

## FINDINGS

I have reviewed the subject development project and hereby find the following findings based on the information contained in the application, the report of the Site Plan Review staff, reports received from other departments, supplemental written documents submitted and review of environmental impacts associated with the project pursuant to Section 16.05-C of the Municipal Code:

1. **The project is in substantial conformance with the purposes, intent and provisions of the General Plan, applicable community plan, and does not conflict with any applicable regulations, standards, and any applicable specific plan.**

There are eleven elements of the General Plan. Each of these Elements establishes policies that provide for the regulatory environment in managing the City and for addressing environmental concerns and problems. The majority of the policies derived from these Elements are in the form of code requirements of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. The project does not propose to deviate from any of the requirements of the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

The Hollywood Community Plan designates the subject property for High Density Residential land uses, corresponding to the [Q]R5 and R5 Zones. The property is zoned [Q]R5-2. The Project site has a "Regional Center" land use designation which is defined by the Hollywood Community Plan as a "focal point of regional commerce, identity, and activity..." For the area to function as a commercial and entertainment center for the entire region, the Hollywood Community Plan promotes high-intensity development. The property is not located within any Specific Plans or supplement Use District. The project is in substantial conformance with the following Goals, Objectives and Policies of the General Plan Elements and Hollywood Community Plan:

The **2021-2029 Housing Element** for the General Plan (Housing Element) was adopted by the City of Los Angeles in November 24, 2021. The Housing Element is one of the eight State-mandated elements of the General Plan and identifies the City's housing conditions and needs, establishes the goals, objectives, policies, and programs that are the foundation of the City's housing strategy, including the project site. The Housing Element includes the following, goals, objectives, and policies relevant to the instant request:

The City's Housing Element was updated in 2021 and the current Housing Element is the 2021-2029 Housing Element. The current Housing Element includes goals, objectives, and policies related to preservation of affordable housing, including but not limited to the following that would be relevant to the Project's proposed demolition of the 40 rent stabilized units.

### **GOAL 2**

A City that preserves and enhances the quality of housing and provides greater housing stability for households of all income levels.

#### **Objective 2.1:**

Strengthen renter protections, prevent displacement and increase the stock of affordable housing. [Note, "affordable housing" is defined to include rent stabilized units.]

## Policies

2.1.1: Incentivize and/or require the preservation and replacement of affordable housing, so demolitions and conversions do not result in the net loss of the City's stock of accessible, safe, healthy and affordable housing.

### **Objective 2.3:**

Preserve, conserve and improve the quality of housing.

## Policies

2.3.1: Enforce and facilitate the maintenance of existing housing in decent, safe and healthy conditions.

While the Project does not meet or fulfill the above goals, objectives, and policies because it demolishes 40 rent-controlled units to construct a 156-room hotel, as discussed in the Project findings found in the Project file, the Project fulfills a number of other General Plan goals, objectives, and policies, including by providing permanent jobs and lodging opportunities in Hollywood, one of the City's most heavily visited areas by tourists, and in a regional center.

The Housing Element goals, objectives, and policies are not mandatory and the Housing Element recognizes that not all policies can be met in any given actions. Specifically, the Housing Element provides the following:

Not all plan policies can be achieved in any single action, and, in relation to any decision, some goals may be more compelling than others. On a program-by-program basis, taking into consideration factual circumstances, decision makers will determine how best to implement the adopted policies of the General Plan in any way which best serves the public health, safety, and general welfare. (p. 243.)

Substantially the same language is found in the 2013-2021 Housing Element (pg. 6-4.) As such, regardless whether, the Project is found to be consistent with the applicable General Plan policies, notwithstanding the Project not fulfilling the 2013-2021 Housing Element and 2021-2029 Housing Element goals, objectives and policies related to the preservation of rent controlled "affordable housing."

Finally, the Project site is not located in the Housing Element inventory of sites or rezoning sites for production of affordable housing. Therefore, the Project site is not inconsistent with any of the 2021-2029 Housing Element goals, objectives, or policies related to the production of affordable housing, including but not limited to Goal 1, Objectives 1.1 and 1.2 and related policies.

- a. The **Framework Element** for the General Plan (Framework Element) was adopted by the City of Los Angeles in December 1996 and re-adopted in August 2001. The Framework Element provides guidance regarding policy issues for the entire City of Los Angeles, including the project site. The Framework Element also sets forth a Citywide comprehensive long-range growth strategy and defines Citywide policies regarding such issues as land use, housing, urban form, neighborhood design, open space, economic

development, transportation, infrastructure, and public services. The Framework Element includes the following goals, objectives and policies relevant to the instant request:

Goal 3A: A physically balanced distribution of land uses that contributes towards and facilitates the City's long-term fiscal and economic viability, revitalization of economically depressed areas, conservation of existing residential neighborhoods, equitable distribution of public resources, conservation of natural resources, provision of adequate infrastructure and public services, reduction of traffic congestion and improvement of air quality, enhancement of recreation and open space opportunities, assurance of environmental justice and a healthful living environment, and achievement of the vision for a more liveable city.

Objective 3.1: Accommodate a diversity of uses that support the needs of the City's existing and future residents, businesses, and visitors.

Policy 3.1.4: Accommodate new development in accordance with land use and density provisions of the General Plan Framework Long-Range Land Use Diagram and Table 3-1 (Land Use Standards and Typical Development Characteristics).

Objective 3.2: Provide for the spatial distribution of development that promotes an improved quality of life by facilitating a reduction of vehicular trips, vehicle miles traveled, and air pollution.

Policy 3.2.1: Provide a pattern of development consisting of distinct districts, centers, boulevards, and neighborhoods that are differentiated by their functional role, scale, and character. This shall be accomplished by considering factors such as the existing concentrations of use, community-oriented activity centers that currently or potentially service adjacent neighborhoods, and existing or potential public transit corridors and stations.

Objective 3.4: Encourage new multi-family residential, retail commercial, and office development in the City's neighborhood districts, community, regional, and downtown centers as well as along primary transit corridors/boulevards, while at the same time conserving existing neighborhoods and related districts.

Policy 3.4.1: Conserve existing stable residential neighborhoods and lower-intensity commercial districts and encourage the majority of new commercial and mixed-use (integrated commercial and residential) development to be located (a) in a network of neighborhood districts, community, regional, and downtown centers, (b) in proximity to rail and bus transit stations and corridors, and (c) along the City's major boulevards, referred to as districts, centers, and mixed-use boulevards, in accordance with the Framework Long-Range Land Use Diagram.

The project will contribute toward and facilitate the City's long-term fiscal and economic viability by adding 156 short-term, overnight hotel rooms within Hollywood's commercial and entertainment core for visitors and tourists. The project's proximity to the Metro Red Line, the Metro Rapid 780 Line, and other transit connections, will reduce vehicular trips to and from the project, vehicle miles traveled, and improve air pollution; and its location

within an existing, high-intensity commercial district will enable the city to conserve nearby existing stable residential neighborhoods and lower-intensity commercial districts.

Goal 3F: Mixed-use centers that provide jobs, entertainment, culture, and serve the region.

Objective 3.10: Reinforce existing and encourage the development of new regional centers that accommodate a broad range of uses that serve, provide job opportunities, and are accessible to the region, are compatible with adjacent land uses, and are developed to enhance urban lifestyles.

Policy 3.10.1: Accommodate land uses that serve a regional market in areas designated as "Regional Center" in accordance with Tables 3-1 (Land Use Standards and Typical Development Characteristics) and 3-6 (Land Use Designation and Corresponding Zones). Retail uses and services that support and are integrated with the primary uses shall be permitted. The range and densities/intensities of uses permitted in any area shall be identified in the community plans.

Policy 3.10.3: Promote the development of high-activity areas in appropriate locations that are designed to induce pedestrian activity, in accordance with Pedestrian-Oriented District Policies, and provide adequate transitions with adjacent residential uses at the edges of the centers.

The proposed hotel will create new permanent jobs within Hollywood's commercial and entertainment core while providing additional lodging options for visitors and tourists to this popular destination. The project's design, including ground floor treatment, will encourage pedestrian activity and its location, toward the northern boundary of the Hollywood Center, will provide an appropriate buffer between the more intense uses within the Hollywood Center and the residential neighborhood north of Franklin Avenue, to the north. Additionally, the project has been conditioned to provide enhanced design along the western façade to ensure the project's compatibility with the surrounding properties.

Goal 5A: A liveable City for existing and future residents and one that is attractive to future investment. A City of interconnected, diverse neighborhoods that builds on the strengths of those neighborhoods and functions at both the neighborhood and citywide scales.

Objective 5.2: Encourage future development in centers and in nodes along corridors that are served by transit and are already functioning as centers for the surrounding neighborhoods, the community or the region.

Policy 5.2.2: Encourage the development of centers, districts, and selected corridor/boulevard nodes such that the land uses, scale, and built form allowed and/or encouraged within these areas allow them to function as centers and support transit use, both in daytime and nighttime. Additionally, develop these areas so that they are compatible with surrounding neighborhoods.

The project will support Hollywood's commercial and entertainment core by providing additional short-term overnight accommodations, as well as enhancing the urban environment, encouraging daytime and nighttime pedestrian activity within a highly active

commercial district through pedestrian-friendly design. Furthermore, the project's proximity to the Metro Red Line, the Metro Rapid 780 Line and other transit connections enable the project to function at both the local and region scale.

- b. **Land Use Element - Hollywood Community Plan.** The Community Plan text includes the following relevant land use objectives and policy:

Objective 1: To further the development of Hollywood as a major center of population, employment, retail services, and entertainment; and to perpetuate its image as the international center of the motion picture industry.

Objective 4: To promote economic well-being and public convenience through: a) allocating and distributing commercial lands for retail, service, and office facilities in quantities and patterns based on accepted planning principles and standards.

Policy: The focal point of the Community is the Hollywood Center located generally on both sides of Hollywood and Sunset Boulevards between La Brea and Gower Street... This center area shall function 1) as the commercial center for Hollywood and surrounding communities and 2) as an entertainment center for the entire region.

The proposed project is the redevelopment of a large parcel of land within the Hollywood Center with a hotel use that will result in a demand for local workers and local goods and services. The project also promotes economic well-being and public convenience by providing short-term, overnight accommodations within proximity to many of Hollywood's entertainment-based tourist attractions while being within proximity to the Metro Red Line, providing access to North Hollywood, Universal Studios, Downtown Los Angeles and beyond.

Therefore, the project is consistent with the Hollywood Community Plan in that the project will implement the abovementioned, objectives and policy of the Plan.

- c. The **Mobility Element** of the General Plan (Mobility Plan 2035) is not likely to be affected by the recommended action herein. Whitley Avenue, abutting the property to the east, is a Local Street dedicated to a width of 60 feet and is improved with asphalt roadway and concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk. Whitley 9 Avenue is not included in any of Mobility Plan 2035's "Enhanced" Networks (i.e. the Bicycle Enhanced Network, the Transit Enhanced Network, the Neighborhood Enhanced Network and the Vehicle Enhanced Network). Nevertheless, the project as designed and conditioned meets the following policies of Mobility Plan 2035:

Policy 2.3: Recognize walking as a component of every trip, and ensure high-quality pedestrian access in all site planning and public right-of-way modifications to provide a safe and comfortable walking environment.

Policy 2.10: Facilitate the provision of adequate on and off-street loading areas.

The project's design, including the hotel lobby and gift located along the building's street frontage will encourage daytime and nighttime pedestrian activity within a highly active commercial district through pedestrian-friendly design.

Policy 3.1: Recognize all modes of travel, including pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and vehicular modes - including goods movement - as integral components of the City's transportation system.

Policy 3.3: Promote equitable land use decisions that result in fewer vehicle trips by providing greater proximity and access to jobs, destinations, and other neighborhood services.

Policy 3.4: Provide all residents, workers and visitors with affordable, efficient, convenient, and attractive transit services.

Policy 3.5: Support "first-mile, last-mile solutions" such as multi-modal transportation services, organizations, and activities in the areas around transit stations and major bus stops (transit stops) to maximize multi-modal connectivity and access for transit riders.

Policy 3.8: Provide bicyclists with convenient, secure and well-maintained bicycle parking facilities.

The project's proximity to the Metro Red Line, the Metro Rapid 780 Line and other transit connections will reduce vehicular trips to and from the project, vehicle miles traveled, and improve air pollution.

In addition, the project will provide Code-required bicycle parking thereby supporting "first-mile, last-mile solutions", enabling workers, hotel guests and patrons of the restaurants' improved access to the project.

Policy 5.4: Continue to encourage the adoption of low and zero emission fuel sources, new mobility technologies, and supporting infrastructure.

As conditioned, a minimum of 20% of all parking spaces will be installed as electric vehicle-ready.

Lastly, the Department of Transportation submitted a Traffic Impact Assessment of the proposed project dated March 9, 2017 that determined the impact of the trips generated from the project will be less than significant.

Therefore, the proposed project is consistent with goals, objectives and policies of the Mobility Plan 2035.

- d. The **Air Quality Element** of the General Plan will be implemented by the recommended action herein. The Air Quality Element sets forth the goals, objectives and policies which will guide the City in the implementation of its air quality improvement programs and strategies. The Air Quality Element recognizes that air quality strategies must be integrated into land use decisions and represent the City's effort to achieve consistency with regional Air Quality, Growth Management, Mobility and Congestion Management Plans. The Air Quality Element includes the following Goal and Objective relevant to the instant request:

Goal 5: Energy efficiency through land use and transportation planning, the use of renewable resources and less polluting fuels, and the implementation of

conservation measures including passive methods such as site orientation and tree planting.

Objective 5.1: It is the objective of the City of Los Angeles to increase energy efficiency of City facilities and private developments.

As conditioned, the project will use either plug-in electric or solar powered power generators during construction and will reserve a minimum 15% of the gross roof area for the installation of a solar photovoltaic system.

- e. The **Sewerage Facilities Element** of the General Plan will not be affected by the recommended action. While the sewer system might be able to accommodate the total flows for the proposed project, further detailed gauging and evaluation may be needed as part of the permit process to identify a specific sewer connection point. If the public sewer has insufficient capacity then the developer will be required to build sewer lines to a point in the sewer system with sufficient capacity. A final approval for sewer capacity and connection permit will be made at that time. Ultimately, this sewage flow will be conveyed to the Hyperion Treatment Plant, which has sufficient capacity for the project.

The project was found consistent with all applicable General Plan policies after weighing and balancing the competing policies in the General Plan, specifically, those goals, objectives, policies, and programs in the Framework Element, the 2021-2029 Housing Element, the Safety Element 2021, the Plan for a Healthy LA, Mobility Plan 2035, Conservation Element, Air Quality Element, Noise Element, Infrastructure Plan, Cultural and Historical Monuments Plan, Open Space Plan, and the Hollywood Community Plan, as those are found at, <https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/general-plan-overview>. The Project's consistency with the General Plan is supported in the project findings and the entire administrative record on the basis, among other reasons, that the project will provide new jobs, supports tourism, and establishes new uses in the Hollywood area. The Project furthers the Hollywood Community Plan Objective of furthering the development of Hollywood as a major center of population, employment, retail services, and entertainment. The proposed project implements important General Plan policies discussed in the project findings which aim to promote the property and the vicinity with viable commercial activity even if it does not implement other General Plan policies.

1. **That the project consists of an arrangement of buildings and structures (including height, bulk and setbacks), off-street parking facilities, loading areas, lighting, landscaping, trash collection, and other such pertinent improvements that is or will be compatible with existing and future development on neighboring properties.**

The project involves the demolition of the existing multi-family residential buildings and the construction, use and maintenance of a 10-story, 156-room hotel totaling approximately 99,375 square feet. The proposed building would reach a height of approximately 114 feet at the highest part of the building. Vehicle parking would be provided in three (3) subterranean levels, which would accommodate 122 spaces. The project would provide eight (8) long-term bicycle parking spaces in subterranean parking garage and eight (8) short-term bicycle parking spaces located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor off of Whitley Avenue. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the hotel would include the hotel lobby, a hotel gift shop, a business center, and a hotel coffee shop / lounge with outdoor seating. The 10<sup>th</sup> floor/rooftop of the hotel would include a gym and a roof deck with a pool, firepit, and snack bar.

The subject property is a flat, rectangular, 21,645 square-foot interior lot with a 117-foot frontage along Whitley Avenue and a depth of 185 feet. The property is improved with six (6) multi-family residential buildings totaling 22,300 square feet and 40 dwelling units.

Surrounding properties are developed with a mix of multi-family and commercial uses. The properties to the north zoned [Q]R5-2 and are developed with a five-story, multi-family building and a six-story, multi-family building (La Leyenda Apartments - Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) No. 817) The property to the east, across Whitley Avenue, is zoned [Q]R5-2 and are developed with multi-story, multi-family buildings, two (2) hotels, a commercial office court (Whitley Court - HCM No. 448), and a surface parking lot. The properties to the south are zoned [Q]C4-2D-SN and are developed with an eight-story, multi-family building and a three-story commercial office building with ground-floor retail and restaurant uses. The property to the west is zoned [Q]R5-2 and [Q]C4-2D-SN and is developed with a three-story parking garage with ground floor commercial and public services.

#### Height, Bulk and Setbacks

The proposed 99,375 square-foot (5.99:1 FAR), 10-story, 113-foot, three-inch (113'-3") tall hotel, on an approximately 20,588 square-foot lot is compatible with the existing and future surrounding developments. The table below includes a list of existing developments within 1,500 feet of the subject property.

<b>Address</b>	<b>Floor Area</b>	<b>Lot Size</b>	<b>FAR</b>	<b>Height</b>
<b><i>Proposed Project</i></b>	<b>99,375</b>	<b>21,645</b>	<b>5.99</b>	<b>10</b>
1717-1721 Wilcox Avenue (approved)	62,918	20,588	3.06	7
6516-6526 Selma Avenue (approved)	79,621	20,680	3.85	8
1600-1612½ Schrader Boulevard	84,325	26,600	3.17	11
1775-1777 Wilcox Avenue	93,635	23,707	3.9	5
1805 Wilcox Avenue	35,246	9,425	3.7	4
1707-1709 Hudson Avenue	63,374	15,600	4.1	4
1708-1718 Wilcox Avenue	136,933	42,172	3.2	4
6381-6385 Hollywood Boulevard	62,432	11,750	5.3	6

Accordingly, the height and FAR of the proposed project is consistent with several existing developments within the surrounding area, as shown above.

In addition, the proposed project complies with the minimum required setbacks for the front, rear and side yards. Specifically the project provides a minimum 15-foot front yard setback, a 20-foot rear yard setback and 12-foot side yard setbacks.

Additionally, the project has been conditioned to provide enhanced design along the western façade to ensure the project's compatibility with the surrounding properties.

Therefore, the height, bulk and setbacks of the proposed hotel will be compatible with the existing and future developments in the neighborhood.

### Off-Street Parking Facilities

The proposed project is required to provide a total of 77 automobile parking spaces. The project provides 122 automobile parking spaces within three (3) subterranean levels, and will not be visible from the street. Pick-up and drop-off area for guests are located at the 1<sup>st</sup> subterranean level. Access to the parking area is via a two-way driveway along Whitley Avenue.

Therefore, the off-street parking facilities will be compatible with the existing and future developments in the neighborhood.

### Loading Areas

The 1<sup>st</sup> subterranean parking level includes the pick-up and drop-off area for guests. As such, hotel guest loading and unloading will be conducted on-site and will not affect circulation within the public right-of-way. As the property does not abut an alley, the hotel is not required to provide a loading area for the use of deliver trucks and other similar commercial vehicles. Nevertheless, small delivery vehicles will be able to utilize the pick-up and drop-off area for guests located on the 1<sup>st</sup> subterranean parking level, and all deliveries to and from the subject property are limited to between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on Saturdays and Sundays. Therefore, as proposed and conditioned, the loading area and operations will be compatible with the existing and future developments in the neighborhood.

### Lighting

Outdoor lighting for the proposed project has been conditioned to be designed and installed with shielding, such that the light source cannot be seen from adjacent residential properties, the public right-of-way, nor from above. Therefore, the lighting will be compatible with the existing and future developments in the neighborhood.

### On-Site Landscaping

The proposed project is not required to provide any on-site landscaping, nevertheless, the project does include at the ground floor level using a variety of shrubs and trees within the required setbacks. In addition, the project has been conditioned to provide 25% of the rooftop deck area as landscaped.

Therefore, the on-site landscaping will be compatible with the existing and future developments in the neighborhood.

### Trash Collection

The project will include on-site trash collection for both refuse and recyclable materials, in conformance with the L.A.M.C. The trash collection is located at the 1<sup>st</sup> subterranean level, out of view from the public.

The project has been conditioned to ensure that trash and recycling facilities will not be visible from the public right-of-way. Compliance with this condition will result in a project that is compatible with existing and future development.

Therefore, the arrangement of buildings and structures (including height, bulk and setbacks), off-street parking facilities, loading areas, lighting, landscaping, trash collection, and other such pertinent improvements that will be compatible with existing and future development on neighboring properties.

**2. That any residential project provides recreational and service amenities to improve habitability for its residents and minimize impacts on neighboring properties.**

As the hotel development, the proposed project is not required to provide open space or other recreational amenities. Nevertheless, the proposed hotel includes 156 guest rooms, including 15 suites. At the ground level, the project includes a lobby, coffee shop/lounge (with outdoor seating, a business center and a gift shop. On the 10<sup>th</sup> floor, the project includes a gym and rooftop pool deck with seating areas and a snack bar. Both the rooftop pool deck and the ground floor coffee shop/lounge will be available to guests only. The rooftop pool deck will be limited to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight), Friday and Saturday.

These on-site amenities enable the hotel to provide desired services to the hotel guests and will help to minimize impacts on neighboring properties.

#### **ADDITIONAL MANDATORY FINDINGS**

3. The National Flood Insurance Program rate maps, which are a part of the Flood Hazard Management Specific Plan adopted by the City Council by Ordinance No. 172,081, have been reviewed and it has been determined that this project is located in Zone X, areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain.

#### **4. CEQA FINDINGS**

The Project is categorically exempt under the Class 32 categorical exemption as it meets all criteria in Section 15332 and no exception to the exemption applies.

- a) **The project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as with applicable zoning designation and regulations.**

The project is consistent with all applicable General Plan policies after weighing and balancing the competing policies in the General Plan, specifically, those goals, objectives, policies, and programs in the Framework Element, the 2021-2029 Housing Element, the Safety Element 2021, the Plan for a Healthy LA, Mobility Plan 2035, Conservation Element, Air Quality Element, Noise Element, Infrastructure Plan, Cultural and Historical Monuments Plan, Open Space Plan, and the Hollywood Community Plan, as those are found at, <https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/general-plan-overview>. The Project's consistency with the General Plan is supported in the project findings and the entire administrative record on the basis, among other reasons, that the 156 room hotel will provide permanent jobs and lodging opportunities in Hollywood's regional center, a center for tourism, implements important General Plan policies discussed in the project findings even if it does not implement other general plan policies.

On February 14, 2021 the Los Angeles Superior Court in *United Neighbors for Los Angeles v. City of Los Angeles*, found that the City's determination the Project was

consistent with applicable general plan policies was not supported because there was no evidence the City had considered whether the demolition of 40 rent stabilized residential units was consistent with the Housing Element of the General Plan. Specifically, the Court found the City had not considered the following policies from the 2013-2021 Housing Element:

The first goal identified in the City's 2013-2021 Housing Element (in effect when the Project was approved) is "[a] City where housing production and preservation result in an adequate supply of ownership and rental housing that is safe, healthy and affordable to people of all income levels, races, [and] ages, and suitable for their various needs." One of the objectives relevant to this goal is to "[p]reserve quality rental and ownership housing for households of all income levels and special needs." Policies relevant to this objective include policy 1.2.2 ("Encourage and incentivize the preservation of affordable housing, including non- subsidized affordable units, to ensure that demolitions and conversions do not result in the net loss of the City's stock of decent, safe, healthy or affordable housing") and 1.2.8 ("Preserve the existing stock of affordable housing near transit stations and transit corridors. Encourage one-to-one replacement of demolished units").

The City's Housing Element was updated in 2021 and the current Housing Element is the 2021-2029 Housing Element. The current Housing Element includes goals, objectives, and policies related to preservation of affordable housing, including but not limited to the following that would be relevant to the Project's proposed demolition of the 40 rent stabilized units.

## **GOAL 2**

A City that preserves and enhances the quality of housing and provides greater housing stability for households of all income levels.

### **Objective 2.1:**

Strengthen renter protections, prevent displacement and increase the stock of affordable housing. [Note, "affordable housing" is defined to include rent stabilized units.]

### **Policies**

**2.1.1:** Incentivize and/or require the preservation and replacement of affordable housing, so demolitions and conversions do not result in the net loss of the City's stock of accessible, safe, healthy and affordable housing.

### **Objective 2.3:**

Preserve, conserve and improve the quality of housing.

### **Policies**

**2.3.1:** Enforce and facilitate the maintenance of existing housing in decent, safe and healthy conditions.

While the Project does not meet or fulfill the above goals, objectives, and policies because it demolishes 40 rent-controlled units to construct a 156-room hotel, as discussed in the Project findings found in the Project file, the Project fulfills a number of other General Plan goals, objectives, and policies, including by providing permanent jobs and lodging opportunities in Hollywood, one of the City's most heavily visited areas by tourists, and in a regional center.

The Housing Element goals, objectives, and policies are not mandatory and the Housing Element recognizes that not all policies can be met in any given actions. Specifically, the Housing Element provides the following:

Not all plan policies can be achieved in any single action, and, in relation to any decision, some goals may be more compelling than others. On a program-by-program basis, taking into consideration factual circumstances, decision makers will determine how best to implement the adopted policies of the General Plan in any way which best serves the public health, safety, and general welfare. (p. 243.)

Substantially the same language is found in the 2013-2021 Housing Element (pg. 6-4.) As such, regardless whether, the Project is found to be consistent with the applicable General Plan policies, notwithstanding the Project not fulfilling the 2013-2021 Housing Element and 2021-2029 Housing Element goals, objectives and policies related to the preservation of rent controlled "affordable housing."

Finally, the Project site is not located in the Housing Element inventory of sites or rezoning sites for production of affordable housing. Therefore, the Project site is not inconsistent with any of the 2021-2029 Housing Element goals, objectives, or policies related to the production of affordable housing, including but not limited to Goal 1, Objectives 1.1 and 1.2 and related policies.

**b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than five acres substantially surrounded by urban uses.**

The Project Site is located entirely within the City limits on a site that is approximately 21,642 square feet (0.5-acre) in size. The Project Site is located a highly urbanized setting characterized by a mix of commercial and residential uses. Land uses surrounding the Project Site include residential uses to the north and south, a three-story parking structure to the west, and multi-structure office bungalow development as well as two hotels immediately north of the office bungalows and surface parking and retail uses fronting Hollywood Boulevard immediately south of the office bungalows across Whitley Avenue to the east. Therefore, as the proposed development occurs within City limits, the Project Site is less than five acres in size, and the Project Site is substantially surrounded by urban uses, the Project meets this condition.

**c) The project site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species.**

The City encompasses a variety of open space and natural areas that serve as habitat for sensitive species. Much of this natural open space is found in or is adjacent to the foothill regions of the San Gabriel, Santa Susana, Santa Monica, and Verdugo Mountains, the Simi Hills, and along the coastline between Malibu and the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Many of the outlying areas are contiguous with larger natural areas, and may be part of

significant wildlife habitats or movement corridors. The central and valley portions of the City contain fewer natural areas.<sup>6</sup> The Project Site and surrounding area are not identified as a biological resource area.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, the Project Site and immediately surrounding area are not within or near a designated Significant Ecological Area.

The Project Site is developed with six two-story multi-family residential buildings which were constructed between 1920 and 1949. The buildings include a total of 40 residential units and comprise approximately 22,300 square feet. As the Project Site is nearly completely developed with a structure and hardscaping within a heavily urbanized area of the City, the Project Site does not contain any habitat capable of sustaining any species identified as endangered, rare, or threatened. No such species or habitats are known to occur at the site per local or regional plans by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additionally, there are no known locally designated natural communities at the Project Site or in the immediate vicinity, nor is the Project Site located near undeveloped natural/undisturbed open space or a natural water source that may otherwise serve as habitat for State- or federally-listed species.

Furthermore, the Project Site and its vicinity are not part of any draft or adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan.<sup>9</sup> Therefore, as the Project Site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare, or threatened species, the Project meets this condition.

**d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality**

A full analysis and overview of the project's traffic, noise, air quality, and water quality is available in the project's Class 32 justifications. The analysis shows that the project would not result in any significant effects to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality. As such, the project meets this condition.

**e) The site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services.**

A full analysis and overview of the project's ability to be adequately served by water, wastewater treatment, solid waste disposal, natural gas, electrical, fire protection, police protection, schools, parks and recreation, and libraries is available in the project's Class 32 justifications. The analysis shows that the project can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services. As such, the project meets this condition.