

12-1625

OCT 12 2012

MOTION

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

The Los Angeles Municipal Code provides that the City Council may initiate consideration of a proposed designation of a site, building or structure as a Historic-Cultural Monument. A Historic-Cultural Monument is defined as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located on the site), building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, including historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified; or which is identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history; or which embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction; or a notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.

The release of records at the National Archives and Records Center at Laguna Niguel revealed for the first time that there were two detention located Los Angeles-area centers following the attack on Pearl Harbor. At the outset of World War II, the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service took over the former Civilian Conservation Corps camp, which opened in 1933 at 6330 Tujunga Canyon Boulevard, and transformed it into the Tuna Canyon Detention Station – a barbed wire enclosure with lights and armed troops to receive individuals considered “enemy aliens” who had been taken into custody by the FBI on December 16, 1941. Thereafter, the Tuna Detention Center operated as a clearing-house for mostly male Japanese arrested in Southern California, many American citizens of Japanese descent. Until May, 1942, 1,490 Japanese males passed through the camp and were transferred to other internment camps in Fort Missoula, Montana, Fort Lincoln, North Dakota and Santa Fe, New Mexico. The camp processed more than 2,500 individuals, predominantly Japanese as well as Germans, Italians and Japanese Peruvians. The camp included seven barracks, an infirmary, mess hall, and office buildings and could hold up to 300 persons.

Historic sites, such as the Tuna Canyon Detention Station, are an important part of the history and culture of Los Angeles, and preserving historic sites helps to ensure the City’s future is firmly rooted in an understanding and appreciation of its history. In recent years, the proposed redevelopment of the site (commonly-known by local residents as “the Verdugo Hills Golf Course”) with a residential subdivision has threatened to degrade the site’s historic value, remove natural open space and eliminate an opportunity to commemorate a significant historic resource.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Cultural Affairs Department to prepare the application relative to the inclusion of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Site in the list of Historical-Cultural Monuments and to submit the application to the Cultural Heritage Commission for review and consideration.

I FURTHER MOVE that after reviewing the application, the Cultural Heritage Commission submit a report to the City Council regarding the inclusion of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Site in the City's list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

PRESENTED BY:


RICHARD ALARCÓN
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL


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