



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

21-0137

Agenda Date: 1/6/2021

2021 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

CDD 19-04

TITLE Update to the Historical Context Statement to Include Historical Contributions Made by Asian Americans and Other Minority Groups

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Community Development
Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
 Office of the City Attorney
Sponsor(s): Heritage Preservation Commission
History: 1 year ago: Ranked, Below the Line
 2 years ago: Ranked, Below the Line

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this Study?

The City Council adopted the Historical Context Statement in 2012, which provides a framework for setting goals, policies and action statements that direct the City’s heritage preservation program. The Historical Context Statement documents different aspects of the historical development of Sunnyvale, such as land use patterns, important events, and architecture. In addition, prominent figures who have contributed to Sunnyvale’s history are included, such as the early Native Americans, Spanish-Mexican settlers, European farmers, and Japanese and Chinese laborers and farmworkers.

The Heritage Preservation Commission identified the need for an update to the Historic Context Statement to include more thorough information about Asian Americans and other minority groups. An updated document could help to inform the Council on potential heritage and landmark resources that are not currently designated for preservation.

What are the key elements of the Study?

The Study would expand on the current Historical Context Statement with more detailed information on contributions made by Asian Americans and other minority groups to Sunnyvale’s rich and diverse history. Research may include a review of existing publications not already referenced in the current Historical Context Statement, meeting with the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum staff, and visits to local libraries and the California History Center at De Anza College.

Estimated years to complete study: 1 year

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Minor

Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs: \$25,000
Funding Source: Will seek budget supplement

A historical consultant would be hired, who would also have access to additional information that may not be readily available to City staff.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Minimal cost expected to implement.

EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION

Council-Approved Work Plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Heritage Preservation Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Support. This policy issue merits discussion at the 2021 Study Issues Workshop.

Staff acknowledges that this additional research would provide an opportunity to further recognize the various achievements of a continually growing diverse community and could inform future decisions related to designation of heritage and landmark resources.

Prepared by: George Schroeder, Senior Planner

Reviewed by: Trudi Ryan, Director, Community Development

Reviewed by: Teri Silva, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager

Attachments

1. Link to Historical Context Statement

Link to the City of Sunnyvale's Context Statement:

<https://sunnyvale.ca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=26672>