Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

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Director

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION UPDATE

Our approach to historic preservation has been twofold; adopt a Mills Act Ordinance and adopt a Comprehensive Historic Preservation Ordinance.

With the adoption of the Mills Act, we are focusing on the Historic Preservation Ordinance. To facilitate a discussion at our July Planning Deputies meeting, attached is a short outline of key aspects of a preservation ordinance. If we can complete a discussion of the ordinance in July, we will work with County Counsel to bring this item to the Regional Planning Commission, Historical Landmarks and Records Commission, and the Board of Supervisors.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please feel free to contact me at 213-974-6401 or Phillip Estes, Community Studies East Section, at 213-974-6425 or email at pestes@planning.lacounty.gov.

RJB:JS:CS:PE:ems

Attachment

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1. **Types of designations and sample designation criteria**

    a. Individual landmarks (buildings, structures, exteriors only)

    Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the County, region, or State; it is associated with the lives of persons who are significant in the history of the County, region, or State; it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, architectural style, period, landscape, or method of construction, or represents the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder, or possesses artistic values of significance; yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important locally in prehistory or history.

    b. Landmark tree

    One of the largest or oldest trees species located in the County; has historical significance due to an association with a historic event, person, site, street, or structure; defining landmark or significant outstanding feature of a neighborhood.

    c. Historic districts

    Minimum of 60 percent of properties contributing; grouping represents a significant and distinguishable entity of importance of a defined historic, cultural, development and/or architectural context.

2. **Designation and owner consent**

    a. Historic districts would require 51% of property owners and Board approval to designate.

    b. Individual landmarks and trees would require Board approval to designate.

    c. Owner authorization not required to submit application to nominate property.

3. **Authority to designate (in order of review)**

    a. Landmarks Commission: recommend approval or disapprove.

    b. Planning Commission: recommend approval or disapprove historic district overlay map only.

    c. Board of Supervisors: approve or disapprove all designations.

4. **Development review process for landmark and districts**

    a. Staff-level may authorize a project which is consistent with the "Secretary of the Interior Standards" for the treatment historic properties.

    b. Landmarks Commission reviews appeals of staff determination.

    c. Economic hardship review by Landmarks Commission, a provision where owner of a landmark property may seek relief from the ordinance.