

Notice of Exemption- Hercules Queen Anne Continued...

Proposed activities, including relocation of the “Queen Anne House” to a vacant residential lot outside of the Hercules Village Historic District, would be exempt pursuant to CEQA Exemption 15301 which exempts the rehabilitation of damaged structures to meet current standards of public health and safety, as well, as the removal of individual small structures including single family residences. Further, the proposed project is not located in a sensitive environment, would not generate cumulative impacts, there is no reasonable possibility that it would have a significant effects, is no located proximate to a scenic highway, or on a site with hazardous waste, and would not cause a substantial adverse to a historical resource.

Pursuant to CEQA Section 15064.5, a historical resource is one which generally meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) or is otherwise a locally listed resource. Resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places are, by default, included on the California Register of Historic Resources. To qualify as a historical resource, a building must be both significant and retain a level of integrity to be able to convey that significance.

While the “Queen Anne House” is a significant resource per CRHR criterion 1, based on its association with the Hercules Powder Company and as a representative of one of the last remaining company towns in California, the ability to convey that significance relies on the cohesion and collection of buildings and the ability to interpret their relationship and organization. The 2010 relocation of the Queen Anne House to an area removed from the other remaining Powder Company residential buildings and outside the boundaries of the District prevents the subject building from being able to convey its significance as part of the larger company town and eliminated its integrity.

The “Queen Anne House” is also individually significant per CRHR criterion 2, based on its association with former mayor, Eugene Woodfield who was instrumental in guiding the evolution of Hercules into the 21st century. While the Queen Anne House does not retain historic integrity as a contributor to the Hercules Village Historic District, it does retain integrity as an individual resource associated with a locally significant person. Because the ability to interpret a building’s significant association with an important person is less tied to the location and setting and more reliant on design, workmanship, feeling, association, the property continues to retain enough integrity to convey its significance despite its previous relocation.

Under most scenarios, the relocation of a historic resource, as is proposed under this project, would not be a preferred treatment; however, when undertaken in an effort to avoid demolition or destruction of the resource, it may be appropriate and the resource may remain on the California Register of Historic Resources insofar as the resource is rehabilitated and maintained consistent with the SOIS, is re-located in a compatible area, and its significance is able to be interpreted.

Proposed activities, including relocation of the “Queen Anne House” to a vacant residential lot outside of the Hercules Village Historic District and rehabilitation of the residence, would therefore be exempt pursuant to CEQA Exemption 15301 which exempts the rehabilitation of damaged structures to meet

current standards of public health and safety, as well, as the removal of individual small structures including single family residences. It would also be exempt pursuant to CEQA Exemption 15331, which exempts projects which maintain, repair, stabilize, rehabilitate, restore, preserve, conserve or reconstruct a historical resource in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Last, the proposed project is not located in a sensitive environment, would not generate cumulative impacts, there is no reasonable possibility that it would have a significant effects, is no located proximate to a scenic highway, or on a site with hazardous waste, and based on the reasons enumerated above, would not cause a substantial adverse to a historical resource.