

HOLLYWOOD SIKH TEMPLE
1966 North Vermont Avenue; 4624-4636 West Finley Avenue
CHC-2023-2376-HCM
ENV-2023-2377-CE

FINDINGS

- The Hollywood Sikh Temple “exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” for its association with the social and cultural development of the Sikh community in Los Angeles.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The Hollywood Sikh Temple meets one of the Historic-Cultural Monument criteria.

The subject property “exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community” for its association with the social and cultural development of the Sikh community in Los Angeles. For the Sikh community, gurdwaras such as the subject property are central to their identity and social interaction. Also, in the tradition of Sikh hospitality, they provide shelter and sustenance to newly arrived Sikh immigrants, as well as to the local, non-Sikh community. Although the original temple founded in 1969 is no longer extant, the subject property has been a place of worship, community education, refuge, and cultural growth for the greater Los Angeles Sikh community since the new temple’s completion in 1996. It appears to be one of the only purpose-built Sikh temples in Los Angeles and has continued to hold weekly worship services, offer Punjabi classes and other youth programs, and operate a communal kitchen that is open to everyone, whether or not they are Sikh.

Despite interior and exterior alterations over the years, the subject property retains a high level of integrity of location, materials, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance. All of the alterations were completed by the Hollywood Sikh Temple to accommodate their shifting needs over time.

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 Hollywood Sikh Temple 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 to the interior and new construction not protected under the South Los Angeles Community Plan Character Residential Area. 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-2023-2377-CE was prepared on May 26, 2023.