

AGENDA ITEM No.

CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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April 15, 2010

CHAIR AND PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Negative Declaration 14-09 and Recommend the City Council Adopt the Historic Preservation Element into the Long Beach General Plan.(Citywide)

APPLICANT: City of Long Beach
Reginald I. Harrison, Interim Director of Development Services

DISCUSSION

The adoption of a new General Plan element for historic preservation was initiated two years ago with the approval of a contract between the Development Services Department and Historic Resources Group (HRG) of West Hollywood, California. The firm of HRG was selected for its expertise in cultural preservation matters and proven ability to assist communities in putting together workable preservation programs, tailored to local needs.

Work Program

While background research on the City's existing preservation program was initiated, City staff and consultants from HRG reached out to the community to gather information on their perceptions of the strengths and weaknesses of the City's current preservation program and efforts. Community input was initially garnered through the Planning Bureau's Long Beach 2030 General Plan Update community outreach workshops held in the spring of 2007.

In 2008, the Planning Bureau once again reached out to the community, this time specifically targeting local preservation groups, historic neighborhood organizations, business leaders and residents with an interest in local preservation issues. Five consultant-facilitated community workshops were held in various locations throughout the City to introduce the Historic Preservation Element project and to ask for ideas to improve Long Beach's existing cultural and historic resources preservation program.

Subsequent to these meetings, a broad range of suggestions to improve local preservation efforts were presented by HRG to the City. Staff evaluated all of the ideas presented in an effort to find those solutions that best address the concerns most often cited by community members. These solutions constitute the historic preservation program presented in the Draft Historic Preservation Element of the General Plan (Exhibit A).

Public Review of Document

The Draft Historic Preservation Element was released for public review on February 5, 2010. The Cultural Heritage Commission held a study session on the document on March 8, 2010; and the Redevelopment Agency Board held a review of the document on March 15, 2010. On April 12, 2010, the Cultural Heritage Commission held a hearing on the document at which time they were asked to recommend the document to the City Planning Commission.

Corrections to the Draft Historic Preservation Element

Staff received only one telephone call and one email recommending changes to the Draft Historic Preservation Element. As a result, the list of local landmarks is being updated to include two landmark buildings adopted since 2008, the list of community partners in preservation is being updated; and several inaccurate dates in the document are being corrected.

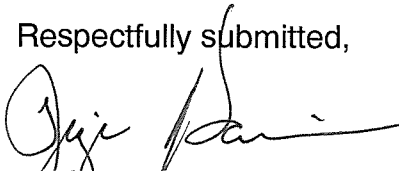
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the City's Municipal Code for General Plan amendment items (i.e., items of citywide significance), a 1/8-page public notice was published in the Press Telegram Newspaper on February 27, 2010. The notice included the dates, times and locations for upcoming Cultural Heritage Commission, Redevelopment Agency Board and Planning Commission meetings on the Draft Historic Preservation Element. Notice was also provided via eNotify announcements on the City's and the Development Services' web pages, posted meeting agendas and a press release distributed to more than 50 local news and media outlets.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Negative Declaration No. 14-09 has been circulated and will be considered for adoption by the Planning Commission at this hearing.

Respectfully submitted,



REGINALD I. HARRISON
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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Attachment: Exhibit A – Draft Historic Preservation Element of the General Plan