

Historic Resources Commission Goals for 2020

Status Updated December 30, 2020

1. Support staff efforts to work with an intern or extern to update the Santa Cruz Inventory of Historic Resources, including identify buildings whose condition may have changed since the last inventory update and to correct information in the Inventory, and to make the Inventory available online and accessible to the public.
Status: Securing intern delayed due to COVID, and direction from Board of Supervisors to work remotely whenever feasible. Will secure intern when workplace pandemic restrictions have been lifted.
2. 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.
Attachment: Watch List
3. Support staff efforts and work with staff to amend the County Code to include an incentive-based approach for maintaining and rehabilitating historic resources and preventing demolition by neglect. The amendments would 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. Revisit additional tools to prevent demolition by neglect such as an ordinance that includes maintenance requirements for designated historic resources at a future date when there is support for moving forward with this approach.
Status: Amendment to the Santa Cruz County Code proposed to be included in the Sustainability Update. Staff will provide draft language for the Commission to review.
4. Revisit idea of implementing a Mills Act program in the future when there is support for such a program, considering previous research provided by Commissioner Merriam, and evaluating feasibility of the County implementing a Mills Act program, the benefits that would be provided in preserving historic resources, and costs to the county and staff time required to develop and implement a program.
Status: County budget cuts and constraints due to the pandemic do not support the implementation of the Mills Act at this time.
5. Expand public outreach and education efforts regarding historic preservation and the work of the Historic Resources Commission in the Community, including the creation of new brochures and information on the Planning Department website. Include information regarding the 2020 state tax credit for properties on the National or State Register of Historic Places. Consider participating in public outreach events such as the Environmental Town Hall in the San Lorenzo Valley.
Status: Brochures available on the Planning Department website. Information on the California Historic Tax Credit pending release of information from the Office of Historic Preservation, and the release of funding from the State of California.
6. Consider training opportunities for the Commission for 2020, and provide input to staff regarding training topics or attending particular trainings.
Status: Three Webinars made available to the Commission in December for the 2020 calendar year.

