

City Planning Department

# Preservation and Progress Information Item

Policy Subcommittee  
August 11, 2025

# Goals of Preservation and Progress



**Advance equity in preservation** and prioritize protection of resources important to BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and other historically marginalized communities.



**Evaluate the Mills Act program** to ensure the program is equitable and incentivizes the protection and restoration of important places in a fiscally responsible manner.



**Identify and protect** historical properties and districts that are important to the City's history and culture, with a focus on historic districts.



**Reform permit processes** to better encourage the adaptive reuse of historical buildings on their original sites.



**Adopt design standards** for historical properties and districts to provide clear, objective requirements and by-right approval for additions and new development.



**Remove regulations** that unnecessarily impact properties that lack historical or cultural importance.

Integrate Equity as a Core Value

Protect Important Places

Streamline Processes for New Homes

# Preservation & Progress: Policy Subcommittee *Package A (End of 2025)*

## **July Policy Subcommittee Meeting**

- ✓ Minor amendments related to Board appointments and terms
- ✓ Clean-up to language regarding noticing requirements
- ✓ Amending Complete Communities regulations to clarify that thematic historic district boundaries are limited to contributing resources
- Updates to the designation appeal process, including addition of de novo finding and the ability to appeal properties not designated

## **August Policy Subcommittee Meeting**

- Minor updates to the Historic Preservation Element of General Plan
- Continue discussion of amendments to appeal process

# Package A: Historic Preservation Element

## *General Plan*

- “Legal Basis for Designation” section
  - Updated discussion regarding Native American resources and consultation to incorporate new laws
  - Updated discussion of San Diego Municipal Code to remove discussion of regulatory requirements and permit processing
- “Certified Local Government” section
  - Updated discussion of San Diego Register of Historical Resources to remove listing of Designation Criteria and provide reference to their location
  - Updated the number of designated sites

# Package A: Historic Preservation Element

## *General Plan*

- A. Identification and Preservation of Historical Resources
  - Updated language in discussion section
  - Removed references to conservation areas and included language regarding identification, interpretation, and celebration of buildings and areas that are ineligible for designation but important to the community.
- Policy HP-A.1
  - Updated policy language to reflect historic preservation workplan (which implements General Plan and Community Plan HPE policies) as the main guide of preservation efforts in future years

# Package A: Historic Preservation Element

## *General Plan*

- Policy HP-A.2
  - Removed reference to conservation areas and included language regarding identification, interpretation, and celebration of buildings and areas that are ineligible for designation but important to the community

# Package A: Historic Preservation Element

## *General Plan*

- Policy HP-A.4
  - Revised content statement policy to specify the preparation of a Citywide context statement as well as subject-specific contexts
  - Added policies included in recent CPUs regarding Native American consultation and protection of tribal resources
  - Added policy to ensure preservation efforts recognize and celebrate the histories of all communities, including traditionally underrepresented groups
  - Added policy supporting local organizations in documenting and preserving neighborhood histories

# Package A: Historic Preservation Element

## *General Plan*

- Policy HP-A.5
  - Updated language regarding use of US Secretary of Interior's Standards to include objective design standards as well
  - Added policy included in recent CPUs regarding referral of significant archaeological and Native American cultural resources to HRB for designation
- Policy HP-A.6
  - Added new policies regarding promoting use of sustainable materials and practices in restoring historic preservation and developing mitigation strategies to address climate change impacts

# Package A: Historic Preservation Element

## *General Plan*

- B. Historic Preservation Education, Benefits and Incentives
  - Updated discussion to include information regarding new State Tax Credit
  - Updated language regarding benefits of preservation and work of other preservation organizations

# Package A: Historic Preservation Element

## *General Plan*

- Policy HP-B.1
  - Updated policy language to include development of culturally-focused resources and protection of culturally significant resources
  - Added policy regarding collaboration with schools
  - Added policy regarding hosting educational workshops and events
  - Added policy regarding creation of repository of locations of importance to the community
  - Added policy regarding development of GIS based tools to explore historic resources

# Package A: Historic Preservation Element

## *General Plan*

- Policy HP-B.2
  - Added policy regarding offering grants for adaptive reuse
  - Added policy to simplify permitting for adaptive reuse

# Package A: Historic Designation Appeals

## *SDMC Section 123.0203*

- Adds Ability to Appeal Properties that Are Not Designated by HRB
- Adds Finding that Would Allow City Council to Reconsider the Designation Itself
- Aligns Appeal Filing Requirements with Other City Appeals
- Requires Appeals to be Docketed within 180 After Filing

# Package A: Historic Designation Appeals

## *SDMC Section 123.0203*

- July Policy Subcommittee – Concerns Regarding Impacts to Property Owners By Adding Ability to Appeal Non-Designations
  - Some options:
    - Increase fee to appeal a non-designation if the appeal is not filed by the property owner
    - Limit ability to appeal non-designations to the property owner
    - Do not add the ability to appeal non-designations

# Preservation & Progress:

