

ROSALIND (ROZ) WYMAN RESIDENCE
10430 WEST BELLAGIO ROAD
CHC-2023-8149-HCM
ENV-2023-8150-CE

FINDINGS

- The Rosalind (Roz) Wyman Residence “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” as the long-time residence of former Los Angeles City Councilmember and influential female political figure Rosalind “Roz” Wyman (1930-2022).

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The Rosalind (Roz) Wyman Residence meets one of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria.

The subject property “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” as the long-time residence of former Los Angeles City Councilmember and influential female political figure Rosalind “Roz” Wyman (1930-2022).

At a time when women in elected positions were still unusual within the overwhelmingly maledominated political sphere, it was a significant challenge to establish the authority and legitimacy in the eyes of the public that Wyman was able to achieve as a respected leader. She was frequently the only woman in the room, serving as a role model for younger generations of women seeking to enter the political realm. Wyman was the second woman to serve on the Los Angeles City Council and, at the age of 22, was the youngest person to be elected in the history of the Council when she assumed office in 1953. She was also the first Councilperson to serve on the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission and played a prominent role in bringing Major League Baseball to Los Angeles, convincing the then Brooklyn Dodgers to move west and become the Los Angeles Dodgers. Additionally, Wyman was at the forefront of the deal to sell land at Chavez Ravine to the Dodgers, facilitating the construction of Dodger Stadium. Furthermore, in 1963, she was the first woman to be Acting Mayor of the City of Los Angeles.

Following the end of Wyman’s tenure as an elected official in 1965, she moved out of the public eye and took on an influential role behind the scenes in the Democratic Party at both the state and national levels. Starting in 1973, she served as the state-level chairwoman for the Democratic National Committee that involved coordinating campaign fundraising and related activities in California. She also became the first woman to chair the National Congressional fundraising dinner in 1973, and again in 1976. Furthermore, in 1984, Wyman was appointed as the first female Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in San Francisco. As convention chair, she worked closely with Dianne Feinstein, then the Mayor of San Francisco, as well as Nancy Pelosi, then Chair of the California Democratic Party, who served under Wyman as chairwoman of the convention’s Host Committee. Wyman would go on to co-chair Feinstein’s senatorial campaigns in 1992 and 1994 and served as her close advisor.

Wyman, along with her husband, Gene Wyman, and their children, moved into the subject property at 10430 Bellagio Road in July 1962. While the residence was ostensibly purchased to

provide space for the Wyman family, it became central to supporting the Wymans' political aspirations and fundraising efforts for the Democratic Party. The subject property regularly served as a venue for hosting high-profile fundraisers for Democratic candidates and causes as well as entertaining clients of Gene Wyman and their families as part of the unofficial "Bel-Air Circuit" of home theaters that screened unreleased pictures to friends and guests. The residence was also the gathering place for the Wymans' Sunday night dinners, which became a mainstay event for politicians, Democratic Party officials at both the local and national levels, and Hollywood celebrities.

After her husband's death in 1973, Wyman continued to play an active role in the Democratic Party and advocated, fundraised, and volunteered for a variety of local and national causes. She also carried on hosting fundraisers and other events at the subject property, which is remembered fondly by younger generations of politicians and entertainers who often viewed it as a welcoming place to meet with and be mentored by Wyman. Wyman resided at the subject property for 60 years.

Over the years, the subject property has experienced a number of alterations, all of which were either in place by the time that Wyman moved in in 1962 or were made by her directly and have taken on significance over time. Therefore, the subject property retains a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance for its association with Rosalind (Roz) Wyman. The subject property was not found to be a significant example of an architectural style or notable work of master architect Paul R. Williams due to substantial alterations it has experienced since its original construction.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT ("CEQA") FINDINGS

State of California CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 *"consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment."*

State of California CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 *"consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic buildings."*

The designation of the Rosalind (Roz) Wyman Residence as an Historic-Cultural Monument in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of The City of Los Angeles Administrative Code ("LAAC") will ensure that future construction activities involving the subject property are regulated in accordance with Section 22.171.14 of the LAAC. The purpose of the designation is to prevent significant impacts to an Historic-Cultural Monument through the application of the standards set forth in the LAAC. Without the regulation imposed by way of the pending designation, the historic significance and integrity of the subject property could be lost through incompatible alterations and new construction and the demolition of an irreplaceable historic site/open space. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are expressly incorporated into the LAAC and provide standards concerning the historically appropriate construction activities which will ensure the continued preservation of the subject property.

The City of Los Angeles has determined based on the whole of the administrative record, that

substantial evidence supports that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Class 31, and none of the exceptions to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies. The project was found to be exempt based on the following:

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 8 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals of maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment through the imposition of regulations designed to prevent the degradation of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings and sites in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Categorical Exemption ENV-2023-8150-CE was prepared on January 26, 2024.