



Community & Economic Development Department
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Planning Division

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: MAY 20 2026
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4

DISCUSSION ITEM

Case Numbers	PC-2026-00408 (AMD)
Request	To amend Title 20 of the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) to implement minor, non-substantive clarifications and corrections.
Project Location	Citywide
Ward	All
Staff Planner	Clarissa Manges, Assistant Planner 951-826-5264 cmanges@riversideca.gov

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cultural Heritage Board recommend that City Council:

1. Determine that Planning Case PC-2026-00408 is exempt from further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (General Rule), as it can be seen with certainty that approval of the project will not have an effect on the environment;
2. Approve Planning Case PC-2026-00408 (Title 20 Text Amendment) as outlined in the staff report and summarized in the Findings section of this report; and
3. Introduce, and subsequently adopt, an Ordinance amending Title 20 (Cultural Resources) of the RMC.

BACKGROUND

Staff continuously track the applicability and accuracy of the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) to ensure that the regulations are consistent with state law, provide clear direction, and are not in conflict with other provisions. Staff identifies inaccuracies, ambiguities, and/or conflicts and tracks this information so that periodic amendments can be made. This builds on the "Streamline Riverside" initiative that continually identifies and implements strategic changes to City processes.

A comprehensive legal review of the RMC was undertaken by the City Clerk's Office between 2024-2025. The proposed amendment appears throughout Title 20 and focuses on minor, non-substantive changes identified by CivicPlus, the third-party vendor who currently maintains the RMC (Attachment 2). Specifically, this code cleanup focuses on updates to references of RMC titles and state legal codes, removal of Title 1 duplicate text, and other minor clarifications and corrections.

PROPOSAL

The proposed amendment to Titles 20, with footnotes about the changes from the legal reviewer, are included as Exhibit 1. The following describes the proposed changes for each type of amendment in greater detail.

Changes to References/Naming Conventions of RMC Titles

Existing Condition:

Currently, many of the *titles* that make up the RMC are often known and referred to as the *code* of the title's name. Title 20 (Cultural Resources) does not follow this rule; however, some titles that are referenced in it do; for instance, Title 19 (Zoning) is often referred to as the *Zoning Code*. Since only the RMC is formally a code, using the word "code" to refer to titles can confuse the reader into thinking that titles are separate from the RMC rather than part of it, or that a title reference is a reference to the broader RMC and vice versa.

Proposed Changes:

The proposed change will remove the word *code* from references to titles in Title 20. Only the RMC will be known as a *code*, with exceptions where state legal codes are mentioned. Some examples of this change are demonstrated in the table below:

Current Text	Proposed Text
Section 20.05.L: One of the purposes of Title 20 (Cultural Resources) is "to work in concert with the City's Zoning Code. "	Section 20.05.L: One of the purposes of Title 20 (Cultural Resources) is "to work in concert with the City's zoning regulations. "
Section 20.25.030.B.3: Maximum size of the [one story detached garage] shall not exceed City Zoning Code regulations.	Section 20.25.030.B.3: Maximum size of the [one story detached garage] shall not exceed City zoning regulations.

In addition to changes to remove the word *code* from references to titles, there are other instances where references to titles or the RMC are modified simply for clarity or to be more concise. Examples of this change are demonstrated below:

Current Text	Proposed Text
Section 20.20.080.A:	Section 20.20.080.A:

Pursuant to Title 19 , upon any designation, the Cultural Resources Overlay Zone applies to the subject property or parcel.	Pursuant to Title 19 of this Code , upon any designation, the Cultural Resources Overlay Zone applies to the subject property or parcel.
Section 20.30.010: Only properties designated as cultural resources pursuant to the provisions of Riverside Municipal Code Title 20 shall be eligible to apply for preservation incentives.	Section 20.30.010: Only properties designated as cultural resources pursuant to the provisions of this Title shall be eligible to apply for preservation incentives.

Removal of Title 1 Duplicate Text

Existing Condition:

Several titles of the Riverside Municipal Code, including Title 20, contain duplicate provisions of Title 1 (General Provisions) which define conventions and functions of the RMC and the City. Repeating these provisions outside of Title 1 is redundant and introduces risk of internal inconsistency within the RMC.

Proposed Change:

The key change to Title 20 will be the removal of Section 20.45.030, which duplicates provisions of Title 1 regarding *severability* (if any part of any title in the RMC is declared invalid, it will not affect the validity of the rest of the title).

Other Minor Clarifications and Corrections

The proposed amendment contains several other minor clarifications and corrections and other changes, such as correcting the casing of words and removing reserved chapters. One noteworthy clarification is in Chapter 20.15 (Approvals), where CivicPlus recommended adding names of the approval types (i.e., Mills Act) to the body of certain sections in Chapter 20.15 for greater clarity and context. For instance, in Section 20.15.060, the phrase “No public hearing is required” would become “No public hearing is required **for Mills Act applications.**”

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 comments were received.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed amendment is exempt from further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (General Rule), as it can be seen with certainty that approval of the project will not have an effect on the environment.

FINDINGS

Cultural Resources Code Amendment findings pursuant to Chapter 20.45.020(D):

1. The proposed amendment is generally consistent with the goals, policies, and objectives of the general plan; and
2. The proposed amendment complies with the purposes of this Title.

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 LIST

1. Title 20 Text
2. Legal Review Changes Executive Summary

Prepared by: Clarissa Manges, Assistant Planner
Reviewed by: Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer
Approved by: Edgardo Caldera, Acting City Planner