

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT  
**MOTION**

In 2005, the City of Los Angeles began the process to undertake a comprehensive, citywide historic resources survey. With support from the J. Paul Getty Trust and the Getty Conservation Institute, the City began SurveyLA - a project to systematically identify and record information about properties and neighborhoods throughout the City that reflect the architectural, social, and cultural history of Los Angeles.

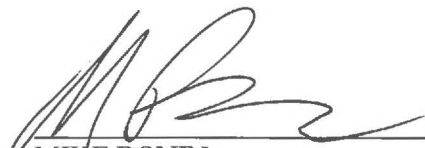
SurveyLA was intended to provide a planning tool to identify, record, and evaluate historic properties and districts throughout Los Angeles. While it provides baseline information on potential historic resources that can be used to inform planning decisions, no actual historic determination was intended to result directly from the survey activity. In fact, historic determination by the City or nomination to the State or National Registers requires a separate process, which includes property owner notification and public hearings.

The effect of including a property in SurveyLA has had a disparate impact on property in the City's coastal neighborhoods, particularly Venice. Although SurveyLA does not directly result in historic determinations, it may raise issues that require analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). SurveyLA was not intended to impact the City's CEQA analysis, however, in the coastal zone, SurveyLA has raised questions related to CEQA because of the permitting requirements specific to the coastal zone. CEQA is only triggered for discretionary projects, and in most areas of the City, remodeling or rebuilding a single-family home is not discretionary. However, such projects in the Venice coastal zone are often subject to a discretionary review process and therefore trigger CEQA review.


Many property owners in the coastal zone were not made aware of the field surveys while those surveys were taking place. Nor were they made aware prior to the release of the survey results the impact that being included in SurveyLA would have specifically for properties in the coastal zone. As a result, property owners are faced with significant additional analysis even if their homes are ultimately found not to be historic or contributing to the historic character of the area. Community members who wish to protect the historic fabric of the community are faced with a significant time and resource investment and uncertainty about whether a resource rises to the level of requiring protection. While the City should require analysis of and protect the historic resources that give our neighborhoods their character, accurate identification of those resources is critical. The specific requirements facing projects in the coastal zone present unique challenges that benefit from expanded public outreach and information. Therefore, Venice residents need an opportunity to learn about the SurveyLA process to advance the goal of protecting historic resources while providing for the rights of homeowners to use their property. There is an opportunity to develop a more detailed survey that will provide greater certainty and clarity as to process which will assist homeowners.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Department of City Planning report back in 30 days with a detailed work plan to conduct an intensive-level survey of the four Historic Districts and individual historic resources in the Coastal Zone area of Venice as identified in SurveyLA. The plan should include an extensive community engagement component that will allow affected property owners and community members to fully participate in the survey process.

PRESENTED BY:

  
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SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

  
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