
OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST REPORT

Date Issued: June 5, 2008

IBA Report Number: 08-58

City Council Docket Date:

Item Number:

Response to Grand Jury Report Titled “History Hysteria: Historical Resources In The City of San Diego”

On March 19, 2008 the San Diego County Grand Jury issued a report to the Mayor and the City Council entitled “History Hysteria: Historical Resources in the City of San Diego.” The report’s purpose is to urge the City of San Diego to rein in the number of properties designated as historic, reduce the numbers granted Mills Act reassessment contracts, and review the City’s resources allocated to Historical Preservation. The report includes eight findings and 12 recommendations.

The City Council is required to provide comments to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on all of the findings and ten of the 12 recommendations included in the Grand Jury Report by June 27, 2008. The Mayor is also required to provide comments on each of the findings, but for only six of the recommendations. However, given the citywide nature of the topic involved, the Mayor has elected to respond to each and every finding and recommendation. For each item that the Council must respond to, the Council may either join the Mayor’s response, modify the Mayor’s response, or respond independently.

In early May, staff from the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst (IBA) met with representatives from the Planning and Administration Departments to discuss the Mayor’s initial responses to the Grand Jury Report. Subsequently, staff revised the Mayor’s responses to incorporate comments from the IBA discussed at that meeting. In late May, the IBA provided additional comments which were incorporated and are reflected in the version before the City Council.

The changes recommended by the IBA included reference to recently implemented performance measures for historical resources; the inclusion of language from City Council Policy 700-46 – Mills Act Agreements for Preservation of Historic Property; and reference to Administrative Regulation 95.25 which outlines the City’s procedures to establish fees to recover the cost of providing City Services.

The IBA recommends that the City Council adopt the following as it’s response to the Grand Jury Reports:

Recommendation:	08-16, 08-17, 08-18, 08-19, 08-20, 08-21, 08-24, 08-25, 08-26, 08-27	<i>Join the Mayor's Response</i>
Findings:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	
Recommendation:	None	<i>Modify the Mayor's Response</i>
Finding:	None	
Recommendation:	None	<i>Respond Independently</i>
Finding:	None	

The full text of the Mayor’s responses that include recommended changes from the IBA can be found in the attachment to this report.

[SIGNED]

 Jeffrey Sturak
 Fiscal & Policy Analyst

[SIGNED]

 APPROVED: Andrea Tevlin
 Independent Budget Analyst

Attachments