

HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2019

- Updated requirements for applications requesting demolition of a historic resource to require economic analysis and estimates of rehabilitation costs for applications claiming exceptional hardship
- Strengthened relationship with the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, with the Museum reporting to the Commission in July on activities related to Historic Preservation and allocation of County funds
- Donation of slides from the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake to the Museum of Art and History
- Training by Leslie Dill on the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation
- Provided guidance on the Interpretive Displays for the Aptos Firehouse and the Hihn Apple Barn, resulting in comprehensive and engaging displays
- Participation in History Day at Jade Street Park in May 2019, with Commissioner Orlando representing the Commission
- Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to the Silva Ranch Barn in Aptos at the Museum of Art and History Blue Plaque Awards Ceremony

Review of Historic Resources Commission Goals from 2019

1. Discuss applications for demolition and partial demolition of historic resources, including a review of code requirements, scope of HRC authority, and how best to describe projects involving demolition to the public.
Status: Goal Complete. Application submittal requirements for demolition of a historic resource has been updated as recommended by the HRC in April 2019.
2. Investigate ways to clean up the Historic Resources Inventory, including identify buildings whose condition may have changed since the last inventory update, to correct information in the Inventory. Identify resources available to the Commission to review properties in Inventory.
Status: Commissioners have provided recommendations for inventory clean-up. Staff is evaluating hiring an intern to assist with selected updates to the Inventory, and making the Inventory available online.
3. Continue to work on the HRC Watch List of properties that are not designated as historic but warrant further historic evaluation under CEQA when discretionary applications are submitted.
Status: Ongoing. The Watch List is being maintained and continues to be updated as the Commission identifies properties to be included.
4. Discuss potential approaches to addressing demolition by neglect on the October 2018 agenda, including evaluating incentive-based approaches.
*Status: Staff is evaluating the addition of an incentive-based approach for maintaining and rehabilitating historic resources. The County Code would be amended to allow additional uses to be considered beyond those otherwise allowed in the zone district, where such use would provide an economically viable use for the parcel that would allow for the maintenance or rehabilitation of a designated historic structure.
There is currently no support from the Board of Supervisors for amending the County Code to require maintenance of designated historic resources.*
5. Revisit idea of implementing a Mills Act program, considering previous research provided by Commissioner Merriam, and evaluating feasibility of the county implementing a Mills Act program considering costs to the county staff time required to develop and implement program.
Status: At this time, there is no support from the Board of Supervisors or available staff resources to pursue a Mills Act Program. Staff recommends considering reaching out to qualifying property owners regarding the new State Historic Tax credit, and revisiting pursuing a Mills Act program when there is support from the Board of Supervisors.
6. Discuss participating in Santa Cruz History Day on May 18, 2019 at Jade Street Park in Capitola.
Status: Commissioner Orlando participated in 2019. Consider Commission participation in 2020. Also consider participation in the Environmental Town Hall.
7. Consider training opportunities for the Commission for 2019.
Status: Training on the Secretary of the Interior Standards and Design Review provided at the Special Meeting on June 24, 2019. Discuss training opportunities for 2020.
8. Additional Information requested by Commission re: CLG grants