



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: March 4, 2025
Placement: Departmental Agenda
Estimated Time: 10 Minutes on March 4, 2025
Continued Item: Yes
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Lisa Plowman, Director, (805) 568-2086
Contact Info: Travis Seawards, Deputy Director, Development Review Division
(805) 568-2518
SUBJECT: Hearing to consider the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission's designation of Arroyo Hondo Bridge as a County Historic Landmark

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider taking one of the following actions:

- a) Approve the designation by, and confirm the action of, the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission and the conditions to be imposed, and adopt a resolution with conditions, designating Arroyo Hondo Bridge, located on U.S. Route No. 101, Postmile 40.98, as a County Historic Landmark, and determine that the project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15308;
- b) Modify the designation by the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission, and adopt the modified resolution with conditions to be imposed, designating Arroyo Hondo Bridge, located on U.S. Route No. 101, Postmile 40.98, as a County Historic Landmark, and determine that the project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15308; or
- c) Disapprove the designation of the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission designating Arroyo Hondo Bridge, located on U.S. Route No. 101, Postmile 40.98, as a County Historic Landmark and the conditions to be imposed, and determine that the project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15270.

Summary Text:

On December 9, 2024, the County's Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission (HLAC) adopted a resolution (Attachment D) conferring landmark status on Arroyo Hondo Bridge. HLAC found that the bridge meets the eligibility requirements for a County Historic Landmark as described in County Code Chapter 18A, Section 18A-3, and is worthy of protection. Arroyo Hondo Bridge is located at U.S. Route 101, postmile 40.98, in the Third Supervisorial District of Santa Barbara County.

HLAC Resolution No. 2024-06 will expire 90 days after it was adopted by HLAC unless the Board passes a resolution designating the property a County Historic Landmark. Section 18A-2 of the County Code states: "*...Such designation as a landmark shall remain and be in effect for a period of ninety days only and thereafter shall be of no force and effect, unless prior to the expiration of such period of ninety days the Board of Supervisors shall have set a date for a public hearing . . . and either at such public hearing or after such public hearing, and within such ninety-day period shall have confirmed the action of the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission.*" Section 18A-5 of the County Code grants the Board of Supervisors discretion to approve, modify or disapprove the designation by HLAC and the conditions to be imposed. The proposed conditions are included within Attachments A and D.

The ninety-day period for HLAC Resolution No. 2024-06 ends on March 9, 2025. Therefore, the Board must take action to confirm the action of HLAC on or before March 9, 2025, or the designation will expire. The draft Board Resolution and CEQA Notice of Exemption confirming the action of the HLAC are included as Attachments A, B, and C, respectively. The HLAC resolution is included as Attachment D, and the nomination for designation of Arroyo Hondo Bridge as a historic landmark is included as Attachment E.

The HLAC Resolution and the draft Board Resolution are conditioned to allow normal maintenance and repair without HLAC review, but require HLAC review of any proposed partial or full demolition, removal, or destruction of the bridge, as well as any proposed alterations or additions to the bridge (Attachments A and D). The resolutions state that the conditions shall not be imposed in such a way as to infringe upon the right of the owners of Arroyo Hondo Bridge to make any and all reasonable uses of the property, including all routine maintenance activities for operational and functional purposes, that are not in conflict with the purpose of County Code Chapter 18A. The California Department of Transportation has no objections to the designation, and has signed the HLAC Resolution.

Background:

The Arroyo Hondo Bridge was initially nominated for historic landmark status by Amber Long, Principal Architectural Historian, Long Historic Preservation Services on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission, on November 7, 2024.

The following analysis of Arroyo Hondo Bridge is included in the HLAC resolution, included as Attachment D of this Board Agenda Letter.

The Commission finds that the Arroyo Hondo Bridge is historically significant because:

1. It is representative of the county's architectural, engineering, political, and economic history. Built in 1918, its reinforced concrete materials and Classical Revival design elements were recognized for their excellence in style and aesthetic qualities, and its function as a transportation link enhanced the economic and political vitality of the South Coast; and
2. It is an outstanding example of the Classical Revival style and the use of cast-in-place concrete to erect monumental bridges in the early twentieth century. It is considered

a prototype of the open spandrel parabolic arch bridge accented by Roman-influenced aqueduct style arches and Doric capitals exemplified by Greek architecture; and

3. It has a location with unique physical characteristics and is a view representing an established and familiar visual feature of the Gaviota coastal portion of the county. The location of the bridge on U.S. Route No. 101 is visible from the southbound side of the highway as well as from a pull-off vista point for travelers who may access the bridge as pedestrians as well as learn about its history and the Gaviota Coast; and
4. It embodies elements of architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship that represent a significant structural or architectural achievement or innovation. The structure is recognized as a prototype in the development of the cast-in-concrete, multi-span, reinforced concrete, open spandrel parabolic arch bridge. It utilizes aesthetic design principals that create unity and avoid duality or perfect symmetry and was among the first bridges to use these design principles; and,
5. It reflects significant geographical patterns associated with historical settlement and growth in the region. The bridge was an important transportation improvement which provided a means for reliable highway travel on what became U.S. Route No. 101, and aided in the development of commerce, travel, and tourism along the county's main coastal artery.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Staff time to process the historic landmark designation and supporting documents is estimated to be 9 hours, which equates to \$2,628.00. Funding for the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission (HLAC) is budgeted \$6,800.00 for P&D staff including administrative staff support in the Planning and Development Permitting Budget Program on Page 317 of the County of Santa Barbara Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Adopted Budget. For historic landmark determination requests initiated by property owners, planner staff time is recovered from fees; no fees are collected for determinations initiated by the HLAC, including this proposal. At this time, HLAC has expended 70% of their total allocated 24-25 budget.

Special Instructions:

The Planning and Development Department will complete all noticing requirements.

A minute order of the hearing and a certified Board of Supervisor's Resolution shall be forwarded to the Planning and Development Department, Hearing Support, Attention: Jonathan Martin. In addition, authorize the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to mail a copy of the executed resolution to:

Jonathan Martin, Secretary

Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Attachments:

Attachment A – Draft Board of Supervisors Resolution Arroyo Hondo Bridge

Attachment B – CEQA Notice of Exemption for Approval of Designation

Attachment C – CEQA Notice of Exemption for Disapproval of Designation

Attachment D – HLAC Resolution 2024-06

Attachment E – HLAC Nomination Application

Attachment F – Arroyo Hondo MTF Bridge Report

Authored by:

David Billesbach

Planner, Development Review Division, Planning & Development

billesbachd@countyofsb.org, (805) 568-3319