



CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: JANUARY 19, 2022
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Case Number	Not Applicable
Request	Review of the Cultural Heritage Board Subcommittee's draft comment letter in response to Riverside County Transportation Commission's Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station Improvements Project
Project Location	Riverside Downtown Metrolink Station
Wards	2
Staff Planner	Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer 951-826-5507 swatson@riversideca.gov

CHB SUBCOMMITTEE REQUEST

The Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) subcommittee requests review of the draft ordinance and agreement to seek City Council authorization to submit a letter in response to Riverside County Transportation Commission's (RCTC) Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station Improvements Project.

BACKGROUND

At the December 16, 2020, October 20, 2021, and November 17, 2021 CHB Meetings, RCTC presented the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station Improvements Project to provide CHB an opportunity to ask questions and provide input and concerns related the demolition of the former Food Machinery Corporation (FMC) Plant #1, 3033 – 3091 Twelfth Street, on the northwest corner of Twelfth Street and Howard Avenue. The FMC complex was designated as City Landmark #102 on May 12, 1996. RCTC is the lead agency on the project.

At the October 20, 2021 presentation, RCTC reported that they received concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on the National Register evaluation completed for the building, as part of the Section 106 review. The evaluation found that the building was eligible for National Register of Historic Places under all four criteria. RCTC also reported that they were working with the SHPO to obtain concurrence on proposed avoidance alternatives to complete the Section 106 review. Because the project falls under the purview of the SHPO, any proposed demolition or alteration of the existing building does not require CHB or Historic Preservation Officer approval.

At the November 17, 2021 meeting, RCTC staff presented additional project details, answered questions, and stated that the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for

the project would be released for a 60-day review on December 3, 2021. They also clarified that the 60-day public review period provides more review time than the standard 45-day review required under the California Environmental Quality Act statutes. CHB requested that a workshop be set for the December 15, 2021 CHB meeting to provide an opportunity for the Board Members to discuss initial comments on the DEIR with the understanding that CHB members would have limited time to review the documents between the public release of the DEIR and the meeting date.

At the December 15, 2021 meeting, the CHB expressed a desire to provide written comments directly to RCTC on the project. Staff recommended the CHB draft a memo and request that a City Council member include this on a future City Council agenda as the CHB requires authorization from the City Council to submit the letter as a Board.

Based on this recommendation, the CHB established a subcommittee of three members to draft a comment letter for CHB's review and comment. If agreed upon by the CHB, the letter would be submitted by the Chair to the City Council requesting approval to the submit to RCTC.

Please note, the subcommittee has spoken with Council Member Cervantes, who has agreed to bring the letter to City Council for discussion prior to the comment deadline.

EXHIBITS

1. CHB Subcommittee Draft Comment Letter
2. RCTC Project Details Slide

Prepared by: Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer
Reviewed by: David Murray, Principal Planner
Approved by: Mary Kopaskie-Brown, City Planner