



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 11, 2017

TO: Historical Resources Board and Interested Parties

FROM: Jodie Brown, AICP, Senior Planner, Historical Resources, Development Services Department

SUBJECT: **INFORMATION ITEM A - Mills Act Update**

At the request of the Historical Resources Board, staff is providing an informational update of the City of San Diego's Mills Act Program. The Mills Act was enacted by the State Legislature in 1972, and adopted by the San Diego City Council in 1995 with Council Policy 700-46, with reforms adopted in 2008 designed to increase City accountability and provide for cost recovery. The Mills Act Program agreement is a legal contract binding the owner of a designated historical resource to maintain the subject property consistent with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards, to provide visibility of the historical resource from the public right-of-way, and to improve or rehabilitate the property based on specific conditions included in the Agreement.

To date the City of San Diego has 1,400 properties that have elected to participate in the Mills Act Program. Annually, Historical Resources staff mails 200 inspection notices to property owners. While inspecting properties, staff is ensuring that the property is visible from the public right of way, the property is in good repair, the property has not had any alterations without staff approval and that any scope of work items built into the contract have been addressed. After the inspections, staff provides a follow up letter to the homeowners detailing any issues found during the site visits.

During the City's Mills Act Program open application period (January 1st to March 31st) a total of 57 applications were received this year. The majority of the applications are from properties that were designated in the last year, but there are also a number of requests from several of the established districts (Mission Hills, Fort Stockton Line, Islenair and Sherman Heights).

Jodie Brown, AICP
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