

Attachment B

Draft Historical Resources Element

Historical Resources Element

PURPOSE

The Historical Resources Element focuses on the identification, documentation, preservation, and celebration of historical resources.

OVERVIEW

Historic preservation is essential for preserving the unique character, culture, and identity of Newport Beach. By having systems in place to identify, preserve, and protect historical resources, the City is able to balance growth and development with the preservation of cultural and historical heritage while providing tangible benefits to the economy, environment, and the City's residents and visitors.

GOALS, POLICIES, ACTIONS

Identification of Historical Resources

Documenting and protecting archaeological and paleontological resources are crucial for preserving the evidence of human history and life forms of the distant past. These resources inform our understanding of ancient ecosystems and cultures. This stewardship fosters a culture of respect and responsibility, ensuring that future generations can continue to learn from and appreciate this history.

Goal HR-1: A city that recognizes and protects historically significant landmarks, sites, and structures

- Policy HR-1.1: Maintain and update as needed, the Newport Beach Register of Historical Property for buildings, objects, structures, and monuments having importance to the history or architecture of Newport Beach. (Imp. 9.1, 10.1, 29.2)
- Policy HR-1.2: Encourage local residents to research and nominate properties for review by the City and/or Newport Beach Historical Society. (Imp. 29.1, 29.2)
- Policy HR-1.3: Consider developing standards for the review of demolition, grading, and building permits prior to granting City approval based upon potential effects on historical resources. If demolition is granted, require photo documentation (in conformance with the standards outlined by the National Park Service Historic American Buildings Survey program) of inventoried historic structures prior to demolition. (Imp 2.1, 8.1, 8.2)
- Policy HR-1.4: Encourage the preservation of structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and/or the list of California Historical Landmarks, and/or the Newport Beach Register of Historical Property. Provide reasonable incentives, such as waivers of application fees, permit fees, and/or any liens placed by the City for properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, State Register, or the Newport Beach Register of Historical Property in exchange for preservation easements, designation applications, and other related preservation incentives. (Imp. 8.2, 29.2)
- Policy HR-1.5: Consider preparing a Citywide Historic Context Statement to provide a consistent framework for evaluations and surveys. (Imp. 29.2)

- Policy HR-1.6: Every 10 years or as needed, consider completing and updating a Citywide historical resources survey to identify historical resources. Include community, neighborhood, cultural, and historic preservation groups; property owners; land developers; and the building industry in planning and implementing historical surveys. (Imp. 29.2)
- Policy HR-1.7: Consider provisions and policies related to historical resources under one ordinance in the Municipal Code to facilitate consistent application of the regulations and easier staff review. This may include the following:
 - Establish the National Park Service Secretary of the Interior's Standards as the baseline City standard for project reviews, providing opportunity for certain projects to qualify for a categorical exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (Class 31 Categorical Exemption).
 - Define categories of major and minor changes that would be subject to review, the review required, and the assigned decision-making body responsible for the associated determination.
 - Revise, consolidate, and better define the City's classification system for historical resources to align with the Federal and State systems of classification. Streamline the process for how landmarks are considered for listing in the City's classification system. One decision-making body (e.g. the Planning Commission) should be given authority to review, conduct hearings, and make recommendations to City Council on the adoption of the historical resources designation. (Imp. 8.1, 8.2, 9.1)
- Policy HR-1.8: Consider supporting the provision of staff resources to hire or train a preservation planner to advise staff on matters related to historical resources. (Imp. 30.1)
- Policy HR-1.9: Consider taking the steps necessary to meet the requirements for becoming a Certified Local Government, including adopting a historic preservation ordinance, establishing a qualified preservation review commission, providing adequate public participation in the historic preservation program, and completing other responsibilities identified by the State. (Imp. 29.2)

Goal HR-2: Well-documented and protected archaeological and paleontological resources

- Policy HR-2.1: Allow access to historical records between local preservation and cultural groups and between City departments and County agencies to the extent legally permissible. (Imp. 29.2)
- Policy HR-2.2: Consider completing, and updating as needed, a Citywide Prehistoric and Ethnohistoric Context Statement to serve as a template for identifying, evaluating, and developing plans for the treatment of archaeological resources. (Imp. 29.2)
- Policy HR-2.3: Require that new development meet the applicable requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with respect to paleontological and archaeological resources. (Imp. 11.1)

Preservation of Historical Resources

Preserving the City's history is essential for maintaining its unique identity and cultural heritage. By celebrating and safeguarding historically significant landmarks, sites, structures, and legacy businesses, the City can honor the stories and achievements of past generations. Further, by

recognizing and celebrating those who have contributed to Newport Beach's past, present, and future, our storied history can be captured. The recognition and protection of history not only enriches a community's sense of place and continuity but fosters civic pride and can attract tourism.

Goal HR-3: A city that celebrates, preserves, and protects its history

- Policy HR-3.1: Encourage alternatives to demolition of historical sites or structures by promoting architecturally compatible rehabilitation or adaptive reuse. Consider incentives such as permit and application fee waivers, flexible building requirements, and free technical advice by person(s) qualified in historic preservation. (Imp. 8.2, 29.2)
- Policy HR-3.2: Encourage proposed development located on a historic site or structure to incorporate a physical link to the past within the site or structural design, if preservation or adaptive reuse is not a feasible option. For example, consider incorporating historical photographs or artifacts within the proposed project or preserve the location and structures of existing pathways, gathering places, seating areas, rail lines, roadways, or viewing vantage points within the proposed site design. (Imp. 1.1, 29.2)
- Policy HR-3.3: Consider the development of a voluntary local Mills Act program to offset the ongoing stewardship and care of historic properties through property tax savings. (Imp. 8.2)
- Policy HR-3.4: Consider developing a legacy business program that aims to recognize, honor, and support longstanding businesses within a community that have made significant contributions to its history, culture, and identity. The program may include the promotion of legacy businesses and potential grants. (Imp. 8.2)

Celebrating Historical Resources

Education is a key tool for enshrining the City's history and ensuring that future generations appreciate and understand this heritage. Integrating local history into programs and events sponsored by the City, library, and others and promoting it through various media can create a well-informed community that values its roots. This awareness not only enhances residents' connection to their city but also helps future generations value the past.

The foundational history of Tribal nations of the City's land provides unique insight into the importance of cultural places. Native American groups and individuals hold special interest in the protection of cultural places. Tribal views toward protection and preservation of cultural resources in the City should be respected, and the history of Tribal nations should be recognized and acknowledged.

Goal HR-4: A city that enshrines its history through education

- Policy HR-4.1: Encourage the placement of historical landmarks, photographs, markers, or plaques at areas of historical interest or value. Consider creating a Landmark Plan that will recognize and designate culturally important heritage sites that are eligible for the placement of historical landmarks or plaques. The Landmark Plan may also identify funding opportunities to support the program, such as development fees, corporate or civic sponsorships, donations, or by utilizing General Funds. (Imp. 8.2, 9.1, 10.1, 29.2)

- Policy HR-4.2: Consider expanding interest in and knowledge of local history through historic landmarks, photographs, markers, and plaques, or self-guided walking tours as a means to promote and celebrate historic preservation in the City. Such information may be published on the City's website or made available through channels such as local publications and social media, to encourage thoughtful conversation about the history of Newport Beach. (Imp. 1.1, 29.1, 29.2, 30.1)
- Policy HR-4.3: Encourage collaboration with local preservation organizations, like the Newport Beach Historical Society, to research, conduct outreach, and develop programs and activities to encourage and support historic preservation and cultural tourism. (Imp. 14.16)
- Policy HR-4.4: Encourage collaboration with local educational institutions on preservation programs, activities, and exhibits/collections. (Imp. 14.2)
- Policy HR-4.5: Consider encouragement of partnerships between local interested parties and historical societies to consolidate and share materials such as historical photographs, firsthand historical accounts and interviews, and any additional archival information. This may be done through the establishment of a City-recognized historical society or platform that welcomes representatives from various existing groups to share resources and collectively provide input to the City on historical resources.

Goal HR-5: A city and community that celebrate Tribal Cultural Resources

- Policy HR-5.1: Encourage fostering government-to-government relationships with California Native American tribes in Newport Beach regarding issues of mutual concern. (Imp. 14.6)
- Policy HR-5.2: Consider the use of foundational local history themes in public spaces that highlight California Native American tribes, in coordination with tribal representatives. (Imp. 29.2)
- Policy HR-5.3: Require that new development meet the applicable requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with respect to tribal cultural resources.