

**Magnolia Boulevard Oak Trees**  
11755-11805 W. Magnolia Boulevard  
**CHC-2020-7441-HCM**  
**ENV-2020-7442-CE**

**FINDINGS**

- The Magnolia Boulevard Oak Trees “exemplif[y] significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” for their association with an early period of development of the North Hollywood community of the San Fernando Valley.

**DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

The Magnolia Boulevard Oak Trees meets one of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: they “exemplif[y] significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” for their association with an early period of development of the North Hollywood community of the San Fernando Valley.

At the hearing on January 7, 2021, the Cultural Heritage Commission requested that the applicant provide additional information on the development of the tree plantings and supplement the nomination with indigenous history of the area. While information has not been received to date to reflect the earliest history of the region, staff recently acquired aerial images dating from 1927 to 1971.

In a 1927 aerial image of the area submitted by the applicant there are a few trees visible; however, the aerial images attached as supplemental information to this report show that these were gone by 1928. At this time, it appears that the street was widened and improved with sidewalks. Other aerial images show that the subject trees were in place by 1937, demonstrating that they date to an early period of development of what was then called the North Hollywood community of the San Fernando Valley. Today, the trees comprise a prominent streetscape feature that stand to reflect the community’s early development along one of its primary corridors, Magnolia Boulevard (then Fourth Street).

The subject natural feature retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association to convey its significance.

**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 Magnolia Boulevard Oak Trees 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 a 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 trees 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 trees.

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-2020-7442-CE was prepared on February 26, 2021.