



**THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES**
Executive Director's
Report to the

Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: APRIL 24, 2013

FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF
LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT BUILT ENVIRONMENT
HISTORIC, ARCHITECTURE AND CULTURAL RESOURCE POLICY**

SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) approve the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department's (Harbor Department) Built Environment Historic, Architecture and Cultural Resource Policy. The proposed policy would provide a guide to Harbor Department staff and the public going forward for the identification, evaluation and appropriate treatment of historic buildings and structures owned by, or located on property under the possession, management or control of the Harbor Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners:

1. Approve the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department Built Environment Historic, Architecture and Cultural Resource Policy;
2. Authorize the Executive Director, or designee, to carry out this policy, including to determine if buildings or structures are potentially eligible for listing on federal, state or local historic registers; and
3. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

DISCUSSION:

Background and Context – Since its founding, the Port of Los Angeles (Port) has been integral to the development of and played an important role in the history of the City of Los Angeles, California, and the United States. That role is seen in the evolution of the Port's built environment as it has adapted over time in response to major events, social change, new technologies, and evolving patterns and processes of business, commerce and trade. The built environment of the Port embodies and reflects these changes in its architecture and engineering, and provides an opportunity to appreciate and honor the historic role played by the Port through time.

DATE: APRIL 24, 2013

PAGE 2 OF 4

SUBJECT: BUILT ENVIRONMENT HISTORIC, ARCHITECTURE AND CULTURAL RESOURCE POLICY

The primary avenue through which the Harbor Department currently deals with historic resources at the Port is through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA requires that special consideration be given to buildings, structures, objects or districts that have the potential to be impacted by a proposed project and are also officially listed or found to be eligible for listing as a historic resource. If a proposed project has a potentially significant adverse impact to the listed or eligible resource, a full CEQA review is required. This review includes preparation of environmental documentation to disclose potentially adverse impacts on historic resources and identification of measures to lessen or avoid the impacts. The document is presented to the Board for its consideration and approval before the proposed project can proceed. To date, CEQA environmental assessments, in connection with various project development activities, have resulted in most areas within the Port having been already evaluated.

Proposed New Policy - The proposed new policy would provide a framework for ongoing identification of historic resources prior to CEQA review as well as consideration of their preservation and reuse. The policy would assure that the Harbor Department identifies historic resources early in the planning process for proposed projects or potential leasing of vacant properties in order to take preservation of their historic characteristics into consideration. The proposed policy incorporates practices for the identification and consideration of Port historic resources that have been in existence for many years, and includes:

- Preparation of an inventory of historic resources within the Port, with updates as resources are added or deleted from the inventory or information changes;
- Completion of the comprehensive survey of Port historic resources within two years of the adoption of this policy. Thereafter, every five years, buildings, structures, objects, districts and sites within the Port reaching the benchmark age of 50-years old, or whose circumstances have changed, will be reviewed by staff to determine whether a formal historic status evaluation is necessary;
- Evaluation and documentation of potential historic resources; and
- Establishment of priorities for preservation and adaptive reuse, where possible, of historic buildings, structures, objects and districts.

Finally, this policy would be limited to buildings, structures, objects, districts and sites owned by, or located upon property owned by the Harbor Department.

DATE: APRIL 24, 2013

PAGE 3 OF 4

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is approval of the Built Environment Historic, Architecture and Cultural Resource Policy. As an administrative activity, the Director of Environmental Management has determined the proposed action is exempt from the CEQA in accordance with Article II, Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

This Board action will have no employment impact.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The proposed action is approval of the Built Environment Historic, Architecture and Cultural Resource Policy to provide clarity and consistency of an existing practice.

DATE: APRIL 24, 2013

PAGE 4 OF 4

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CITY ATTORNEY:

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed the policy and determined that it raises no legal issues at this time.

TRANSMITTAL:

1. Harbor Department Built Environment Historic, Architecture and Cultural Resource Policy

FIS Approval: WSP (initials)

CA Approval: gmc (initials)



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APPROVED:



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BOARD MEETING: 5/2/2013

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