
Library Project

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To comment@losaltosca.gov <comment@losaltosca.gov>; Public Comment - HC <HCpubliccomment@losaltosca.gov>; Public Comment - PC <PCpubliccomment@losaltosca.gov>; City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>

Cc Decker, Mari E. <MDecker@mofo.com>

I'm writing to you on behalf of myself, Chip Lion, and the unincorporated association, Preservation Action League of Los Altos (PALLA) regarding the Library Courtyard project's request for a Historic Alteration permit, Design Review approval and a Categorical Exemption that will be considered at the upcoming joint Planning Commission and Historical Commission hearing.

Apologies in advance for my ignorance of the process but I have several questions and am not sure where I can find the answers.

1. Why would the LA City Council choose not to review a project that will change the architectural integrity of the Civic Center and the context of the historic orchard?
2. There appear to be five independent projects underway in the Civic Center with no general vision or plan, no EIRs and all deemed CEQA exempt. How can that be?
3. How does the CEQA Analysis claim our historical orchard is not agricultural? Hasn't it been in production since 1901?
4. Why isn't anyone looking at the cumulative impact of the projects impacting the orchard? Or is this being done surreptitiously in attempt to circumvent not only CEQA compliance but to avoid a real and honest discussion about the orchard?
5. The design plan appears to take a much larger footprint from our Orchard than was represented to me personally last year? Has the Planning Commission and Historical Commission looked at alternative space that is less intrusive to the orchards (like the fountain in the front (that usually is not working)?
6. The \$5 million renovation of LACY has resulted in removal of rows of orchard trees without a Historical Alteration Permit. How can "death by a thousand cuts" not be a factor in any decision with respect to the Orchard?
7. Every action taken these past 18 months resulting in the removal and loss of our historical orchard has been claimed CEQA exempt. Taking it to its logical conclusion, is there any circumstance where the loss of our historical orchard is NOT CEQA exempt?

Respectfully submitted

In my personal capacity and on behalf of PALLA

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