



Community & Economic Development Department
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 | Phone: (951) 826-5371 | RiversideCA.gov

Planning Division

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4

DISCUSSION ITEM

Case Numbers	PR-2022-001422 (Title 20 Text Amendment)
Request	Proposal by the City of Riverside to amend Chapter 20.30 (Preservation Incentives) of the Riverside Municipal Code to modify the Mills Act Application period
Project Location	Citywide
Ward	All
Staff Planner	Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer 951-826-5507 swatson@riversideca.gov

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cultural Heritage Board:

1. **Recommend** that the City Council determine that Planning Case PR-2022-001422 is exempt from further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to Sections 15308 (Actions to Protect Environment), 15060(c)(2) (No Physical Change), 15060(c)(3) (Not A Project), and 15061(b)(3) (General Rule), as the proposed amendment will cause no direct or indirect change to the environment, does not meet the definition of a Project under CEQA, and it can be seen with certainty that the proposed amendment will not have an effect on the environment;
2. **Recommend Approval** of the Planning Case PR-2022-001422 (Title 20 Text Amendment) to amend the application period of the Mills Act as outlined in the staff report and summarized in the Findings section of this report.

BACKGROUND

Section 20.30.020 Mills Act Program (Exhibit 1) of the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) establishes the City's Mills Act program by Resolution No. 20825 (Exhibit 2). The RMC states: "Mills Act applications are accepted only during the month of June and must be actually received by the Planning Division no later than the last business day of the month."

Resolution No. 22139 (Exhibit 3) allows the City Council to enter into up to seven agreements per calendar year, but if the number in any one year falls below seven, up to ten may be awarded in any year to make up the deficiency, provided that the overall average does not exceed ten since implementation. No action is needed by the Cultural Heritage Board for changes to this Resolution.

On June 7, 2022, the City Council considered modifying the number of Mills Act applications that can be accepted each year and the application period. Following

discussion, Council directed staff to prepare RMC Title 20 amendments and a resolution to modify Resolution No. 22139 (Exhibit 4) as follows:

1. Modify RMC Title 20 to allow applications to be accepted between January 1 and May 31 of each calendar year (5 months); and
2. Modify Resolution 22139 to allow City Council to enter into up to fifteen agreements per calendar year, but if the number in any one year falls below fifteen, up to twenty may be awarded in any year to make up the deficiency, provided that the overall average does not exceed fifteen since implementation.

PROPOSAL

Per Section 20.45.202 of the RMC, any proposed amendment to Title 20 must first be sent to CHB for review and recommendation. The proposed amendment to Section 20.30.020 (Exhibit 5) will modify the Mills Act application period from the month of June of each calendar year to a wider time frame of January 1 and May 31 of each calendar year. As a cleanup item, the Community Development Director title found in Section 20.30.030 will be revised to Community & Economic Development Director.

Resolution No. 22139 amendments do not require Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) review and will go straight to Council, but this information is included as reference.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMENT

A Public Hearing notice was published in the Press Enterprise, at least ten days prior to the meeting. As of the writing of this report, no responses have been received by Staff regarding this proposal.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed amendments are exempt from additional California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to Sections 15308 (Actions to Protect Environment), 15060(c)(2) (No Physical Change), 15060(c)(3) (Not A Project), and 15061(b)(3) (General Rule), as the proposed amendment will cause no direct or indirect change to the environment, does not meet the definition of a Project under CEQA, and it can be seen with certainty that the proposed amendment will not have an effect on the environment.

FINDINGS

Cultural Resources Code Amendment Findings pursuant to Chapter 20.45.020:

- 1) The proposed Title 20 amendment is generally consistent with the goals, policies, and objectives of the General Plan;
- 2) The proposed Title 20 amendment will not adversely affect surrounding properties; and
- 3) The proposed Title 20 amendment complies with the purposes of this title as set forth in Chapter 20.05.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This item contributes to the Envision Riverside 2025 City Council Strategic Priority 2 – Community Well Being (Goal 2.3 – Strengthen neighborhood identities and improve community health and the physical environment through amenities and programs that foster an increased sense of community and enhanced feelings of pride and belonging citywide).

This item aligns with the following Cross-Cutting Threads:

1. Community Trust: Expanding the Mills Act Program aligns with the Community Trust Cross-Cutting Thread as the annual contracts are reviewed at a public meeting by the City Council, allowing for public comment.
2. Equity: Expanding the Mills Act Program aligns with the Equity Cross-Cutting Thread as it is available to all historically designated properties throughout the City.
3. Fiscal Responsibility: Expanding the Mills Act Program aligns with the Fiscal Responsibility Cross-Cutting Thread as it provides an opportunity for property owners to reinvest back into the community through rehabilitation of the historic property.
4. Innovation: Expanding the Mills Act Program aligns with the Innovation Cross-Cutting Thread as it responds to the high financial demands of historic property maintenance and helps the property owners through reduced property taxes.
5. Sustainability and Resiliency: Expanding the Mills Act Program aligns with the Sustainability & Resiliency Cross-Cutting Thread as it assists with the rehabilitation and maintenance of historic properties so that they can continue to contribute to the character of the City for generations to come.

APPEAL INFORMATION

Actions by the Cultural Heritage Board, including any environmental finding, may be appealed to the City Council within ten calendar days after the decision. Appeal filing and processing information may be obtained from the Planning Department Public Information Section, 3rd Floor, City Hall.

EXHIBITS

1. RMC Section 20.30.020
2. Resolution No. 20825
3. Resolution No. 22139
4. City Council Minutes – June 7, 2022
5. RMC Section 20.30.020 - Redline

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