



5 *Historic Preservation*

Action 5.A

Historic Preservation Designations. Continue to designate buildings, sites, features and districts based upon their historic value, and work towards their preservation. Two types of designations apply:

- *Historic Buildings and Sites:* these are individual structures, sites, or features of historic value, whether or not they are located in a historic preservation district.
- *Historic Preservation Districts:* these are areas that contain a significant number of structures, sites, or features worthy of preservation. Although each and every structure in such an area may not be historically significant, the structures collectively, together with other features such as mature trees, flower gardens, etc., constitute an area worthy of preservation. A Historic Preservation District may include a block or part of a block or may consist of an entire neighborhood.

Action 5.B

Review of Structural Modifications and Use Changes. For designated Historic Structures and of structures within a Historic Preservation District, submit proposed structural modifications that change the exterior appearance and proposed use changes to the Historic Heritage Committee and the Planning Commission for review and approval.

Action 5.C

Environmental Impact Reports for Historic Structures. Require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for any proposed demolition of a designated Historic Structure, with consultation of the Historic Heritage Committee in preparation of the EIR. For demolition of a structure within a Historic Preservation District, determination will be made by the Planning Division Manager on whether a negative declaration or EIR is appropriate. Following the Public Hearing of the EIR, the Planning Commission would pass the EIR and the request for demolition permit, along with its comments and recommendations, to the City Council for action. The Council would have the power to postpone, without undue delay, approval of a demolition permit for any structure in a Historic Preservation District or any designated Historic Structure to provide interested parties an opportu-



nity to preserve the structure. In the case of historic structures heavily damaged by fire, earthquake, or other natural disaster, the EIR requirement for demolition may be waived.

Action 5.D

Design Review in Historic Preservation Districts. Evaluate projects in Historic Preservation Districts for compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood. Review and approval authority shall be with the Historic Heritage Committee.

Action 5.E

Survey of Historic Structures. Periodically update the City's Survey of Historic Structures.

Action 5.F

Public Information Program on Historic Preservation. Continue to provide public information to increase awareness of historic preservation.

Action 5.G

Mills Act Agreements. Support the development of Mills Act Agreements for historic properties to provide reductions in property taxes, in keeping with the City's adopted Mills Act Agreement Policy.

Action 5.H

Historic Preservation Ordinance. Adopt a Historic Preservation Ordinance and submit it for certification by the Secretary of the Interior so that owners of designated historic buildings can apply for tax relief.

Action 5.I

Archeological Assessments. Require an archeological assessment for all CEQA projects (i.e., projects requiring an environmental assessment) in potentially sensitive archeological areas (as indicated on the City's Historic and Cultural Resources Map). The assessment shall consist of a preliminary survey and, if evidence of sites is found, a test-level investigation.