



# City of Sunnyvale

## Agenda Item

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14-0931

Agenda Date: 1/30/2015

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### 2015 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

#### **NUMBER**

CDD 15-07

**TITLE** Evaluation of the Existing Items on the Heritage Resources Inventory

#### **BACKGROUND**

**Lead Department:** Community Development  
Support Department(s): N/A

#### **Sponsor(s):**

Board/Commission: Heritage Preservation Commission

#### **History:**

1 year ago: N/A

2 years ago: N/A

#### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

##### **What are the key elements of the study?**

The Heritage Resources Inventory was first created in 1979 by the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC), with help from local volunteers, based on documents and personal knowledge. The list currently contains approximately 55 resources that were inventoried in 1979 and approximately 20 resources that were added after (total of 75 heritage resources on the current list). These totals include both the higher level designation of Heritage Landmark and the lesser designation of Heritage Resource.

Since the 1979 creation of the heritage resources inventory approximately 29 structures have been removed from the list and five have been removed since 2004. Removal from the list was initiated by proposals to redevelop the property where these historic resources were located. Most of the resources have been demolished with several relocated to other sites. All of the structures that have been removed since 2004 have been reviewed by the HPC and have included a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review to determine their significance as a resource. Since none of the removals have been deemed significant with CEQA review and all have been approved for removal it may be appropriate to revisit the existing list and work with a consultant to evaluate each resource.

The study could include:

- Review of structures on the Heritage Resources Inventory.
- Review of structures that could have historical integrity that may be added to the Heritage Resources Inventory.
- Review of the existing process for adding and removing Heritage Resources.

- Survey of processes from other cities.
- Community outreach.
- Outreach to property owners of heritage resources.

**What precipitated this study?**

The Heritage Preservation Commission noted that 29 structures have been removed from the heritage resources inventory, five since 2004 and none of the projects that have requested removal since 2004 have been denied. This idea of a comprehensive analysis arose when the Commission was discussing these removals; they felt that the structures on the list should be re-evaluated. Many resources that would be deemed locally significant may not be deemed significant to the State or beyond but that does not mean those resources are not valuable to the history of Sunnyvale.

**Planned Completion Year: 2015****FISCAL IMPACT****Cost to Conduct Study**

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Moderate

Amount of funding above current budget required: \$250,000 to \$275,000

Funding Source: Will seek budget supplement

Explanation of Cost: The estimate of \$250,000 to \$275,000 is preliminary; it would cover costs to review and update the context statement for all designated Heritage Landmarks and Heritage Resources and would cover the hiring of a consultant to evaluate the 75 items on the heritage resources inventory list.

**Cost to Implement Study Results**

No cost to implement.

**EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS**

Council-approved work plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Heritage Preservation Commission

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Position:** Drop

**Explanation:** It has been determined that there are some errors in the documentation for the resources requesting removal from the list. The historic information for a resource turned out to be inaccurate upon further investigation. Updated information has contributed to the conclusion that the resource can be removed from the inventory. While it may be helpful to revisit the existing inventory; it may make more sense financially to rely on the existing research and evaluation of the structures currently on the list. Proposals to remove a resource from the inventory have been paid for by the property owner or potential developer, under contracts managed by the City.

To best preserve the City's heritage resources it is worthwhile to periodically add items to the

inventory; staff recommends that this update should occur approximately every ten years. New resources were last added to the inventory in 2009.

The Council could authorize a multiple year project evaluating a lesser number of landmarks and resources each year to spread out the costs of the study. If this option is selected, the first step would be for the Heritage Preservation Commission to prioritize the inventory. If the study were to involve the addition of new structures, the consultant costs would be higher and the staff effort would need to be increased.

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