



Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board September 9, 2024, Meeting Agenda

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740 • (805) 654-2478 • www.vcrma.org/divisions/planning

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, September 9, 2024, at **11:30 a.m.** the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) will convene for a public hearing to be held at the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009, Third Floor, Room 311. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

PROVIDING PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments may be provided using the following options: (1) e-mail public comment in advance of the meeting; and/or (2) in-person public comment.

Option 1 – If you wish to make a comment on a specific item in advance of the meeting, please submit your comment for that item via email by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the hearing to Dillan Murray, staff, via email at Dillan.Murray@Ventura.org. Please indicate the Agenda Item Number on which you are commenting in the Subject Line of your email. Your comment will be provided to the Cultural Heritage Board and placed into the item's record at the Cultural Heritage Board hearing.

Option 2 – If you wish to make a comment in-person, you must be present at the meeting location and provide your comment prior to the close of the public comment period for the item you wish to speak on.

AGENDA

1. **11:30 A.M. CALL TO ORDER THE MEETING OF THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**
2. **ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**
 - 3a. Vote to approve the September 9, 2024, Agenda
 - 3b. Vote to approve the August 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This time is set aside for public comment on items not otherwise on this agenda which are within the purview of the Cultural Heritage Board. Speakers wishing to address the CHB shall be allowed a maximum of three minutes for their comments. The CHB is prohibited from taking action on any item that is not part of the printed and published agenda.

5. **CONTINUED ITEMS**

None

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6a. **Action:** View the following two California Preservation Foundation training webinars in compliance with National Historic Preservation Act requirements for Certified Local Governments: *Building on History: A Summit for Housing Solutions*, *Preserving Place, Accommodating Change: New Housing in Historic Contexts* and *Down the Property Research Rabbit Hole with George Smart of USModernist.org*.

7. **REPORTS**

7a. Board Member Reports

7b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held September 23, 2024.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**



Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board

August 26, 2024, **Draft** Meeting Minutes

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

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Note: The following is a summary of actions taken by the Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) at their public hearing and not a verbatim transcription.

1. **1:15 P.M. CALL TO ORDER THE MEETING OF THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**

2. **ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

CHB Members Present:

Mike Winters (Chair), Tyson Cline, Herbert Gooch, Gary Blum, Miguel Fernandez, Anthony Angelini, and John Kulwicz (arrived late)

CHB Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Dillan Murray, Senior Planner, Ventura County Planning Division
Tricia Maier, Planning Programs Manager, Ventura County Planning Division

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

3a. Vote to approve the August 26, 2024, Agenda

Board Member Fernandez made a motion to approve the August 26, 2024, Agenda. Board Member Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Board Member Cline abstained).

3b. Vote to approve the July 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Board Member Fernandez made a motion to approve the July 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes with the following revision on page 3: "Chair Winters reported that he attended a driving historical tour of Moorpark and Simi Valley on June 28th with Pat Havens, a former CHB Member." Board Member Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Board Member Cline abstained).

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

5. **CONTINUED ITEMS**

None

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6a. **Location:** Eucalyptus Trees Along US Highway 101 (Adolfo Camarillo Heritage Grove), roughly between Dawson Drive and Santa Rosa Road, Camarillo, CA 93012 (Ventura County Landmark No. 3) (Supervisory District 3 – Long).

Action: A request for review and comment pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act on the California Department of Transportation's US Highway 101 (US 101) Improvement Project. The project would widen the northbound US 101 to provide a shoulder and an auxiliary lane, which will include the removal of approximately seven mature eucalyptus trees of the eastern side of the Adolfo Camarillo Heritage Grove. All work would take place within the existing US 101 right-of-way.

Presentation by Staff: Dillan Murray, staff, presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the item background, project scope, and recommendations. Staff recommended the CHB take the following actions on this item:

1. **CONDUCT** public hearing, **RECEIVE** oral and written testimony, and **CONSIDER** the Planning Division staff report and all exhibits and attachments hereto; and
2. **REVIEW** and **COMMENT** on the proposed project based on the preceding evidence and analysis.

Board Member Kulwiec arrived at the meeting at this time.

Disclosures: None.

Discussion and Deliberation:

Sarah Baker, a Managing Director with ICF Environmental Planning, was present.

Board Member Fernandez inquired as to where any replacement trees would be located? Dillan Murray, staff, noted that the CHB could specify recommended locations in their feedback to the lead agency.

Board Member Angelini requested clarification on which trees are original and whether others have been planted over time? Dillan Murray, staff, noted that that level of detail was not available to staff from Caltrans. However, it is visually evident that, based on substantially differing tree sizes, some are clearly replacement trees.

Board Member Fernandez inquired as to whether other trees would be replaced over time as needed? Dillan Murray, staff, noted that the CHB could provide that recommendation in their feedback to the lead agency.

Chair Winters noted his support of staff recommendations, along with inclusion of a recommendation to replace trees over time as needed.

Board Member Angelini inquired as to whether sufficient integrity would remain after tree removal or tree replacement? Dillan Murray, staff, noted that a qualified professional would need to make that determination based on the level of integrity remaining.

Board Member Gooch inquired about other protected tree rows in the county. Dillan Murray, staff, noted that several other tree rows in the county are designated historic resources, including the Naumann row of eucalyptus trees in Oxnard.

Board Member Cline inquired about staff's recommended tree replacement size. Dillan Murray, staff, noted that the recommended 15-gallon tree replacement is a minimum size and comes from the CHB's administrative approval guidelines. Board Member Cline noted his view that this size is too limited to ensure viability.

Sarah Baker, a Managing Director with ICF Environmental Planning, stated that that Caltrans, as lead agency, is currently developing an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Assessment and mitigation measures for the project. In addition, the trees cross both Caltrans and city of Camarillo jurisdiction. Ms. Baker stated that the project was designed to minimize impacts to the tree rows to the greatest extent possible. Caltrans is currently planning to replace trees in kind and protect others in place. The environmental document for the project will be circulated in spring 2025.

Board Member Cline inquired as to whether the trees would still be eligible as a historical resource? Sarah Baker stated that the tree grove was previously determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in

the 1990s. As part of this project, the grove was re-evaluated and again determined eligible.

Board Member Gooch inquired as to who owns the affected trees? Sarah Baker stated that all trees to be removed are within Caltrans right of way.

Board Member Angelini noted his view that a tree replacement schedule should be included in the recommendations.

Board Member Winters noted the value in specifying where replacement trees would be located.

Board Member Cline noted that any tree maintenance schedule would need to be jointly operated by the city of Camarillo and Caltrans.

Board Member Angelini made a motion to adopt the following recommendations on the scope of work:

- **Recommendation #1: Tree Replacement.** The lead agency should replace each removed tree with the installation of a minimum of two 15-gallon size trees of the same species.
- **Recommendation #2: Ensure Health of Remaining Trees.** It is recommended that the lead agency work with a certified arborist to develop further treatment recommendations for measures to maintain, replace, and improve the health of the remaining Adolfo Camarillo Heritage Grove to prevent further loss of integrity.
- **Recommendation #3: Pursue Nomination for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places.** Within 6 months of project completion, it is recommended that the lead agency pursue nomination of the Eucalyptus Trees Along US 101, also known as the Adolfo Camarillo Heritage Grove, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, if it is determined that sufficient integrity remains.

Board Member Fernandez seconded the motion.

Dillan Murray, staff, inquired whether it was the CHB's intent to specify where replacement trees would be located? Chair Fernandez assumed replacement trees could not be planted near those that required removal.

Chair Winters inquired as to where there are locations where replacement trees could be placed elsewhere in the tree rows? Sarah Baker stated that

that is currently being evaluated. Based on this, Chair Winters stated his view that the recommendations were acceptable as moved.

Board Member Angelini noted his expectations that any tree replacements would be planted so as to maintain the historic characteristics of the dual rows and type of trees.

Board Member Kulwicz inquired as to whether replacement plantings would be done under the supervision of certified arborist? Sarah Baker responded in the affirmative.

Board Member Blum noted that he previously worked on a project in the vicinity of the historic Camarillo house to install a drainage basin. The project should have maintained a view corridor between the house and the tree rows, but that view has since been obscured. There will be an ongoing need for tree replacement within the tree rows.

Motion passed 7-0.

7. REPORTS

7a. Board Member Reports

Board Member Fernandez reported that he recently visited Dayton, Ohio and observed a high number of excellent historic districts and historical architecture. In addition, Board Member Fernandez reported that this summer's pared-down Cultural Heritage Board display at the Ventura County Fair won third-place prize.

Board Member Angelini reported that the Simi Film Commission will be hosting a reception the evening of September 5th and CHB members and staff are welcome to attend. In addition, the Simi Film Festival will take place on November 10th.

7b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

Dillan Murray, staff, reported that the next hearing will be September 9th, and will include the annual Certified Local Government training. Since lunch will be provided, the hearing will start at 11:30am and will be held in the Hall of Administration, Room 311.

Next, Mr. Murray reported that staff has worked with the General Services Agency to digitize all Cultural Heritage Site records, including files for 183 landmarks and 15 points of interest, to improve accessibility and longevity. This effort has been completed, with records to be uploaded to an online document repository that is anticipated to be open to the public in the coming future. Staff checked with local institutions, including the Museum of Ventura County, as to whether any were interested in receiving the files, but they were not. As a result, all physical records that have been digitized will be recycled. If any CHB members are interested in reviewing the files or retaining any, please reach out to staff.

Next, Mr. Murray reported that, as part of the CHB's third place prize at the Ventura County Fair, we were awarded \$200.

Finally, Mr. Murray reported that the next guest speaker session will take place on September 23rd, in conjunction with that day's hearing.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled hearing will be held on September 9, 2024.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:02 p.m., the Cultural Heritage Board was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Chair
Cultural Heritage Board

Dillan Murray
Cultural Heritage Program Planner

Date