

Melissa Thurman

From: Randy Rhody <randyrhody@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2024 1:48 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - CITY COUNCIL MEETING 9/10/24 - ITEM #7 PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPEAL

**I SUPPORT THE HISTORIC LOS ALTOS HERITAGE (CIVIC CENTER)
ORCHARD**

AND WANT TO

STOP THE "DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS."

Randy Rhody
Linden Avenue, Los Altos

Melissa Thurman

From: Chi Buckley <chi.buckley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:07 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Motorized scooters and bikes need regulation

Greetings,

Can the city please address the use of motorized scooters and bikes and put some policy around this asap? Kids are blasting down sidewalks in them, I see e-bikes on the wrong side of the street, it feels like chaos driving in some neighborhoods bc there are no rules for the road with these things. E-bikes especially are traveling 30mph +, kids are not wearing helmets on regular bikes or e-bikes, instead they dangle on the side of the handlebars. City should require a minimum age limit or some kind of license to operate these things + take a class just like drivers training. On that topic, maybe a city wide offering to teach kids how to ride bikes in general is good. The 2way bike lane in almond sure is confusing maybe kids think they can ride 2 ways on any street. Thanks for considering!

Best,

Chi Buckley 94022

Melissa Thurman

From: Pat Marriott <patmarriott@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2024 4:53 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #10 SEPTEMBER 10,2024

Council Members:

I've been inundated with information about our Historic Orchard for years and we, as a city, still cannot agree on anything. It's disappointing and distressing.

Are there boundaries? Some say yes, some say no, seemingly dependent on what's convenient at the moment.

Many residents have done major work over the years to get the orchard designated as an Historic Resource, get signage and finally get funding to take care of the trees. The Town Crier poll indicates residents care about the orchard, yet it's still subject to what some consider land grabs and others consider legitimate use.

We have Orchard vs. Library, Orchard vs. LACY conversion. Orchard vs. Police Building. Orchard vs. Community Garden. Also Library vs. Dog Park. Everybody wants a piece of a very small pie and, because the city could never implement a Civic Center Master Plan, the battle could go on forever.

I've slogged through the old documents and can't help wondering why no one has digitized them after all these years so we could at least search through them. How hard can that be?

I ask for the following:

- Respect for the orchard as an Historic Resource and as a very small and very rare bit remaining of the Valley of Heart's Delight.
- Serious consideration of what will happen if the city continues the "build, baby, build" philosophy at the expense of the orchard. We're all up in arms over Sacramento forcing us to cover every square inch of land with dense housing. We should be equally concerned about building on the orchard.
- Agreement on orchard boundaries, which I think/hope we have in this map:



"EXHIBIT A"
SAN ANTONIO ROAD
LEGEND
HISTORIC ORCHARD

- Finally, PLEASE get a surveyor and an objective, reliable historical consultant to research the orchard. Please put an end to the ongoing battles that are pitting residents against one another.

Thank you,
Pat Marriott

Melissa Thurman

From: Ken Hake <kkhake@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2024 7:35 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: save the cots!!

please don't tear out the apricot trees. it is a sustainable and unique part of our community. in fact, you should add to them and create community events around harvest time.

respectfully,

Ken Hake
445 Monroe Dr

Sent from my iPhone

Melissa Thurman

From: Jane Holt <cajanemh@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2024 11:06 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: parking

I think developers should plan and pay for replacement parking and parking for tenets. One concern is they took out handicap parking on main street at store owners request. (Lost 1/2 parking space per block) so we need handicap parking.

sincerely
Jane Holt

1960 Churton Ave.
Los Altos, CA 94024-6907
650-964-0228 H
650-996-2530 C
866-828-0431 H Fax

Melissa Thurman

From: Juno Szalay <jupeli@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 8:37 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - CITY COUNCIL MEETING 9/10/24 - ITEM #7 PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPEAL

Hi,
I am speaking up to save the Los Altos Heritage Orchard. Please do NOT remove the remaining apricot trees in the area defined as the "northeast sector" of the Los Altos Heritage Orchard,
Concerned resident,
Juno Szalay

Juno Szalay
JuPeLi@comcast.net
(650) 796-9165

Melissa Thurman

From: Couture, Terri <Terri.Couture@cbnorcal.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 8:49 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: City council meeting Sept 10, agenda item 10

Dear City council and public

I am a Parc commissioner, but these thoughts below are my own thoughts and are not to be reflected as a message from me as a commissioner.

Los Altos was a farming & ranching community and the Heritage Orchard is testament to our history. Ask the buyers who purchase homes in Los Altos what attracted them. You will find answers like open space, big yards, peace, quiet and friendly environment. They have chosen Los Altos instead of the concrete jungle they were from.

The Los Altos residents have spoken to save the orchard. There are so many different records that show the history of the Orchard and people who have strived to restore and keep the orchard. Why isn't this a high priority?

There are so many infrastructures in the town that have badly needed repairing over the years, and we need to prioritize these goals. The orchard is part of Los Altos.

Inch by inch, the trees and large yards are disappearing. The creep is very noticeable to people who have been here for a long time. The feel is not the same.

With all this new hardscape of pavements, solar panels, and more residences we losing the very soul of the town and its it is getting hotter. In town it may be 80 degrees, but in my back yard its a pleasant 75 degrees because of the trees and vegetation that my neighbors and I cherish, and work hard to keep alive.

PLEASE do more homework on saving the Orchard before you condemn it forever.

Thank you

Terri Couture

***Wire Fraud is Real*. Before wiring any money, call the intended recipient at a number you know is valid to confirm the instructions.** Additionally, please note that the sender does not have authority to bind a party to a real estate contract via written or verbal communication.

Melissa Thurman

From: Anne Schmidt <alories5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 9:03 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - CITY COUNCIL MEETING 9/10/24 - ITEM #7 PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPEAL

Dear Los Altos City Council

Unfortunately I am out of town this week, but I'd like my comments to be noted.

My family has been living in Los Altos for 3 generations. We cherish our town's history and roots and take pride in the little farming town that it once was. The apricot orchard that you are suggesting to remove reminds us every day as we pass by, of our connection to the past. It is also so beautiful and picturesque and a breath of fresh air among the urban sprawl, busy roads and higher and higher buildings being built downtown. Even more importantly are the numerous benefits to our community by having a "green space" (improved health and cognitive function of its residents, reduced air pollution, reduced surface temperature, reduced crime, increased property values, increased biodiversity and more). I believe the removal of these trees would be a big mistake that you could never undo. I am disheartened that the people I have elected do not have the same love for Los Altos and cherish it the way that I do by protecting it. Please vote to appeal the decision to remove our beloved apricot trees.

Respectfully,

Anne Schmidt

Sent from my iPhone

Melissa Thurman

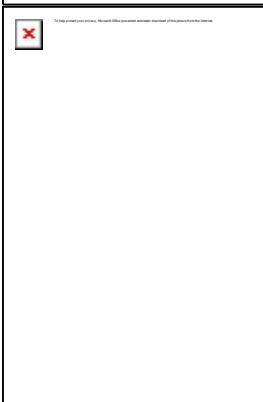
From: Julie Bly DeVere <jdevere@losaltoshistory.org>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 11:16 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: LAHM Heritage Orchard

Dear Los Altos City Council,

Since matters related to the heritage orchard are on the meeting agenda for Tuesday 9/10, the City Council and public might find it helpful to review this statement of facts and background as shared in the Los Altos Town Crier, on July 9, 2024.

https://www.losaltosonline.com/opinion/city-museum-committed-to-maintaining-trees/article_f13be192-3e25-11ef-87c1-e7c1b4570010.html

Many Thanks,
Julie Bly DeVere (she/her)
Interim Executive Director
Los Altos History Museum
51 South San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022
650.948.9427
650.468.3616 cell



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Melissa Thurman

From: Deb Skelton <deb_skelton@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 1:21 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment - City Council Meeting, 9/10/24, Item 7 Public Hearing for Appeal

Dear City Council Members,

I am opposed to the permanent removal of 25 of the Heritage Apricot Trees. The removal of these trees is not in compliance with the City's planning, environmental and preservation processes. Along with many of my neighbors, I am against the permanent removal of 30% of the Los Altos Heritage Orchard. My understanding is that the City is required to maintain the trees, and to replace them as needed. Any other action is not permissible. Please, save the trees, and maintain the Los Altos Heritage Orchard.

Sincerely,
Debbie Skelton
Los Altos Resident

Melissa Thurman

From: durga kalavagunta <durga_kalavagunta@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 1:51 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - CITY COUNCIL MEETING 9/10/24 - ITEM #7 PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPEAL

Hello,

We have been residents of Los Altos for the last 24 years and have two kids that graduated from local public schools. I run a small business supporting creativity and hands-on learning experiences for youth in the community.

We are writing to show support for preserving the Heritage Orchard spanning the space behind our public library and surrounding the City Hall and in close proximity to the Los Altos History Museum. The orchard is a big part of **Los Altos History**. Students in **local grade schools** study about their local community, Los Altos, through the lens of apricots and the agricultural land that Los Altos was during its beginnings. Almond School, where my kids went (and possibly other local schools) frequently has field trips to this area to make the learning 'real' for young learners. The museum that has on permanent display the tools and processes used for apricot harvesting, drying, packaging etc from the agricultural era of Los Altos is a beautiful reminder of our connection to the land, the growth since and the land's evolution. At a time when we are all collectively longing to connect with our lands, a field trip to the museum and the connected orchard is a rich and rare experience for the kids in our community and for future generations. In addition, when in full bloom the orchard is a beautiful breath of fresh air -- an unusual gem in the center of busy silicon valley -- AND a mental health haven for passersby. We have shot many a photos of the picturesque orchard over the years and have witnessed tourists doing the same.

We have unfortunately seen neglect in recent seasons and hoping it was part of a restoration effort and transition to newer plantings, instead of a complete removal.

We understand the permit in question is for removal of only the few trees that are by the police station. There has been no clarity on the plan for the rest of orchard. We are requesting that the city engage the public in the plans so we may collectively find a solution that both preserves the history and agricultural roots of the land and simultaneously maintains the rich pocket of green among our built spaces.

Thank you,
Durga K

Melissa Thurman

From: Kathy Lera <kathylera@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 1:53 PM
To: Public Comment; City Council
Cc: Lee Lera; Kathleen Lera
Subject: Apricot Orchard at City Hall - Opposition to Tree Removal

We would like to go on record as being COMPLETELY OPPOSED to the removal of ANY apricot trees in our beautiful orchard, located at City Hall.

We both grew up in Los Altos, a time when it was full of orchards. Those orchards have almost completely disappeared. We know from experience, that once the trees are removed in our protected Historic Orchard, they will never come back. We want to make sure future generations can enjoy our Historic Orchard and realize what our beautiful town originally included.

Actually, we are shocked that this process is even taking place, without proper public notice and hearings.
Thank you,
Kathy & Lee Lera

Kathy Lera
Cell (650) 823-7391
Email kathylera@sbcglobal.net

Melissa Thurman

From: durga kalavagunta <durga_kalavagunta@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Re: PUBLIC COMMENT - CITY COUNCIL MEETING 9/10/24 - ITEM #7 PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPEAL

Also would like to add that progress is important but learning to do so in the context of our history keeps us all humble and grateful. The orchard is one such gem and we are grateful for the Smith Family to have donated this to the city for responsible upkeep and passing down to future generations.

Durga
650 | 823 | 7548

On Monday, September 9, 2024 at 01:51:14 PM PDT, durga kalavagunta <durga_kalavagunta@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello,

We have been residents of Los Altos for the last 24 years and have two kids that graduated from local public schools. I run a small business supporting creativity and hands-on learning experiences for youth in the community.

We are writing to show support for preserving the Heritage Orchard spanning the space behind our public library and surrounding the City Hall and in close proximity to the Los Altos History Museum. The orchard is a big part of **Los Altos History**. Students in **local grade schools** study about their local community, Los Altos, through the lens of apricots and the agricultural land that Los Altos was during its beginnings. Almond School, where my kids went (and possibly other local schools) frequently has field trips to this area to make the learning 'real' for young learners. The museum that has on permanent display the tools and processes used for apricot harvesting, drying, packaging etc from the agricultural era of Los Altos is a beautiful reminder of our connection to the land, the growth since and the land's evolution. At a time when we are all collectively longing to connect with our lands, a field trip to the museum and the connected orchard is a rich and rare experience for the kids in our community and for future generations. In addition, when in full bloom the orchard is a beautiful breath of fresh air -- an unusual gem in the center of busy silicon valley -- AND a mental health haven for passersby. We have shot many a photos of the picturesque orchard over the years and have witnessed tourists doing the same.

We have unfortunately seen neglect in recent seasons and hoping it was part of a restoration effort and transition to newer plantings, instead of a complete removal.

We understand the permit in question is for removal of only the few trees that are by the police station. There has been no clarity on the plan for the rest of orchard. We are requesting that the city engage the public in the plans so we may collectively find a solution that both preserves the history

and agricultural roots of the land and simultaneously maintains the rich pocket of green among our built spaces.

Thank you,
Durga K

Melissa Thurman

From: runipg <runipg@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 11:14 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - CITY COUNCIL MEETING 9/10/24 - ITEM #7 PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPEAL

Please don't reduce the orchard size

--
Runip

Melissa Thurman

From: carol little <morrist03@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 11:31 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Item 10

Dear City Council,

I am writing this email as a resident, not as a PARC commissioner.

My email is in regard to item 10.

Please deny the permit for the removal of 25 apricot trees to the side of the police station, otherwise referred to as the northeast portion of the historic orchard.

Here are some of my reasons for asking that the permit be denied:

1. The public needs to be informed as to why the area needs to be cleared of the apricot trees. In fact, as a taxpayer, I think we have the *right* to know. Even if they are diseased, replant healthy ones.
2. The boundaries of the orchard seem to have become fluid. They need to be defined.
3. There needs to be a Historic Resource Evaluation. It needs to be done by a
4. The orchard is shrinking and be attacked from all sides.
5. There is documentation to support replacing the trees exactly where they are removed, not in some other location in the city, and not with other types of trees.
6. There have been numerous attempts to save the orchard and to keep it intact. Meaning, residents have spent much time and money over many generations to stand up for preserving the orchard. That shows it is of value. The residents love the orchard and want it to remain an asset to all.
7. There are many wise people who are making it clear that the attempt to cut yet more of the orchard down is not only a bad idea, but vey likely an illegal one. Do we really want another lawsuit? I think not.
8. Removing the trees does not align with the will of the people. The current town Crier poll makes this clear.

It is my opinion that we need to expand, not shrink this asset values by so many residents and visitors.

I have included links to two sites. One shows how the Packard family has t valued the orchards and why. I suggest we take a cue from them and begin to value our orchard enough to save it from further demolition.

The other is an older Talon article. It shows how the orchard was valued by the youth way back in 2008. Saving this orchard is an ongoing battle. It is a beloved asset.

People want this orchard. It brings them joy and comfort. Please deny the permit request, work on saving the trees we have and do not shrink the orchard any further.

Thank you for your time reading my email and for considering my input.

Respectfully,

Teresa Morris

Melissa Thurman

From: carol little <morrist03@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 11:33 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Missing links for item 10

Dear City Council,

Again, I am writing this email as a resident, not as a PARC commissioner. Here are the links I referred to in my email.

Kind regards,
Teresa Morris

<http://robinchapmannews.blogspot.com/2012/06/packards-use-computer-to-save-orchard.html> (June 30, 2012)

<https://lahstalon.org/orchard-teardown-demolishes-town-history/> November 24, 2008

Melissa Thurman

From: Monica Waldman <contact.mlw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 11:28 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 12

Dear Los Altos City Council Members,

I suggest the Red Hot Chili Peppers 1991 hit "Give It Away" become the official anthem of the current Los Altos City Council. For those of you unfamiliar with the song's lyrics, they include:

"Give it away, give it away, give it away, now
Give it away, give it away, give it away, now
Give it away, give it away, give it away, now"

It seems a majority of Council has no issue giving away public land for pet vanity projects such as a new theater, and prides themselves in raiding public funds that should be used to build parks elsewhere. Shame on those on Council pushing for this project.

Monica Waldman
24 1/2 year Los Altos Resident

Melissa Thurman

From: LaDon Detro <ldetro@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 11:56 AM
To: Anthony Carnesecca; Kim Cranston; Public Comment
Subject: Re:

Anthony and Kim,

I just want to thank whoever was involved in selecting the new look of our downtown parklets. I am so glad you chose a very sophisticated look that also seems to be so much safer for traffic and the people of Los Altos frequenting the downtown restaurants.

Thank you,
LaDon Detro

On Thu, May 25, 2023 at 9:59 AM LaDon Detro <ldetro@gmail.com> wrote:

Gentlemen/Women,

I am not sure I am sending my comment to the right place, so please redirect this email if you would.

I have attended a zoom meeting regarding the parkettes previously, and I would like to comment on the different directions it seems to be moving toward. I follow this matter closely but am not able to attend the meetings because of a business conflict.

It appears to me that the people with the most pull are the popular businesses and I find it very unfair that you should hold your meetings in their establishments. It seems like there is a bias towards certain business requirements to suit the businesses that are already taking up such a large portion of the streets/parking for their parklets.

I took a few pictures along downtown Los Gatos, which I am passing along to you. I found that their parklets blended in with the downtown buildings and didn't stand out like a sore thumb. When you drive down our main street, it sort of feels like you are driving through a flea market. The barrels have served their purpose and now we need to move onto something other than a wood structure that can weather and show age. The amount of dead plants in some of our parkletts is appalling.

The Los Gatos parklets are extremely safe because of the concrete and metal structure. They also don't take up more than the parking space themselves and blend in with the parked cars perfectly. There is no need to extend our parklets beyond the parking spaces. It presents a possible hazard for both automobiles and emergency vehicles. It shouldn't take an accident or injury to point that out to you.

Let's keep our downtown streets clear and wide to showcase our beautiful city. Presently it feels like a bit of a rat's maze to navigate and locate our businesses. The extended parklets also make the logistics of our downtown parades impossible to coordinate and enjoy.

The Los Gatos parkletts are built on concrete which extends straight off the curb to make it ADA compliant, no makeshift ramps necessary. Please don't leave this feat up to the individual businesses, you can see how poorly they have failed at it already.

The parkletts look beautiful and permanent. There is nothing any business will have to add other than an umbrella if necessary. The amount of garbage that has been added to our parkletts contributes to the unkempt look of our city.

The look of the Los Gatos parklets is so sophisticated and ageless. Something along those lines would be such an improvement to our downtown community.

Greed has no place in our community, the city belongs to all of us. There is no need to feel obligated to build a parkett to accomodate a restaurant full of people outside. We aren't trying to build their business, but rather build harmony and equality in our community.

Thank you for your time,
LaDon Detro

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **LaDon Detro** <ldetro@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, May 25, 2023 at 9:08 AM

Subject:

To: LaDon Detro <ldetro@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Melissa Thurman

From: Catherine Nunes <nunescath@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 2:00 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Item #7 City Council Meeting Sept 20 2024 Public Hearing Appeal of Orchard Tree Removal
Attachments: PRR 24-27 List Tree Health Los Altos Police Station Apricot.pdf; PRR 24-27 General_application - Tree Removal.pdf; PRR 24-27 LA Police Station Apricot Report TW.pdf; PRR 24-27 Orchard Map Civic Center - Source City of Los Altos Title Orchard Sections Provided via Public Request re Appeal July82024.png; City Orchard 25 Tree Removal Permit Approved .pdf

Dear City of Los Altos

These attachments were received **by the City of Los Altos** through a Public Record Request PRR 24-27 regarding matters of Heritage Orchard and the Tree Permit Removal of Orchard (Apricot) Trees surrounding the Police Station Area. Also attaching the City published final permit as posted.

They provide specific information related to our Appeal Letter and Submission to the City.

These City documents are made available here in public comment.

Catherine Nunes
representing citizens of the Preservation Action League Los Altos (PALLA)



TREE REMOVAL PERMIT

REMOVAL OF (25) APRICOT TREES IN THE REAR
YARD OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT 1 SAN
ANTONIO RD

Date Approved: 6/25/2024 – Date Posted: 6/26/2024

Applicant: Ken Buscho, Los Altos History Museum

Permit #: TREE24-0062

Basis for Approval (Pursuant to Section 11.08.090 LAMC):

The condition of the tree with respect to disease, and the potential to cause further disease to other trees within the orchard and immediately adjacent; in general, poses a danger of falling; and proximity to existing or proposed structures and interference with utility services.

Replacement Tree(s) & Required Conditions (Pursuant to Section 11.08.090 LAMC):

Yes – 2 to 1 street tree (or other tree species as approved by the City Manager), each replacement tree shall be a minimum 24-inch box tree. The location of the replacement trees shall be approved by the City Manager.

Project Planner:

Xiomara Aguirre, (650) 947-2741, xaguirre@losaltosca.gov

Appeals (Pursuant to Section 11.08.110 LAMC)

The findings or conditions of this tree removal permit may be appealed by the applicant or any interested party within 10 calendar days from the date posted.



**CITY OF LOS ALTOS
GENERAL PLANNING APPLICATION**

Type of Review Requested: *(Check all boxes that apply)*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Design Review - One-Story	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lot-Line Adjustment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tentative Map/Division of Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Design Review - Two-Story	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outdoor Display Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tree Removal Permit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Design Review-Comm/Multi-Fam	<input type="checkbox"/>	PC Study Session	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use Permit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accessory Dwelling Unit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Preliminary Project Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	Variance/Extension
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Plan/Code Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	SB9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zoning Verification Letter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sign Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Project Address/Location: Los Altos Police Department back lot

Assessor Parcel Number(s): _____ Zoning District(s): _____

Project Description: Removal of distressed/diseased trees behind Los Altos Police Department that are a fungi reservoir that impacts the Heritage Orchard

Applicant's Name: Ken Buscho, Los Altos History Museum

Telephone No.: 408-728-6542 Email Address: kbuscho@losaltoshistory.org

Mailing Address: 51 S San Antonio Road

City/State/Zip Code: Los Altos, CA 94022

Property Owner's Name: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Architect/Designer's Name: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, applicant hereby expressly agrees to indemnify, defend, protect, and hold the City harmless from all costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred by the City or held to be the liability of the City in connection with the City's defense of its actions in any proceedings brought in any State or Federal Court, challenging any of the City's action with respect to the applicant's project. The City may withhold final maps and/or permits, including temporary or final occupancy permits, for failure to pay all costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred by the City in connection with the City's defense of its actions.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

I (we) declare, under penalty of perjury, that in securing this permit, I am (we are) the owner of this property(ies) and the information stated on forms, plans, and other materials submitted herewith in support of the application is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge. It is my (our) responsibility to inform the City, through the assigned project planner, of any changes to information represented in these submittals.

If an authorized agent is signing on behalf of the property owner, written documentation evidencing authority to sign on behalf of the property owner must be provided with this form.

Signature of Property Owner

Date

Signature of Property Owner

Date

Signature of Applicant (If different from the Property Owner)

Date

June 6, 2024

Terence Welch
Backyard Orchards
P.O. Box 2
Aptos, CA 95001

ISA Certified Arborist WE-0153A

On May 31, 2024, I inspected the apricots behind the locked gate at the Los Altos Police Station. These apricots are beyond the age where they are commercially viable, and have had both major limbs and twigs killed by Brown Rot. They are not being pruned or maintained in any way.

The attached spreadsheet lists the trees, shows their size, and rates their both their health and structure (scale of 1-5, with 1 being the best). These old trees generally had plenty of Brown Rot killed twigs, and decayed wood down the middle of the trunks, which was the result of large diameter limbs dying and being pruned out of the tree.

These trees are a source of fungal spores of Brown Rot, *Monilinia laxa*. Spore masses form on twig cankers, and on flower parts which have become infected. Because they can spread through the air, they increase the chance that healthy, maintained trees nearby will become infected with Brown Rott. Symptoms of Brown Rot on stone fruit trees (apricot, plum, peach, cherry, etc) are dead twigs, dead flowers, mummified fruits, and often larger dead limbs and leaders. Blenheim apricot is particularly susceptible to Brown Rot.

There is no effective organic treatment for Brown Rot at this time. In an orchard in Portola Valley, I have tried different organic sprays purported to help reduce Brown Rot, with no apparent success. Conventional farmers utilize chemical sprays to control Brown Rot.

To reduce Brown Rot infections, Infected shoots and branches should be pruned out as soon as possible, infected fruits should be picked up from the ground, and should be removed from the tree. All this infected material should be removed from the orchard, as it can be a source of new airborne spores. Rain and insects can also move the fungal spores throughout the orchard. Wet weather during bloom creates the ideal conditions for Brown Rot infections

Removing these non-maintained trees would reduce the amount of airborne spores, and reduce the total amount of infections in nearby, maintained trees.

List of Blenheim Apricot Trees at Los Altos Police Station
5/31/2024

Tree Numbe	Diameter	Health	Structure	Comment
1	5	1	2	Newer tree
2	20	2	5	
3	18	2	5	
4	12	1	5	
5	15	4	4	
6	20	3	5	
7	2	5	5	Rootstock only
8	15	1	5	
9	6	5	5	
10	11	5	5	
11	18	5	5	
12	8	4	5	
13	6	5	5	
14	10	3	5	
15	12	3	5	
16	12	4	5	
17	12	2	5	
18	16	2	5	
19	18	4	5	
20	12	4	5	
21	21	4	3	
22	8	2	5	
23	7	3	5	
24	16	4	3	
25	13	5	5	

See
Satelite
Photo

Measured at Best=1,
approx 2' Worst=5
above grade.
DBH not
applicable
as the trees
were branched
low to the
ground

Best=1
Worst=5



IONS
library
middle
parking lot
San Antonio - City Hall
San Antonio - Library
Hydrant
Police compound ←

Melissa Thurman

From: Catherine Nunes <nunescath@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 1:42 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment and Attachments: Item#7 City Council Meeting Sept 10 2024 Public Hearing
Attachments: State DPR HR 15 Heritage Orchard Historic Record 2011, org 1987 affirmed 2019 History Commission.pdf; 2019 City of Los Altos Hist Commission item_3_-_civic_center_apricot_orchard_staff_report_with_partial attachments.pdf; Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Requirements Source CA OHP .pdf

Dear City of Los Altos,

These attachments are in support of the Public Hearing and Appeal Item#7 in matters related to the Los Altos

Heritage Orchard.

Kind regards,

Catherine Nunes

representing citizens of Preservation Action League Los Altos (PALLA)



DATE: June 24, 2019

AGENDA ITEM # 3

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Historical Commission

FROM: Margo Horn, Historical Commissioner

SUBJECT: Civic Center Apricot Orchard

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Recommend the City fund the cost of final signage approved by the Historical Commission.
- B. Recommend the City install the historical plaques and interpretive signage for the Apricot Orchard.
- C. Recommend the City Council authorize staff from the Department of Public Works to maintain the orchard to ensure that it is beautiful and a point of pride for the City of Los Altos.
- D. Recommend the City allocate \$3,600 from the 2019/2020 budget for graphic design expenditures for three interpretive signs.

BACKGROUND

On October 8, 1991, the City Council designated the apricot orchard site located at 1 North San Antonio Road a Historic Landmark. The 2.84-acre heritage apricot orchard site is in the Civic Center Grounds. It surrounds the City Hall buildings, and parts of the Library, Youth Center and Police Department.

The Civic Center Orchard represents a portion of the apricot orchard planted by Mr. and Mrs. J. Gilbert Smith, early Los Altos settlers, and is related to the nearby Smith farm house. The residence sits near the southeast corner of the Civic Center complex. Portions of the Smith orchard lands within the Civic Center remain along N. San Antonio Road, north of the Los Altos Library, and in the northeast sector of the complex. The resolution designating the apricot orchard a Historic Landmark and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Primary Record are provided as Attachment A and B respectively.

At its April 24, 2017 meeting, the Historical Commission considered ways to protect the landmark status of the Civic Center Apricot Orchard and increase public awareness of this city treasure. The Commission recommended further research on the installation of the City Historic Plaque and interpretive signage for the Orchard, leading to recommendations to City Council.

Commissioner Horn consulted with Susanna Chan of the Department of Department of Public Works on maintenance of the orchard. Ms. Chan stated that 100 new apricot trees have been ordered for planting in late 2017 or early 2018. In addition, the Department of Public Works is currently conducting a citywide tree inventory, including the apricot orchard trees, to assess current conditions and make recommendations for future tree maintenance.

Commissioners Margo Horn and Larry Lang met with Elisabeth Ward, Executive Director of the Los Altos History Museum to discuss ideas for the design, content and installation of interpretive signage for the orchard. Commissioners Horn, Lang and Ms. Ward also walked through the orchard to make recommendations for the placement of the City of Los Altos Historic Plaque, and the interpretive signage throughout the orchard.

Elisabeth Ward offered to provide the Museum's expertise and project management to design signage of the orchard, using the text of interpretive signage written by her predecessor at the Museum. Ms. Ward proposes installing interactive signage throughout the orchard with QR Codes for iPhones.

On February 26, 2018, the Los Altos History Museum Executive Director, Elisabeth Ward, and staff provided a report outlining the proposed signage program for the historic landmark orchard. The commission supported the proposed signage, and the Los Altos Historic Sign Program reviewed by the Historical Commission is provided as Attachment C.

In October 2018, the Council at their annual joint meeting with the Historical Commission reviewed and supported the Historical Commissions sign program to install one wood framed sign with the text "Los Altos Heritage Orchard," a Historic Landmark bronze plaque, a State Historical Point of Interest plaque, and five interpretive signs. The Los Altos Historic Sign Program reviewed by the City Council is provided as Attachment C.

DISCUSSION

Orchard Signage

The Commission shall provide comment and direction regarding the three interpretive signs to be designed by Davis Design. A description of the proposed graphic design proposal for three new signs is provided as Attachment D.

The Historical Commission Orchard Sign subcommittee recommends:

1. Recommend the City fund the cost of final signage approved by the Historical Commission.
2. Recommend the City promptly install the historical plaques and interpretive signage for the Apricot Orchard.
3. Recommend the City Council authorize staff from the Department of Public Works to maintain the orchard to ensure that it is beautiful and a point of pride for the City of Los Altos.

Purchasing

The City of Los Altos has a formal policy and process of procuring goods and services, including a purchase order system, provides several key benefits. It supports clear purchase specifications, avoids dispute with vendors, builds an audit trail, allows level competition to set prices, controls spending limits, creates a system of checks and balances, and enhances public trust. Purchases under \$5,000 for one-time purchases can be submitted for payment using original vendor receipts/invoices.

The proposed scope of work, including cost of work is provided as attachment E.

The Historical Commission Orchard Sign subcommittee recommends:

1. Recommend the City allocate \$3,600 from the 2019/2020 budget for graphic design expenditures for three interpretive signs.

Attachments

- A. Apricot Orchard Historic Landmark Designation Resolution No. 91-31
- B. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Primary Record
- C. Sign Program, October 2017
- D. Orchard Sign Proposal, Davis Design
- E. Graphic Design Proposal, Davis Designs

ATTACHMENT A

RESOLUTION NO. 91- 31

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS MODIFYING AN APRICOT ORCHARD AS A HISTORICAL LANDMARK

WHEREAS, by virtue of its adoption of Ordinance No. 78-16 and 90-225, the City Council of the City of Los Altos did establish a procedure for the designation and preservation of historical landmarks within the City of Los Altos; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of its adoption of Resolution 81-23, the City Council of the City of Los Altos did designate a portion of APN 170-42-029 known as the Civic Center Apricot Orchard a historical landmark; and

WHEREAS, by designation of this property as a historical landmark it is subject to the terms and conditions outlined in Ordinance 90-225; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with that Ordinance Section 2-8.404, the Historical Commission has reviewed and recommends modifying the limits of the Civic Center Apricot Orchard as shown on Exhibit A, as located on APN Nos. 170-42-029 and 170-43-001; and

WHEREAS, the City Council concurs with the recommendation of the Historical Commission in this regard;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Los Altos does hereby determine that the subject property is designated as a historical landmark and is subject to the terms and conditions outlined in Ordinance 90-225;

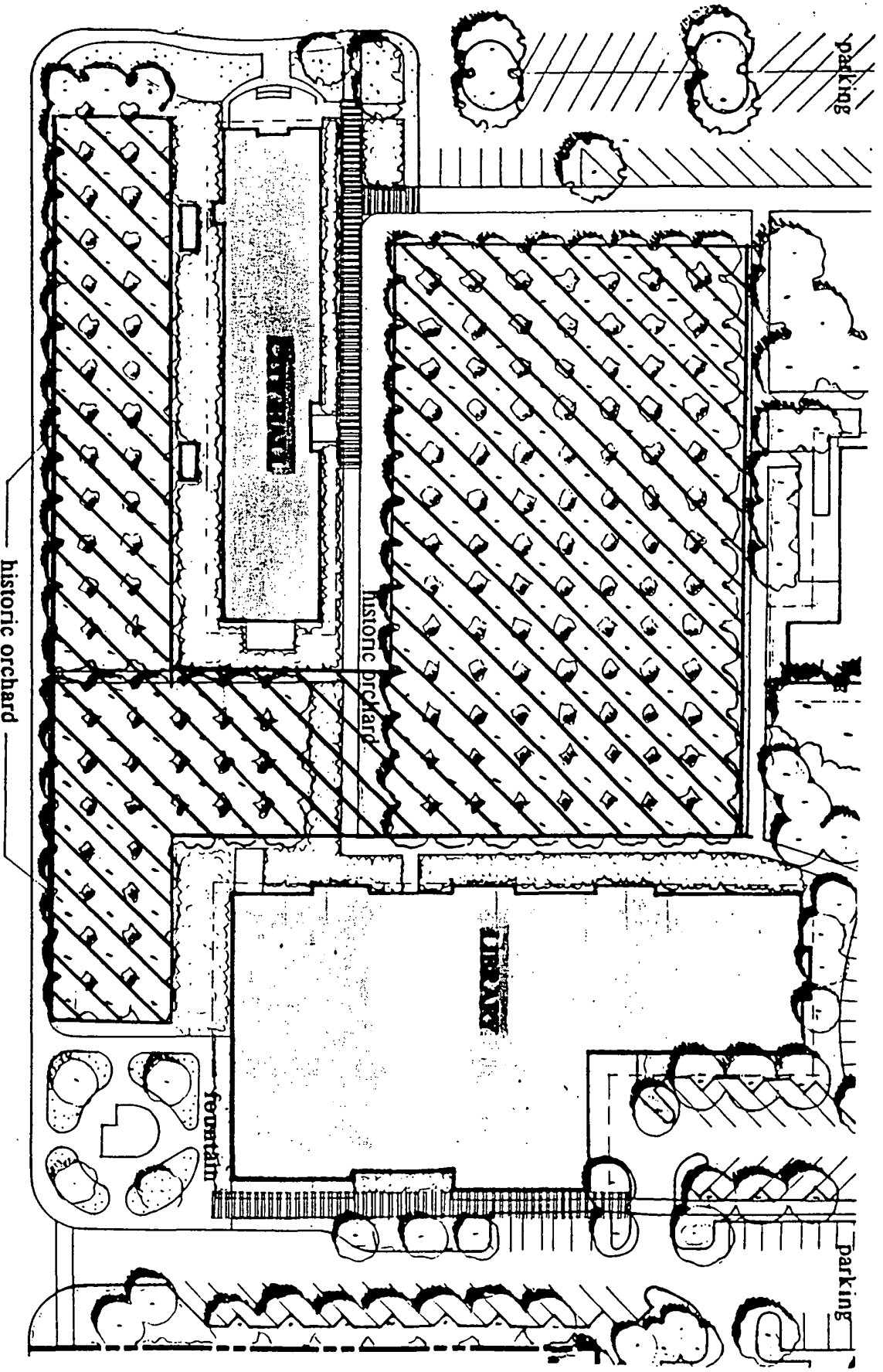
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos on the 8th day of October, 1991, by the following roll call vote:

* * * * *

AYES: Mayor Spangler, Councilmembers Bruno, Laliotis, Lave, & Reeder
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Carol Schary
City Clerk

SB Spangler
Mayor



SAN ANTONIO ROAD

"EXHIBIT A"

LEGEND



HISTORIC ORCHARD

ATTACHMENT B

State of California The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PRIMARY RECORD	Primary # _____ HRI # _____ Trinomial _____ NRHP Status Code _____ Other Listings _____ Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____
--	---

Page 1 of 2 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 1 N. San Antonio Road

P1. Other Identifier: HRI #:15; Civic Center Orchard

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

- *a. County Santa Clara and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)
- *b. USGS 7.5' Quad _____ Date _____ T ____; R ____; ____ of ____ of Sec ____; ____ B.M.
- c. Address 1 N. San Antonio Road City Los Altos Zip 94022
- d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone ____, ____ mE/ ____ mN
- e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
170 42 029

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The Civic Center Orchard represents a portion of the apricot orchard planted by Mr. and Mrs. J. Gilbert Smith, early Los Altos settlers, and is related to the nearby Smith farm house. The residence, which currently serves the community as the History House, sits near the southeast corner of the Civic Center complex. Portions of the Smith orchard lands within the Civic Center remain along N. San Antonio Road, north of the Los Altos Library, and in the northeast sector of the complex. A number of trees dating to the period of Smith's residence appear to remain. As the City replaces dead or diseased trees as needed, a number of younger trees are also apparent within the orchard tracts.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP39. Other Orchard

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: Looking SE

July 2011

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: Historic Prehistoric
 Both
 Planted 1902
Los Altos History Museum

*P7. Owner and Address:
City of Los Altos
1 N. San Antonio Road Los Altos,
CA 94022

*P8. Recorded by:
Circa: Historic Property Development
582 Market Street, Suite 1800
San Francisco, CA 94104

*P9. Date Recorded: July 2011

*P10. Survey Type: Intensive

*P11. Report Citation:
Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory Update Report (Circa: Historic Property Development, March 2012).

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List): _____

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code CA Reg: 5S1

Page 2 of 2 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 1 N. San Antonio Road

B1. Historic Name: _____

B2. Common Name: Civic Center Orchard

B3. Original Use: Agricultural B4. Present Use: Mixed

*B5. Architectural Style: n/a

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
Established c.1900.

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features:

J. Gilbert Smith House

B9a. Architect: n/a b. Builder: n/a

*B10. Significance: Theme Early Development/Agriculture Area Los Altos

Period of Significance c.1900-1961 (50 year mark) Property Type Orchard Applicable Criteria NR/CR/Local

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

In approximately 1901, J. Gilbert Smith purchased 10 acres of farmland to grow apricots and establish a home site. Living in a tent on his land during construction, Smith completed the house in 1905. He later married Margaret Hill Smith and the couple developed a sizeable apricot orchard on the property. The Smiths sold their property to the city of Los Altos in 1954, two years after incorporation, for the construction of the City's Civic Center complex. A stipulation of the sale was that the couple would be allowed to reside in the house and surrounding acre until their passing, at which point the house would become the city's history museum. Upon Mrs. Smith's death in 1973, the property reverted to the city. Another stipulation was that the remaining apricot trees not be removed; the city maintains and replaces the trees as needed today. The house and orchard are now City of Los Altos Historical Landmarks and the house itself is a California Point of Historical Interest. On September 8, 1991 the City Council unanimously passed and adopted a resolution adding the Civic Center's apricot orchard along San Antonio Road to the West, the Library to the South, the Youth Center to the East, the Civic Center parking lot to the North, as a Historical Landmark.

Evaluation: The Civic Center orchard is one of the last active apricot orchards remaining in Los Altos and was first planted by early Los Altos resident, J. Gilbert Smith. Despite the orchard's decrease in size and adjacent new construction, the site retains a fair degree of integrity. Therefore, it is listed on the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory as a Historic Resource and is assigned the California Register Status Code 5S1: "Individual property that is listed or designated locally."

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

*B12. References:

Los Altos Historical Commission: Los Altos HRI (9.28.1997); McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002; DPR series forms by G. Laffey (1997); Sanborn Maps; Los Altos HRI (February 2011).

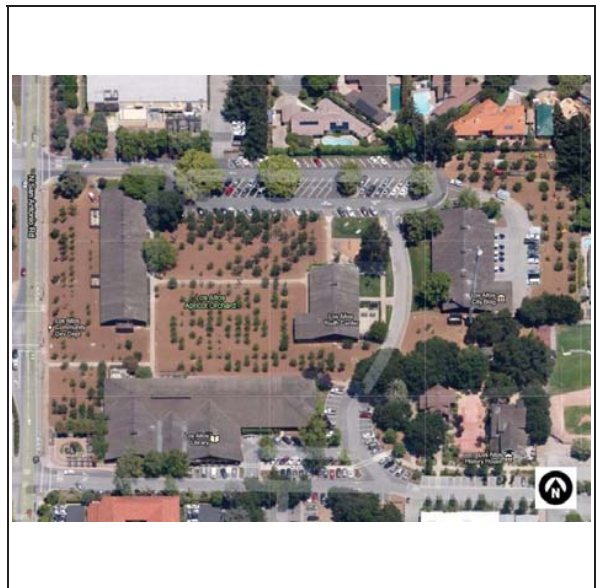
B13. Remarks:

Vicinity map provided by the City of Los Altos and amended by Circa: Historic Property Development.

*B14. Evaluator: Circa: Historic Property Development

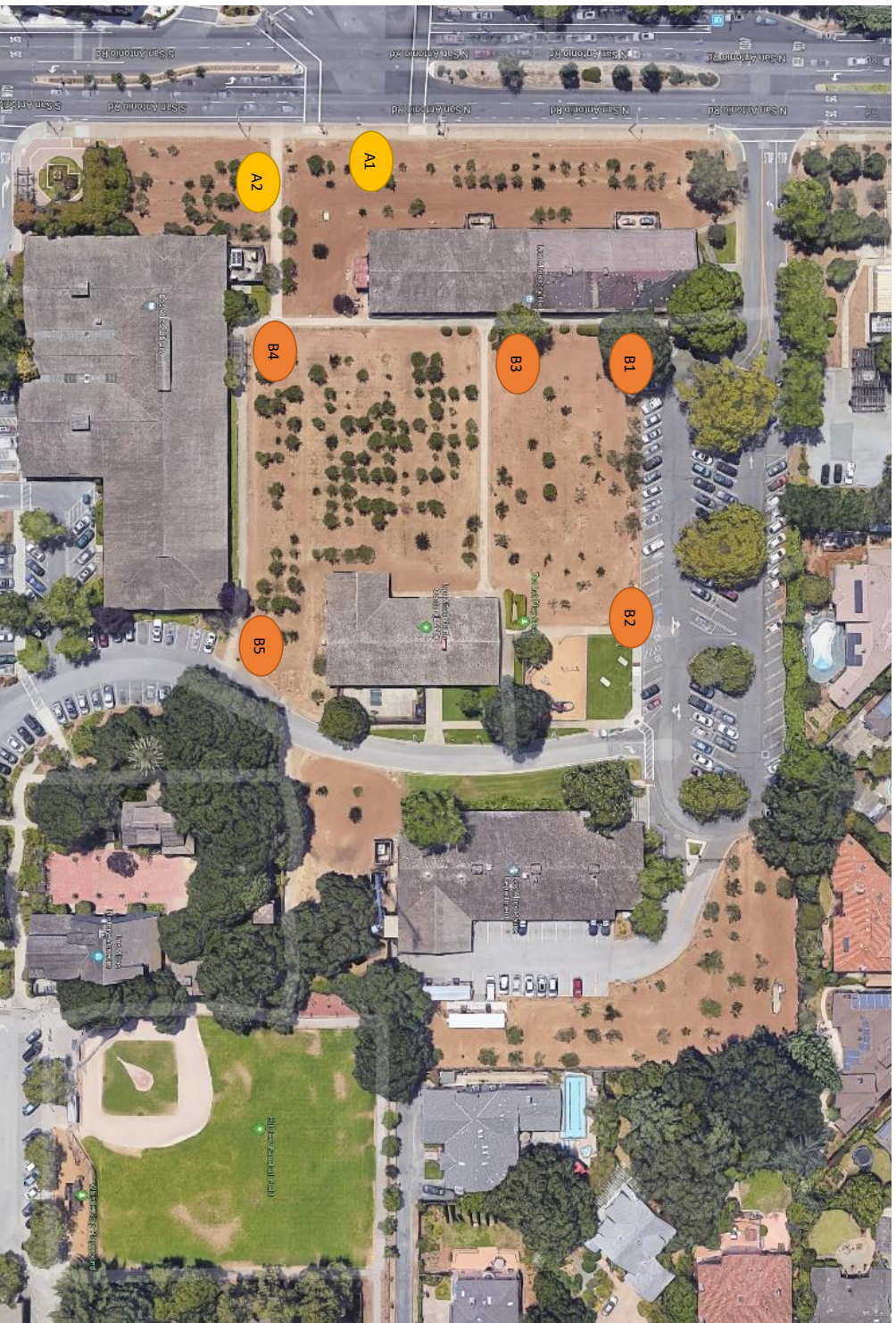
*Date of Evaluation: July 2011

(This space reserved for official comments.)



Los Altos Heritage Orchard - Sign Program

ATTACHMENT C



- A1** Wood Framed Sign with text "Los Altos Heritage Orchard"
- A2** Wood Beveled Post with text Bronze City and Wood Framed Sign with text "Los Altos"
- B1** Powder Coated Pedestal Interpretive Sign with text discussing History of Orchard
- B2** Powder Coated Pedestal Interpretive Sign with text regarding spring season.
- B3** Powder Coated Pedestal Interpretive Sign with text regarding summer season.
- B4** Powder Coated Pedestal Interpretive Sign with text regarding fall season.
- B5** Powder Coated Pedestal Interpretive Sign with text regarding winter season.

Requirements

(Excerpt from Appendix G, Certified Local Government Application and Procedures, August 1999, pp 41-47.)

Local governments may be certified to participate in the CLG program by complying with the following requirements:

- I Enforce appropriate state or local legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties:
 - A. State enabling legislation provides for local jurisdictions to enact appropriate historic preservation legislation. California Government Code Sections 65850, 25373, and 37361 enable city and county legislative bodies to provide for “the protection, enhancement; perpetuation, or use of places, sites, buildings, structures, works of art, and other objects having a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value.”
 - B. Local governments must adopt local historic preservation ordinances with provisions to enforce the designation and protection of historic and archeological resources.
 - C. The local legislation shall be consistent with the intent and purpose of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470).
 - D. The CLG will adopt a historic preservation plan or a historic preservation element for the local jurisdiction's General Plan, as authorized by the California Government Code, prior to or upon applying for a CLG grant.
 - E. The CLG commission will participate in the environmental review of specific federally sponsored projects, such as community development programs involving HUD Block Grant funds unless it is determined by OHP that the necessary expertise is not available to the local government. The CLG will establish programmatic agreements with the state agreeing to ensure compliance with Section 106 provisions of the NHPA.
 - F. The CLG commission will participate in the environment review of local projects in accordance with the requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The commission may review and comment on permit actions affecting significant listed historic properties and other resources eligible for listing, in accordance with local ordinance requirements and with CEQA. Procedural guidelines should include standards for demolition stays, design review criteria, anti-neglect requirements, and appeal strategies.
- II Establish an adequate and qualified historic preservation review commission by local law:
 - A. The commission shall include a minimum membership of five (5) individuals with all members having demonstrated interest, competence, or knowledge in historic preservation.
 - B. At least two (2) Commission members are encouraged to be appointed from among professionals in the disciplines of history, architecture, architectural

- history, planning, pre-historic and historic archeology, folklore, cultural anthropology, curation, conservation, and landscape architecture or related disciplines, such as urban planning, American studies, American civilization, or cultural geography, to the extent that such professionals are available in the community. Commission membership may also include lay members who have demonstrated special interests, competence, experience, or knowledge in historic preservation.
- C. A local government may be certified without the minimum number or types of disciplines established in state procedures if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the state that it has made a reasonable effort to fill those positions, or that some alternative composition of the commission best meets the needs of the protection of historic properties in the local community.
 - D. Commission members shall be appointed by the chief elected local official, city council, or board of supervisors consistent with the provisions of the preservation ordinance. The appointing authority shall make interim appointments to fill unexpired terms in the event of vacancies occurring during the term of members of the commission. The appointing authority shall also act within sixty (60) days to fill a vacancy. Terms of office of the commission members shall be according to the local preservation ordinance.
 - E. The commission shall meet at least four times a year, with meetings held in a public place, advertised in advance, and open to the public, pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act (G.C. Section 54950 et seq.) for open meetings. Written minutes of commission meetings shall be kept on file, available for public inspection, and submitted to the state as a part of the CLG Annual Report.
 - F. Each commission member is required to attend at least one informational or educational meeting, seminar, workshop, or conference per year that pertains directly to the work and functions of the commission and would be approvable by the state. The CLG Regional Workshops sponsored by the OHP are important sources of information. The annual State Historic Preservation Conference generally provides special sessions devoted to the issues, objectives, and responsibilities of commissions. Commissions may also bring in professionals to provide training on site.
 - G. An annual report of the activities of the commission shall be submitted to the state at the end of each calendar year. The reports shall include, but not be limited to, such information as narrative summary of accomplishments, summaries of new and corrected survey activities, number of properties designated under local ordinance in relation to inventory for community, summaries of National Register applications reviewed, summaries of historical contexts prepared, number of federal tax certifications reviewed, number of properties on which design review was held, number of properties on which environmental project reviews were conducted, property owners of Mills Act contracts approved, summarization of local preservation activities, list of local landmark designations, description of public education activities, lists of commission members and resumes, list of staff and resumes, detailed listing of commission and staff training received, commission attendance

records, summary of changes in preservation laws, summary of adoption or updates of historic preservation plan or historic preservation element of your community's General Plan, commission meeting minutes and agendas, and other pertinent activities performed by the commission.

III Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties:

The CLG shall be responsible for organizing, developing, and administering an inventory of cultural resources within the entire spatial jurisdiction of the CLG.

- A. The commission shall develop procedures for conducting an inventory of culture resources. Survey activities shall be coordinated with and complementary to the state program to ensure that survey results produced by the CLG will be readily integrated into the statewide comprehensive historic preservation planning process.
1. The CLG shall be responsible for overseeing the compiling, recording, and updating of inventory information on cultural resources within its jurisdiction. The information shall be based on comprehensive surveys conducted in conformance with state survey standards and procedures. Surveys completed prior to the certification of a local government may be re-evaluated in accordance with state standards and may be submitted for inclusion in the State database.
 2. As part of any ongoing survey effort, procedural requirements must allow for periodic update of survey results as buildings gain maturity and as new areas are incorporated or annexed by the CLG.
 3. The commission must adopt state guidelines for conducting its inventory of historic properties. State-approved inventory forms (DPR-523, A-L) and the OHP's Instructions For Recording Historical Resources shall be used to facilitate integration into the state electronic data system and for statewide comprehensive historic preservation planning purposes. Dimitri software is available for the DPR 523 forms.
 4. Standards for the evaluation of properties must be consistent with the National Register of Historic Places criteria.
- A. The commission shall establish internal procedures to facilitate the use of survey results in the planning process by the CLG officials and departments. The commission shall submit survey results to the local government for adoption, then forward to OHP. Copies of the survey should be on deposit at the local planning department, building and safety office, public works department, and redevelopment agency. Libraries, colleges, and historical societies should also receive copies. OHP will make copies available for the appropriate "California Historical Resources Information System" regional center. See IV(A)(2) below for public access requirements.

IV Provide for adequate public participation in the local historic preservation program:

- A The CLG shall provide opportunities for public participation in all responsibilities delegated to the CLG, in accordance with appropriate regulations, standards, and guidelines.

1. Public participation shall be fully encouraged at local commission meetings. Commission meetings shall be open to the public, with published agenda and minutes in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (G.C. Section 54950 et seq.) for open meetings. The published agenda shall be mailed in advance of meetings to individuals and citizen organizations interested in the commission's activities.
 2. Public participation shall be fully encouraged in the performance of the historic survey program at all levels of responsibility to identify and inventory significant cultural resources in the jurisdiction of the CLG. The public can serve as volunteers to assist in the survey effort. Survey results shall be of public record and on file at a public institution, except in the case of sensitive resources, e.g., archeological sites subject to vandalism.
 3. Public participation shall be fully encouraged in the nomination process for the National Register of Historic Places program. The CLG shall invite comments from the general public regarding National Register nominations.
 4. Public participation shall be fully encouraged in all public hearings on projects related to CEQA and Section 106 processes.
- V Satisfactorily perform the responsibilities delegated to the CLG:
- A. The CLG shall prepare a comprehensive local historic preservation plan which would identify preservation missions, goals, and priorities. The plan would also establish preservation strategies, programs, and time schedules.
 - B. The CLG will participate in the review and comment on historic preservation certification applications for tax incentives. The CLG and state may establish procedures for implementation of the investment tax credit program at the local level in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation.
 - C. Each CLG must have a local historic preservation plan prior to or upon becoming a CLG before any additional grant applications will be considered. The state shall monitor and evaluate the performance of the CLG for consistency with the identification, evaluation, and preservation priorities of the comprehensive state historic preservation planning process.
 1. Annual Review of CLGs:
The State shall conduct an annual review of CLGs to assure that each government continues to meet the minimal requirements and is satisfactorily performing its responsibilities. As part of this review, the state shall examine the annual reports submitted by the CLGs, records of the administration of funds allocated from the HPF, and other documents as necessary. The CLG shall make these records available to the state. A more thorough review and site visit to the Certified Local Government will occur at least once every three (3) years.
 2. Procedures for Decertification:
If the state evaluation indicates that the CLG no longer meets the minimal requirements or that in any other way a CLG's performance is not

satisfactory, the state shall document that assessment and recommend to the local government steps to bring its performance up to a satisfactory level. The CLG shall have a period of not less than 30 nor more than 180 days to implement improvements; If the state determines that sufficient improvement has not occurred, the state shall decertify the local government, citing specific reasons for the decertification. Performance shall be deemed unsatisfactory if one or more of the following conditions exist or is applicable: a) the commission fails to perform its delegated responsibilities within established time periods; b) the CLG fails to coordinate its responsibilities with the state; c) the commission substantially fails to maintain consistency of its design review decisions with the Secretary's Standards for Historic Preservation; d) the CLG fails to maintain a qualified historic preservation review commission membership; e) the CLG fails to enforce the provisions of the local preservation ordinance; f) the CLG fails to enforce its CEQA and Section 106 responsibilities; g) the CLG fails to adequately survey historical resources in its jurisdiction; and h) the CLG fails to comply adequately with proper fiscal management of HPF grants in accordance with the National Register Programs Guideline, OMB Circular A-128, and 43 CFR 12.

3. Decertification Appeal:

If the state recommends decertification, the local government may appeal to the NPS. The NPS has 45 days to respond to the appeal.

4. Decertification Without Prejudice:

CLGs may petition the OHP to be decertified voluntarily and without prejudice.

5. Financial Assistance Close-out:

The state shall conduct financial assistance close-out procedures pursuant to the National Register Program Guideline when a local government is decertified.

VI The CLG shall assume certain responsibilities for reviewing and recommending properties within its jurisdiction to the National Register of Historic Places.

A. The SHPO shall have the sole responsibility of nominating National Register properties directly to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary).

B. The CLG shall establish local procedures for the National Register nomination process consistent with the requirements in the NHPA, Section 101(c)(2).

1. Before a property within the jurisdiction of a CLG may be considered by the state to be nominated to the National Register, the state shall notify the owner, the applicable chief elected local official, and the local historic preservation commission. The commission, after reasonable opportunity for public comment, shall prepare a report as to whether or not such property, in its opinion, meets the criteria of the National Register. Within sixty (60) days of notice from the state, the chief elected local official shall transmit the report of the commission and his/her recommendation to the state. After receipt of such report and recommendation, or if no such report and recommendation are received within sixty (60) days, the state

shall process the National Register nomination. The state may expedite such process with the concurrence of the CLG.

2. If both the commission and the chief elected local official recommend that a property not be nominated to the National Register, the state shall take no further action, unless within thirty (30) days of the receipt of such recommendation by the state, an appeal is filed with the state. If such an appeal is filed, the state shall follow the procedure for making a nomination pursuant to Section 101(a). Any report and recommendations made under this section shall be included with any nomination submitted by the state to the Secretary.
- VII By mutual written agreement with the local governing body, the state may delegate additional responsibilities to the CLG. Local governments may be certified to participate in specific program activities under Programmatic Agreements.
- A. The CLG may develop educational programs promoting historic preservation at the local level such as, but not limited to, sponsorship of preservation workshops, publication of preservation information, organizing preservation fairs, conducting walking tours, preparing preservation curricula for schools, etc.
 - B. Commission members may act in an advisory capacity to other officials and departments within the local government and act as a liaison on behalf of the CLG to individuals and organizations concerned with historic preservation issues at the local level.
 - C. The CLG may participate in the Mills Act program or other economic incentive programs to provide property-tax relief for owners of historic properties.
 - D. The CLG may participate in the Marks Historical Rehabilitation Act for issuance of tax-exempt industrial development bonds, providing that the commission shall serve as a part of the required citizen advisory board.
 - E. The CLG may assume certain responsibilities of recommending National Register of Historic Places properties, identified in the CLG jurisdiction, directly to the State Historical Resources Commission.
 - F. By mutual written agreement with the local governing body, the state may delegate additional responsibilities to the CLG.

ATTACHMENT B

State of California The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PRIMARY RECORD	Primary # _____ HRI # _____ Trinomial _____ NRHP Status Code _____ Other Listings _____ Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____
--	---

Page 1 of 2 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 1 N. San Antonio Road

P1. Other Identifier: HRI #:15; Civic Center Orchard

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

- *a. County Santa Clara and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)
- *b. USGS 7.5' Quad _____ Date _____ T ____; R ____; ____ of ____ of Sec ____; ____ B.M.
- c. Address 1 N. San Antonio Road City Los Altos Zip 94022
- d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone ____, ____ mE/ ____ mN
- e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
170 42 029

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The Civic Center Orchard represents a portion of the apricot orchard planted by Mr. and Mrs. J. Gilbert Smith, early Los Altos settlers, and is related to the nearby Smith farm house. The residence, which currently serves the community as the History House, sits near the southeast corner of the Civic Center complex. **Portions of the Smith orchard lands within the Civic Center remain along N. San Antonio Road, north of the Los Altos Library, and in the northeast sector of the complex. A number of trees dating to the period of Smith's residence appear to remain. As the City replaces dead or diseased trees as needed, a number of younger trees are also apparent within the orchard tracts.**

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP39. Other Orchard

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: Looking SE

July 2011

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: Historic Prehistoric
 Both
Planted 1902
Los Altos History Museum

*P7. Owner and Address:
City of Los Altos
1 N. San Antonio Road Los Altos,
CA 94022

*P8. Recorded by:
Circa: Historic Property Development
582 Market Street, Suite 1800
San Francisco, CA 94104

*P9. Date Recorded: July 2011

*P10. Survey Type:
Intensive

*P11. Report Citation:
Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory Update Report (Circa: Historic Property Development, March 2012).

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List): _____

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code CA Reg: 5S1

Page 2 of 2 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 1 N. San Antonio Road

B1. Historic Name: _____

B2. Common Name: Civic Center Orchard

B3. Original Use: Agricultural B4. Present Use: Mixed

*B5. Architectural Style: n/a

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
Established c.1900.

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features:
J. Gilbert Smith House

B9a. Architect: n/a b. Builder: n/a

*B10. Significance: Theme Early Development/Agriculture Area Los Altos

Period of Significance c.1900-1961 (50 year mark) Property Type Orchard Applicable Criteria NR/CR/Local

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)
In approximately 1901, J. Gilbert Smith purchased 10 acres of farmland to grow apricots and establish a home site. Living in a tent on his land during construction, Smith completed the house in 1905. He later married Margaret Hill Smith and the couple developed a sizeable apricot orchard on the property. The Smiths sold their property to the city of Los Altos in 1954, two years after incorporation, for the construction of the City's Civic Center complex. A stipulation of the sale was that the couple would be allowed to reside in the house and surrounding acre until their passing, at which point the house would become the city's history museum. Upon Mrs. Smith's death in 1973, the property reverted to the city. **Another stipulation was that the remaining apricot trees not be removed; the city maintains and replaces the trees as needed today.** The house and orchard are now City of Los Altos Historical Landmarks and the house itself is a California Point of Historical Interest. On September 8, 1991 the City Council unanimously passed and adopted a resolution adding the Civic Center's apricot orchard along San Antonio Road to the West, the Library to the South, the Youth Center to the East, the Civic Center parking lot to the North, as a Historical Landmark.

Evaluation: The Civic Center orchard is one of the last active apricot orchards remaining in Los Altos and was first planted by early Los Altos resident, J. Gilbert Smith. Despite the orchard's decrease in size and adjacent new construction, the site retains a fair degree of integrity. Therefore, it is listed on the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory as a Historic Resource and is assigned the California Register Status Code 5S1: "Individual property that is listed or designated locally."

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

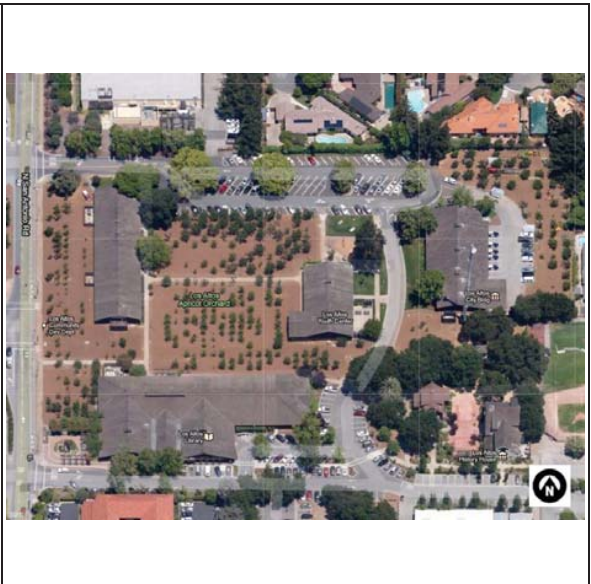
*B12. References:
Los Altos Historical Commission: Los Altos HRI (9.28.1997); McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002; DPR series forms by G. Laffey (1997); Sanborn Maps; Los Altos HRI (February 2011).

B13. Remarks:
Vicinity map provided by the City of Los Altos and amended by Circa: Historic Property Development.

*B14. Evaluator: Circa: Historic Property Development

*Date of Evaluation: July 2011

(This space reserved for official comments.)



Melissa Thurman

From: Alice Mansell <alice@mansell.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 2:00 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment Los Altos City Council meeting 9/10/2024 - Tree Removal appeal

The Big Picture

Since 2020, the City has been allowing piecemeal destruction of our Heritage apricot Orchard. Few to no public discussions of each building proposal and plan led by City staff using their discretionary authority and blanket exemptions to avoid any meaningful environmental and historic reviews.

Right now there is \$6,000,000+ of Civic Center work underway with all CEQA determined exempt from review without study for historical, environmental harms, including trees being removed. No review, no mitigation, no alternate options weighed. The result? Permanent changes to land use, public facilities and a valuable historic resource among the casualties.

Projects big and small leaving tree sites unirrigated, heritage trees and paving over orchard land for patios, walkways and fenced exteriors.

Now we are considering permanent apricot tree removal of all remaining trees in the unmaintained part of the historic resource near the Police Station, with permit rationale for "potential and future" development. For the Police Department? Ifg there a plan, the public should know and be part of the discussion.

Many want to believe that a \$75,000 a year contract with the Los Altos History Museum protects the Orchard. That is far from true. Yes, it gets sorely needed maintenance back for some part of the Orchard. But the City is deciding what parts, capriciously in an ever escalating and piecemeal destruction of this historic resource. How do they do it? They just don't review it. Armed with exemptions and discretion - plans can go forward without review, public input or oversight at all.

Just take a close look at the \$4.5 million LACY Office Conversion project, right in the center of it all. No oversight, no review of plans, add-ons of additional land use in Orchard space for walkways, gated private patios, new parking and boring utility lines under the Heritage Orchard. The City says no harm, we see the roots in the digging of holes, and see it differently.

For the record below are attachments and links for 2019-2024 building plans and proposals encroaching on or impacting the City's historic apricot orchard. There has been no coordinated public environmental and historic oversight on how all these plans and proposals interact and impact together the historic orchard thanks to, for many of these encroachments and impacts, City staff misusing their discretionary design and planning processes.

Alice Mansell
Los Altos, California

Attachments:

Dog Park proposals for lost library parking spaces mitigation plans (mid-June 2024 PRA&C Commission)

During that meeting, the Park & Recreation Department's lead staffer orally declared some of the land for the staffs' "preferred" proposed new paved parking spaces to be just "dirt" despite there being on that land 3 surviving old apricot trees by the Friends of the Library storage sheds and several apricot tree planting sites in LAHM's contracted orchard acreage, all deliberately left unirrigated in Fall 2023 to leave space for the then publicly undisclosed City Hall staff's building and paving plans.

LAYC permitted plans (2023 and 2024)

Obtained by a public records request in July 2024. Plans were deemed by staff in June 2024 to be "copyrighted" and "exempt" from all public design review or view. Plans include LAYC expansion at least 20' into the orchard and required removal in Spring 2024 of healthy apricot trees and permanent removal of two rows of tree planting spaces, as well as new paving and concrete pads into the orchard and playground lawn lands. In March 2024, the plans got an "add-on" for a second underground utility line on one side of LAYC to add to the project's new underground line on the other side of that building. A \$4.5M project.

EOC permitted plans (2023)

> Obtained by a public records request in July 2024. The plans include new underground utility lines, remodeling the interior of the Los Altos Community Center, and a fenced generator and fuel tank by the Bus Barn Theater with a large drainage field next to the generator. About half of the newly proposed synthetic grass Dog Park will sit on top of that drainage field. Ground was broken for the EOC plans by Spring 2024 by removing deep and large oak tree roots of trees (both trunks had been over 50" diameter) removed for an "emergency" in March 2023 and not replaced. An \$800K project.

Links:

LALE Courtyard proposed plans (Nov 28, 2023, agenda item #7)

Minutes - 3:2 vote allowing LALE to construct a courtyard on orchard land

https://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/city_council/meeting/84983/11-28-23_regular_meeting_minutes_approved-signed.pdf

Agenda - with LALE's first proposed plan in links:

<https://meetings.municode.com/adaHtmlDocument/index?cc=LOSALTOSCA&me=ecd5ca43997c4d628c4b84413c491b4b&ip=True>

"2020" EOC proposed plans (October 2020)

Instead of this proposed permanent new EOC building on NE Grove orchard land the City allowed placement of a police trailer.

<https://www.losaltosca.gov/development-services/page/d20-0001-eoc-emergency-operation-center-1-n-san-antonio-road>

https://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/community_development/page/55441/agenda_packet_d20-0001_1_san_antonio_rd_eoc_pc.rpt_revised.pdf

Friends of the Library (FoL) "Temporary" storage sheds on orchard

land (2019) https://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/city_council/meeting/48032/7.friends_of_the_library.pdf

Two FoL sheds were placed along with a newly compacted dirt and gravel vehicle access road installed

on top of living and old apricot trees' root lines. The sheds are still there and the three old apricot trees which are not allowed to be irrigated by the City. No CEQA filing has been found to date.



EOC Approved Plan Set (1).pdf



LAYC Approved Plan set (1)2024.pdf

Comments in Support of the Appellants Request to Deny, Revoke and Withdrawal of the Tree Removal Permit approved on June 25, 2024, for the Removal of 25 Apricot Trees within the historic orchard

My name is Chip Lion, a 33 year resident of Los Altos, a member of the Preservation Action League of Los Altos, and husband of one of the appellants (a resident of Los Altos Hills and Los Altos for over 65 years). I rise in support of the Appellants request for the withdrawal of the permit filed on June 25, 2024, to remove 25 apricot trees from the northeast corner of the Heritage Orchard.

I addressed this Council late last year and was told then by City Staff and the Council that the Historical Orchard has no defined boundaries. Such a claim is not only absurd but dangerously misguided. If there are truly no boundaries, it implies the City and its Staff have carte blanche to exploit the Historical Orchard as they see fit, issuing notices of exemption to justify any project regardless of its detrimental impact on the orchard's historical significance. In fact, this is exactly what has happened with both the Lacy project and the proposed Library project. Does the Council genuinely believe that your predecessors envisioned this as the outcome when the working orchard was designated as a historical resource? This reckless interpretation undermines the very purpose of preserving our historical assets and allows for unchecked and potentially devastating actions. Certain council members now claim that the orchard around the police station is not even an historical resource.

The administrative record is clear. The 2011 State Department of Parks and Records HR#15 established the historic orchard site as orchard lands at the Civic Center, including both the area now a Landmark AND the northeast sector of the property (Police Station), comprising 2.84 acres and 444 tree sites. In subsequent City recorded documentation from the Historic

Commission (2019) and the City Orchard Maintenance plan (2006) documentation, the “northeast sector” was clarified to include the Police Station orchard area and be part of the 2.84 acres. Any attempts to reduce the size of the historic resource site or environs, would be considered an alteration to a historic resource that may result in environmental impacts and, therefore must be accompanied by a full environmental analysis.

The city must evaluate a project’s likely secondary or indirect impacts along with its direct impacts. CEQA therefore requires the analysis of all secondary or indirect impacts. Even if the City treats the tree removal as not within the boundaries of the historic site, all of the apricot trees proposed for removal are a part of the historic orchard and would be considered a part of the historic setting that contributes to the integrity of the resource. Any alteration or demolition would need to be analyzed and reviewed in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prior to their removal.

Conclusion

My ask is simple. I urge you to heed the request of several past mayors in their capacity as board members of the Friends of Los Altos: prioritize a thorough and transparent historic resource evaluation before proceeding with any tree removals. It is essential to engage an independent, qualified historic preservation expert to conduct a comprehensive historic resource evaluation, and ensure that any projects affecting these resources undergo a detailed EIR and design review. Given the current gaps in the City’s historic documentation and the resulting misinformation, transparency and public involvement are paramount. The Historic Commission’s inclusion will bolster public trust and ensure the process is perceived as fair and not merely a formality to meet predetermined outcomes. Removing the trees amidst such uncertainty will only exacerbate conflict and undermine the City’s credibility. Let's commit to a careful, transparent process that

honors our historical assets and fosters community trust. Removing the trees when there is so much confusion and debate over the historical record will only invite further conflict.

Respectfully,

Paul 'Chip' L. Lion III