

# Background for temporary relocation to Arden Fair parking lots.

(2/16/21)

We were notified in early 2020 by Caltrans that there would be construction starting sometime in Spring of 2021 that would entail expansion of the highway 50 lanes that are located above the Sacramento Sunday market at 6th & 8th, W & X streets. It was unclear as to how that would impact our operation at that time, all depended on the contractor with whom they had not yet determined. After numerous attempts we were fortunate in October 2020 to have a first discussion with the then bid awarded contractor to discuss the scope of the construction relative to how it might affect our ability to operate. The importance of the Sacramento Sunday Certified Farmers' Market to the communities it served was stressed. Between that date and early December, cooperative discussions and analysis were had with the contractor and Caltrans, with the object being to discover a safe and pragmatic way for the market operation and the construction project to coexist during the 10 month period of construction. After exhausting all possibilities, we determined that they could not. We then requested their construction start date in 2021, which we eventually received on January 10th. The end of February was the schedule date given when their construction activities would necessary absorb the location area. We intensified our ongoing search for potential relocation sites.

Each potential relocation site first needed to fundamentally satisfy all safety concerns. Secondly, each one needed to fundamentally meet the pragmatic and feasibility requirements for establishing and successfully operating a parking lot certified farmers' market. Those fundamental needs are tremendously magnified when trying relocate intact, a market with as large a foot print and logistic design complexities as the Sunday market. A multiplicity of welcome and well intentioned suggestions for alternative locations were offered by a host of sources. After applying the fundamental threshold tests above along with over 40 years of experience in operating certified farmers' markets in parking lots to each of those suggested locations, we determined that the only available location that met those threshold tests was the Arden Fair location. All others could not pass the initial fundamental needs test, were unattainable and/or were unreasonably distanced from the present communities to which the Sunday market serves.

The process of attaining and permitting the new location is still ongoing but we expect the process to eventually be successful and complete. We are optimistic that on March 21<sup>st</sup> we will be able to reopen at our relocation site Northwest of Sears at Arden Fair Mall.

We have been told by the contractor that once the ground work is completed, the support structure is removed and the parking lot clean-up work is done, we can then move back to the under the freeway location. He has projected that such could well occur during the month of December. That projected return date is certainly not a surety, given the nature of construction projects to have schedule delays and extensions. So the only confirmed certainty we have relative to the end date of our temporary operation at Arden Fair is that when the contractor gives us permission, we will move back to the under the freeway location as swiftly as we are able.

The overriding objective throughout is to keep the current market composition intact and sustainably alive until we can return it to its most natural and purposeful habitat where it was created in 1980.