-defining features such as the existing structural space frame, frieze, and courtyard.

When the changes in effect to the various character-defining features of the two historical resources are considered in combination, impacts of Refined Alternative 3 related to historical resources would be *decreased* in comparison to the project. ~~Although impacts would be decreased in overall severity, Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would continue to result in significant and unavoidable impacts to the historic resources of the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District.~~

## **GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would include grading, excavation, and other earthwork activities similar to the extent proposed by the project throughout most of the project site. Like the project, this alternative would be subject to all applicable regulations, including the applicable provisions in the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, Seismic Safety Act, Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, the California Building Code, and the 2020 County of Los Angeles Building Code. As with the project, this alternative would include construction activities on soils with existing artificial fill that may not be suitable to support foundations, slabs on grade, paving, or new compacted fills and could cause geologic instability at the project site related to subsidence (i.e., compressible and collapsible soils) and expansive soils. This alternative would implement the same project mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts related to subsidence, as well as compressible, collapsible, and expansive soils, to less-than-significant levels. In addition, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative geotechnical or soils-related hazards.

Similar to the project, all ground-disturbing activities associated with the construction of this alternative have the potential to impact subsurface paleontological resources given the high paleontological sensitivity of the project site. Paleontological resources may be impacted by the construction or implementation of this alternative regardless of the depth of grading and/or excavation activities. Any fossils encountered during ground-disturbing activities could be at risk for damage or destruction from such activities depending on the nature of the fossil encountered. This alternative would require implementing the same project mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts on paleontological resources to less-than-significant levels. With implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to paleontological resources.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to geology and soils would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the geology and soils analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. The refinements would result in the same level of

ground disturbance and would not result in any additional earthwork activities. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. By further preserving the existing character-defining features of the Page Museum, the refinements would not affect the impacts to geology and soils.

## **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would result in similar types of construction activities, duration, and equipment as the project. Upon project operation, this alternative would result in similar land uses as proposed by the project. Given that this alternative would result in similar construction and operational conditions as the project, this alternative would generate similar GHG emissions. This alternative would also incorporate the project's mitigation measure related to eliminating natural gas infrastructure and increasing electric vehicle charging stations. Like the project, this alternative would not generate GHG emissions above established SCAQMD thresholds.

Given that the operation of the facilities at the project site would be similar to the project under this alternative, it would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions. Like the project, this alternative would include components that would further the GHG reduction targets set forth in the applicable plans, policies, regulations, or recommendations of an agency adopted to reduce GHG emissions (see Section 5.7, Greenhouse Gas Emissions). Specifically, this alternative would include components that would further the GHG reduction targets set forth in the SCAG 2020-2045 RTP/SCS related to mobility and GHG reductions. The project's mitigation measure involving the development of a TDM program for employee and visitor vehicle trips to increase alternative modes of transportation, such as walking, bicycling, public transit, and rideshare, would further consistency with applicable plans, policies, and regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. In addition, within implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to GHG emissions.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to GHG emissions would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the greenhouse gas analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. The refinements would replace the connection point between the Page Museum and the new museum with an open-air breezeway, which would reduce the amount of demolition necessary at the northwest corner of the Page Museum. Naturally, emissions associated with construction may be reduced by this change. This would offset any increased emissions resulting from the reconfiguration of the parking lot. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. By further preserving the existing character-defining features of the Page Museum, the refinements would not affect impacts to greenhouse gas emissions.

## **HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would include grading, excavation, and other earthwork activities similar to the extent proposed by the project throughout most of the project site. When compared to the project, this alternative has similar potential for construction-related activities to uncover subsurface hazards (i.e., subsurface

methane gas produced from naturally occurring petroleum fields) or create a significant hazard to the public or environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

Under this alternative, like the project, the project site would continue to be subject to the naturally occurring tar seeps, and current strategies for managing this issue would remain in place (see Section 5.8.1.4, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Tar Seeps). In addition, the existing high concentration of subsurface methane gas at the project site would require ongoing control measures to ensure a properly designed methane mitigation system would provide a barrier for hazardous vapors. Due to the high potential for elevated concentrations of methane gas at the project site, operational impacts of this alternative related to the release of hazardous materials into the environment would be similar to the project and would include the project's operational mitigation measure to address this impact. Like the project, this alternative could emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school and would include the project's mitigation measures to address construction and operational impacts associated with this issue. This alternative would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5. Further, and consistent with the project, this alternative would not be developed within 2 miles of a public airport or public-use airport and would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Additionally, with implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to hazardous materials.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to hazards and hazardous materials would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the hazards and hazardous materials analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. The refinements would result in the same level of ground disturbance and would not result in any additional earthwork activities. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. By further preserving the existing character-defining features of the Page Museum, the refinements would not affect the impacts to hazards and hazardous materials.

## **HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would include grading, excavation, and other earthwork activities similar to the extent proposed by the project throughout most of the project site. While this alternative would adjust the building footprint for the new museum, it would be the same size as proposed by the project (40,000 square feet). The shifting of the building north would allow for approximately 4,000 square feet of open space area to be added to the Central Green. Overall, the area of pervious surfaces in this alternative would be slightly increased when compared to the project due to this gain of open space area. This increase in pervious surfaces is negligible and would not result in substantial changes or improvements to drainage patterns or runoff rates when compared to the project.

Like the project, this alternative would result in earthwork activities that would require soil to be excavated and transported off-site and similar dewatering practices as the project would occur under this alternative due to the presence of naturally occurring tar (petroleum) in the subsurface soils. Like the project, compliance with the requirements of the LARWQCB (CWA NPDES Program and Porter-

Cologne Act waste discharge requirements), Construction General Permit, and County stormwater regulations would be sufficient to address the potential for the buildout of the project to violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements during construction activities. This alternative would implement the three LID BMPs in accordance with the Los Angeles County LID Standards Manual (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works 2014), as outlined in Section 5.9, Hydrology and Water Quality.

This alternative would implement the project's proposed LID BMPs, including the project's three proposed biofiltration areas, and the project's related mitigation measure for non-structural BMPs to further reduce the volume of runoff or improve the quality of runoff from the project site and maximize the percolation of rainfall into the groundwater basin and proposed permeable landscape areas. Similar to the project buildout, this alternative would not adversely affect local groundwater levels or deplete groundwater supplies. While the modifications to the northeastern corner of the project site would occur under this alternative, it would result in a similar overall area of impervious surfaces when compared to the project and, like the project, would be designed to capture, filter, and reduce the volume of any additional runoff from the project's proposed impervious surfaces in a way that mimics, as well as improves, existing drainage patterns. The project site is not in a flood hazard zone or tsunami zone and the risk of a seiche is low. Therefore, there would be no risk of releasing pollutants due to project inundation by these hazards, similar to the project. Lastly, given that this alternative would be subject to compliance with existing applicable regulatory requirements and would implement the project's LID BMPs, this alternative would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of a water quality control plan or a sustainable groundwater management plan. Additionally, with implementation of the project's LID BMPs and mitigation measure, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to hydrology and water quality.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to hydrology and water quality would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the hydrology and water quality analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. The refinements would result in a similar level of ground disturbance and would not result in any additional earthwork activities. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. By further preserving the existing character-defining features of the Page Museum, the refinements would not affect the impacts to hydrology and water quality.

## **LAND USE AND PLANNING**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would include renovations to the Page Museum aimed at preserving some of the identified character-defining features while also providing the expanded new museum facilities and the same programming proposed by the project. Like the project, this alternative would not physically divide an established community as all project activities would occur within the existing boundary of the project site and would not introduce features that would implement barriers or divide the established uses within the project site or the greater area of Hancock Park and the surrounding neighborhood. Like the project, this alternative would also result in the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to inconsistencies with applicable policies pertaining to the alteration of designated historical resources (i.e., the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and the Page Museum). However, this alternative includes design refinements that would lessen certain impacts to character-defining features to both the Page Museum and

the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District. These refinements would reduce the overall severity of the project's impacts to historical resources, serving to further support applicable land use objectives, goals, and policies set forth in the County of Los Angeles General Plan, the City of Los Angeles General Plan, and the Wilshire Community Plan (County of Los Angeles 2015, City of Los Angeles 2001a, 2001b). However, because impacts to historical resources would continue to be significant and unavoidable, a full consistency determination with these applicable land use policies may not be achieved in this alternative. In addition, and like the project, this alternative would also contribute incrementally toward cumulative impacts on historical resources and related land use policies protecting these resources (i.e., County of Los Angeles General Plan, the City of Los Angeles General Plan, and the Wilshire Community Plan).

Therefore, Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to land use and planning would be *decreased* in comparison to the project; however, this alternative would not fully avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to inconsistencies with applicable land use plans and policies as they pertain to the alteration and preservation of designated historical resources.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the land use and planning analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum, which is a historical resource. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. By further preserving the existing character-defining features of the Page Museum, the refinements would not affect impacts to land use and planning.

## **NOISE AND VIBRATION**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would include similar types of construction activities and equipment as the project. This alternative could generate a substantial increase in ambient noise levels near the project, which could affect noise-sensitive land uses. The project's mitigation measures would be included to reduce construction-related noise for the duration of the construction phase of this alternative, like the project. Once operational, this alternative, like the project, would establish stationary on-site noise sources at the project site as well as contribute to off-site roadway traffic noise. This alternative would include new stationary noise sources similar to the project, including parking lot facility noise, mechanical equipment (i.e., dry coolers and emergency generators), loading and waste compacting activities, and activities associated with the use of outdoor spaces (e.g., outdoor café located on the center terrace on the west side of the Page Museum; Pit 91 outdoor classroom), and roadway traffic noise sources. Given that the project would result in similar museum-related uses, operational noise from this alternative would be similar to the project. Like the project, this alternative would not result in generating excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. Given that the project site is not near a private airstrip or within the boundaries of an airport land use plan, this alternative would have similar impacts related to airport noise as the project. Like the project, this alternative would not contribute considerably to cumulative noise and/or vibration impacts.

Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to noise would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the noise and vibration analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. Further, the refinements would not interfere with



implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, and the refinements would not affect impacts to noise and vibration.

## RECREATION

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would result in an increase of approximately 4,000 square feet of open space area added to the Central Green. Similar to the project, this alternative would not result in a new or permanent population (including employees and visitors) that would use the site for recreation or increase the use of nearby parks or recreational facilities; therefore, it would not result in an associated increase in the use of nearby existing parks and recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of any one facility would occur or be accelerated. Since this alternative would result in the same improvements and enhancements to the existing passive recreational uses and outdoor spaces as the project, this alternative would result in similar physical effects on the environment during construction and would implement the project's mitigation measures to reduce construction impacts. As with the project, this alternative would continue to provide publicly accessible open space areas within the project site. Like the project, with implementation of the project's mitigation measures to address construction impacts associated with adverse physical effects on the environment, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to recreation.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to recreation would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the recreation analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, and the refinements would not affect impacts to recreation.

## TRANSPORTATION

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would result in an adjusted footprint of the new museum building with the same square footage as proposed by the project. Given the museum square footage was used, in part, to estimate the net increase in project-generated trips along with the average visitor trip length (see Section 5.13, Transportation), this alternative would likely result in similar estimated regional VMT as that estimated for the project. While the project's mitigation measure to reduce employee and visitor VMT and support multimodal connectivity would be included for this alternative, like the project, it may be insufficient to reduce VMT to less-than-significant levels. Thus, this alternative would not address the project's significant and unavoidable impact related to increased VMT, and the impacts of this alternative would be similar to the project for this issue.

Similar to the project, this alternative could result in an impact related to consistency with transportation plans, programs, ordinances, or policies as they relate to LAMC ordinances for vehicle parking supply, bicycle parking supply, and TDM. This alternative would result in similar inconsistencies as the project related to the GHG reduction targets set forth in the SCAG 2020-2045 RTP/SCS. The project's mitigation measure to implement a TDM program would also be included in this alternative to reduce museum employee and visitor vehicle trips and increase the use of alternative modes of transportation, such as walking, bicycling, public transit, and rideshare.

Similar to the project, this alternative includes a new driveway on 6th Street that would provide access to the parking lot and follows guidance for placement along an Avenue II frontage. The refinements to Alternative 3 removed a second new driveway on 6th Street and reduce the impact to curb parking and number of conflict points with pedestrians and bicyclists along 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The removal of the second driveway does not result in additional impacts to transportation or emergency access for the site.

Similar to the project, this alternative would not include components that would substantially increase hazards due to a design feature. Lastly, this alternative would result in similar impacts related to inadequate emergency access during construction and operation and would include implementing the project's mitigation measures to reduce impacts. With respect to cumulative impacts, this alternative would result in increased VMT and would contribute to cumulative transportation impacts, like the project. Therefore, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to transportation resources would be *similar* in comparison to the project. Impacts of Alternative 3 related to transportation, specifically the increase in regional VMT associated with the alternative, would remain significant and unavoidable and would occur to a similar degree as compared to the proposed project. The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the transportation analysis.

## **TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would include grading, excavation, and other earthwork activities similar to the extent proposed by the project. As such, there would be similar potential to disturb known or unknown cultural resources, including human remains, within the project site. This alternative would include implementation of the same project mitigation measures to reduce this alternative's potential impacts to less-than-significant levels. In addition, with implementation of the project's mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to tribal cultural resources.

Therefore, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to tribal cultural resources would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the tribal cultural resources analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. The refinements would result in a similar level of ground disturbance and would not result in any additional earthwork activities. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. By further preserving the existing character-defining features of the Page Museum, the refinements would not affect the impacts to tribal cultural resources.

## **UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

Refined Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would result in a similar project site design as the project, except for the adjusted footprint for the new museum building. While the footprint would be adjusted in this alternative, it would be the same size as the building proposed by the project. As such, this alternative would result in similar demand for utilities and service systems as the project. Since project impacts related to utilities identified the potential to include construction of new or expanded sewer system facilities, and this alternative proposes similar building sizes and an overall similar site design as the project, it would implement the same project mitigation to address the potential need for constructing new or expanded sewer system facilities. Like the project, this alternative would conform to the demographic projections from SCAG's 2020-2045

RTP/SCS. Since the project site is currently located in the City’s service area, it is considered to have been included in the LADWP’s water supply planning efforts. Thus, the impacts of this alternative related to the water supply would be similar to the project. This alternative would result in similar generation of solid waste due to the similar building square footages associated with this alternative and, like the project, would be consistent with the applicable regulations associated with solid waste and would promote compliance with the Integrated Waste Management Act, Assembly Bill 939; Mandatory Commercial and Multi-Family Recycling, Assembly Bill 341; and California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, Assembly Bill 1826. In addition, with implementation of the project’s mitigation measures, this alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts related to utilities and service systems. Overall, impacts of Alternative 3, Adjusted Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, related to utilities and service systems would be *similar* in comparison to the project.

The refinements to Alternative 3 that occurred after the Draft EIR public review period do not change the conclusions of the utilities and service systems analysis. Refined Alternative 3 merely includes further detail and refinements to the design to better incorporate the theme of the alternative, which is to reduce the impacts to the character-defining features of the Page Museum. Further, the refinements would not interfere with implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, and the refinements would not affect impacts to utilities and service systems.

## 6.5 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE

The State CEQA Guidelines require an analysis of alternatives to identify an Environmentally Superior Alternative among the alternatives evaluated in the EIR. The Environmentally Superior Alternative is the alternative that would minimize adverse impacts on the environment. Based on the evaluation of the alternatives in this chapter and the comparison of impacts, as summarized in Table 6-10, both the No Project/No Build Alternative and Alternative 1, Renovate the Page Museum Only, would minimize the project’s adverse impacts on the environment in the same manner. As directed by the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(2):

- “If the environmentally superior alternative is the ‘no project’ alternative, the EIR shall also identify an environmentally superior alternative among the other alternatives.”

Therefore, Alternative 1, Renovate the Page Museum Only, would be the Environmentally Superior Alternative because it would be the built alternative that minimizes the project’s adverse impacts on the environment. In addition, Alternative 1 would meet one of the project objectives and partially achieve two of the project objectives. However, it would not achieve most of the nine identified project objectives.

**Table 6-10. Comparison of Impacts Among Alternatives**

Issue Area	No Project/ No Build Alternative	Alternative 1: Renovate Page Museum Only	Alternative 2: Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden	<u>Refined</u> Alternative 3: Adjust Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green
Aesthetics	Decreased	Decreased	Similar	Similar
Air Quality	Decreased	Decreased	Similar	Similar
Biological Resources	Decreased	Decreased	Similar	Similar
Cultural Resources – Archaeological Resources	Decreased	Decreased	Similar	Similar

Issue Area	No Project/ No Build Alternative	Alternative 1: Renovate Page Museum Only	Alternative 2: Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden	<u>Refined</u> Alternative 3: Adjust Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green
Cultural Resources – Historical Resources	Decreased; would avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impact	Decreased; would avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impact	Similar; impacts would continue to be significant and unavoidable*	Decreased; impacts would continue to be significant and unavoidable†
Geology and Soils	Decreased	Decreased	Similar	Similar
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Decreased	Similar	Similar	Similar
Hydrology and Water Quality	<del>Decreased</del> Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Land Use and Planning	Decreased; would avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impact	Decreased; would avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impact	Similar; impacts would continue to be significant and unavoidable	Decreased; impacts would continue to be significant and unavoidable.
Noise and Vibration	Decreased	Decreased	Similar	Similar
Recreation	Similar	Similar	Similar	Similar
Transportation	Decreased; would avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impact	Decreased; would avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impact	Similar; impacts would continue to be significant and unavoidable	Similar; impacts would continue to be significant and unavoidable
Tribal Cultural Resources	Decreased	Decreased	Similar	Similar
Utilities and Service Systems	Decreased	Decreased	Similar	Similar
Meets Project Objectives?	Partially	Partially	Partially	Yes

\* The benefits of avoiding the impacts to the Page Museum's character-defining features do not outweigh the additional impacts to the character-defining features of the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and would not avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to alterations of historical resources.

† Impacts to certain character-defining features are lessened to both the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District, thereby reducing the overall severity of the impacts to historical resources; however, it would not avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts.

Alternative 1 would avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impact to historical resources as it would result in renovations to the interior of the Page Museum only, while retaining the character-defining features of both the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District that qualify them as historical resources. Because Alternative 1 would avoid impacts to historical resources, it would also avoid the project's inconsistencies with applicable land use plans and policies. In addition, Alternative 1 would also avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impact related to transportation as it would not result in the project's substantial increase in regional VMT. Alternative 1 would also result in decreased impacts to a majority of the other environmental issues areas listed in Table 6-10 as no grading or other earthwork activities would be necessary, and no other structures would be constructed as a result of this alternative. Further, upon completing this alternative, there would be no changes to the existing land use types or operational characteristics of the project site. As described in Table 6-5, Alternative 1 would meet one of the project objectives related to preserving and protecting the National Natural Landmark—La Brea Tar Pits. Alternative 1 would partially meet two other project objectives related to addressing the deferred maintenance and meeting modern building code standards of Page Museum as well as partially meeting the project objective related to providing state-of-the-art exhibition facilities and learning environments within the museum. While it would not meet most of the project objectives, Alternative 1 is the alternative scenario that reduces the most environmental impacts when compared to the project.

For comparison, Alternative 2, Maintain Central Atrium Pleistocene Garden, would preserve most of the character-defining features of the Page Museum, but it would result in the loss of a greater amount of

open space in the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District due to the increased footprint of the project. As such, the benefits of avoiding the impacts to the Page Museum's character-defining features do not outweigh the additional impacts to character-defining features to the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District and this alternative would not avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to alterations of historical resources. Since Alternative 2 would not avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts to historical resources, it would also result in the project's inconsistencies with applicable land use plans and policies. In addition, Alternative 2 would not avoid the project's substantial increase in regional VMT and would still result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to this issue. Alternative 2 would also result in similar impacts as the project to the other environmental issues areas listed in Table 6-10 as this alternative would result in similar types of construction activities and operational uses as proposed by the project. As described in Table 6-7, Alternative 2 would meet seven project objectives and partially meet the remaining two objectives due to the loss of open space as a result of the expanded museum footprint.

Refined Alternative 3, Adjust Footprint to Reduce Contact with Page Museum and Expand Central Green, would result in similar environmental impacts as the project for each issue area analyzed in this EIR, as shown in Table 6-10, with the exception of historical resources and land use and planning. While Refined Alternative 3 would lessen certain impacts to character-defining features to both the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District thereby reducing the overall severity of the impacts to historical resources; however, it would not avoid the project's significant and unavoidable impacts. One of the primary character-defining features of the Page Museum is its visual primacy on the grounds of the Tar Pits; the design refinements presented in the refined version of Alternative 3 would result in less of an impact to the Page Museum's visual primacy. Refined Alternative 3 would reduce impacts to the Page Museum to the extent that the building would continue to convey its historic significance and retain its eligibility as a historical resource. However, the site plan changes would continue to result in a significant and unavoidable impact to the La Brea Tar Pits Historic District. The overall severity of the significant and unavoidable impacts to the historic district would be reduced because of the separation of the new museum building from the Page Museum, the narrowing of the transition area connection between the two buildings, and the design refinements that retain more of the Page Museum's character-defining features such as the existing structural space frame, frieze, and courtyard.

Similarly, the design refinements in this alternative would help to further support the land uses plans and policies applicable to the project as they relate to the protection and alternation of historical resources, but not in such a way to avoid the project's related significant and unavoidable impacts. This alternative would also result in the project's significant and unavoidable impacts related to increased regional VMT. However, Refined Alternative 3 is the alternative that meets all project objectives by providing an adjusted museum footprint and incorporating a series of design refinements that would support the basic objectives of the project.

Based strictly on an analysis of the relative environmental impacts, Alternative 1, Renovate the Page Museum Only, is considered the Environmentally Superior Alternative. The Foundation and the Museum of Natural History, as a departmental unit of the County, will consider the whole of the record when considering the project including, but not limited to, public comment and testimony ~~related to the size and design of the residence~~. The Foundation and the Museum of Natural History may select the project as proposed, an alternative, or a specified combination of particular elements identified in the alternatives, as the approved project. In all scenarios, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) would be applied to the approved project.

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