

# Three Scenarios Proposed for New FBI Building

The FBI says it would like to build a stand alone FBI building at the site occupied by the **Federal Building at Wilshire and Veteran in Westwood**. Although the FBI has not reached a definite decision as to the site, it informed the Westside community at a meeting held earlier this year that it is likely to build at 11000 Wilshire Blvd., which it considers the best of the sites it has looked at.

## Eleven Sites Investigated

The FBI says that it investigated eleven other sites but found that all were either outside the desired area or too close to other law enforcement facilities such as Parker Center. (The FBI prefers not to have nearby law enforcement sites affected when trouble arises.)

The area the FBI has been considering is bounded roughly by the 405, 101, 5, and 10 Freeways.

## Three Scenarios

Three scenarios for a new FBI building are under consideration.

In **Scenario 1**, the FBI would add two new buildings and their associated parking structures adjacent to the Federal Building. The Federal Building is about 560,000 square feet and has a capacity of 1,500 employees although currently, only about 1,250 employees work there. The two proposed buildings would total 937,000 square feet and have a capacity of 1,700 employees. Current parking capacity is 1,500 surface lot spaces and 595 covered spaces. In this scenario, parking would decrease to about 1,800 spaces (600 surface lot spaces and 1,200 new covered spaces) from the current 2,095 spaces. At the same time, the building space would almost triple to 1.5 million square feet.

In **Scenario 2** the Federal Building would be retained, and a new building of approximately one million square feet would be added.

**Scenario 3** calls for the demolition of the Federal Building, which would

be replaced by two new buildings with a total of one million square feet. Parking capacity would be 2,200 spaces (1,000 surface lot spaces and 1,200 covered new spaces), an increase of 105 spaces.

## The Favorite

An FBI representative at the meeting expressed a preference for Scenario 3, which would remove the existing Federal Building. He noted that any FBI building would devote much of its area to evidence storage facilities, labs, and meeting places. As a result, the number of employees per square foot would be much lower than at other federal agencies. *Nevertheless, the new project would add up to an additional 1,000 people to the 700 FBI people currently working at the Federal Building.*

## Traffic Impact

The impact of the two new buildings on traffic, the FBI representative said would be much less than that of the current Federal Building. He added that most of the current 700 FBI employees at the site commute from either the north end of the Valley or from the South Bay, with the majority coming from the Valley.

The FBI, he said, planned to study traffic at twenty intersections within a two mile radius of the site. Many residents at the meeting suggested that twenty intersections were an insufficient number. The study would include a trip generation study and peak hour modeling, etc.

## Terrorist Threat

The FBI representative also addressed public concerns about a terrorist threat to the FBI building and what such a threat could mean to the local community. He said that a new facility would be secure and that terrorists tend not to attack secure facilities. Community members suggested that biological terrorism would still be possible. The representative acknowledged that a terrorist threat could not be ruled out but suggested

that the new building would be a less likely target than the current one.

A helipad would be required on the new building(s) for emergency use only and, perhaps, for occasional use by the FBI Director.

## Post Office

The current building houses both a post office and a postal distribution site. The FBI does not oppose retaining the post office if the community wants to keep it; however, the postal distribution facility would be moved to another site if the FBI building plans are green-lighted.

**The current schedule is as follows:**

April 2005	Draft EIS
May/June 2005	Public Review of Draft EIS
July 2005	Final EIS
August 2005	Record of Decision
2007	Groundbreaking
2012	Completion

**Richard Cahalan**, a member of the **Westside Neighborhood Council**, who gathered the information for this report, says he believes that the FBI clearly wants to demolish the Federal Building and replace it with the two new FBI buildings. However, the General Services Administration, which has a major say in the project, prefers to maximize land use by keeping the existing building and by placing other Federal agencies there.

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## Crime Strikes Rancho

The Rancho Park area has been hit by a series of residential burglaries. The criminals operate in the late evening and early morning hours. They target wrought iron patio furniture, benches, bronze and cement statuary and, fountains. Please contact the Los Angeles Police Department if you observe any suspicious activity.

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